

Title XI of NDEA provision was made for the funding of institutes for school library personnel and educational media specialists. In the summer of 1967 three institutes for school library personnel—at Appalachian State University, at East Carolina University, and at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill—were conducted under this Title. Other institutes for school librarians and for educational media specialists were conducted in 1965 and 1966. The Higher Education Act provides for institutes, conferences, and workshops for all types of librarians—academic, public, school, and special. In the future library education programs in North Carolina will undoubtedly continue to respond to and participate in these federally funded activities.

Continuing education for librarians is a responsibility of the state's library education agencies, which are assuming a greater importance in these days of rapid change in the field. With the help of federal funds some of these obligations may be met in the future to a greater degree than has been possible in the past. Refresher courses, workshops, and institutes can all be utilized in such a program.

As the chronology accompanying this article indicates, the 1960's thus far seem to include more significant dates than have the other decades of this quarter century. It is possible that in a sense library education programs in North Carolina are coming of age in the 1960's. Certainly it would seem that they are increasingly aware of the needs in the field and of the need for sound professional preparation. There are indications of a willingness to venture into new and hitherto unexplored fields to the end of providing better library service for all the people of North Carolina through more meaningful preparation of librarians to render this service.

#### CHRONOLOGY OF LIBRARY EDUCATION

##### 1942-1949

1. First B.L.S. degrees granted at North Carolina College in Durham (1942)
2. First graduate study in library science at East Carolina University (1947)
3. Master of School Librarianship program approved at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (1949)

##### 1950-1959

1. First M.L.S. degree at North Carolina College in Durham (1951)
2. M.S. in L.S. degree program approved at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1951)
3. First M.S. in L.S. degrees granted at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1953)

##### 1960-1967

1. Program reactivated at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (1962)
2. Curriculum revised at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1963)
3. Expanded program in M.Ed. curriculum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (1964)
4. Curriculum revised and expanded at Appalachian State University (1966)
5. Department of Library Science separated from the Library at East Carolina University (1966)

#### LIBRARY LEGISLATION IN 1967

by

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Creation of a legislative study commission to investigate the financing of public

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libraries in the State, removal of the 15-cent limitation on local library tax votes, and approval of an interstate library compact were the highlights of library-related legislation enacted by the 1967 North Carolina General Assembly. The Tar Heel lawmakers, sitting in the longest session on record, also awarded public libraries an increased biennial appropriation for 1967-69, though it fell far short of amounts requested by the State Library.

Under the guidance of Senator Mary Faye Brumby of Murphy and Representative Donald Stanford of Chapel Hill, chairmen of the Joint Committee on Libraries in their respective chambers, a joint Senate-House resolution establishing the study commission had clear sailing through calm legislative seas.

The commission, to be made up of two members from the House, two from the Senate, and one at-large member appointed by Governor Moore, will study library support throughout the state, particularly the financing of public libraries, and recommend possible solutions to the problem of inadequate support to the 1969 General Assembly.

Abolition of the 15-cent limit on local library taxes which may be levied with voter approval was part of a larger piece of legislation introduced by Representative Roscoe D. McMillan, Jr. of Red Springs. The new law means that counties or municipalities may assess whatever *ad valorem* taxes they consider necessary for the support of adequate library service, provided voters give their approval in a referendum.

Representative Stanford and Senator Brumby also sponsored the legislation which allows North Carolina to join other states in sharing library resources and services. The statute permits contracting between public and private agencies operating libraries in this state and qualified agencies in other states, and names the State Librarian as compact administrator for North Carolina. It authorizes the creation of North Carolina library districts which may join similar districts in other states in sharing such things as acquiring and circulating of books and periodicals, accepting funds and gifts, and constructing library buildings.

Legislative action on money bills resulted in appropriations that will raise State aid to public libraries for the coming biennium only slightly above the level reached two years ago, despite the fact that the amount allocated was a record \$1,587,347. The State Library had requested \$5,501,193. The "A" budget request for State aid to public libraries—the amount necessary to keep aid at the same level—was \$1,487,347 for the biennium. The amount appropriated was exactly \$100,000 more than the "A" request. The appropriation practically ignored "B" budget requests of \$4,013,846 for increasing State aid.

The picture for the State Library itself—both as a library facility and as a State agency—looks pretty much the same. "A" budget requests for the next two years totaled \$435,423; "B" requests were \$366,342. Together, they added up to \$801,765. The amount appropriated by the General Assembly was \$536,800, which was \$264,956 shy of the total amount requested.

In general, legislative appropriations followed closely the recommendations of the Advisory Budget Commission. The legislature, however, did include a special \$15,000 item for "special information services." The money will be used to print and distribute a small tract about the Tar Heel state in response to thousands of requests that flood various State agencies each year.

As usual, the legislature took favorable action on several bills dealing with local library issues. Among the more interesting of these were:

(1) Separate pieces of legislation authorizing the governing bodies of Bladen, Henderson, Robeson, and Rowan Counties and the City of Lumberton to appropriate funds and levy taxes for the support and maintenance of public libraries. (2) A measure authorizing the voters of Siler City to decide if they want ABC stores, 10 per cent of the profits of which would go for library or recreational purposes. (3) A bill giving the Hamlet Public Library 4 percent of ABC store profits there.

Onslow County attorneys will have access to an improved law library under another local bill enacted into law. The measure directs that one dollar be added to the costs of court in the Jacksonville Municipal Court and that the additional revenue be used to supplement the Onslow County Law Library fund.

No library bill of statewide significance met defeat at the hands of the 1967 General Assembly. However, the controversial statewide local-option 1 per cent sales tax measure, rejected by the House Finance Committee, was of great interest to several library-concerned lawmakers and many of their constituents. Inasmuch as local library support generally must come from sources other than ad valorem taxes, except where voters approve a special levy, the increased local revenue from the extra 1 percent sales tax might have proven to be a source of increased support for libraries in some counties.

## LOUIS R. WILSON: DEAN OF AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

by

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Writing on Carlyle for his senior essay, that spring of 1899 in Chapel Hill, Louis Round Wilson became infected with Carlyle's enthusiasm by way of the other's dictum: "The true University of these days is a Collection of Books." Today the nonagenarian but surprisingly busy Dr. Wilson finds all around him the validation of his early idea: education in partnership with libraries. To prove its worth, he rises from his desk in Room 333 of the library that bears his name and points a finger down the hall at the Honors Program reading room, where, as in hundreds of American educational institutions, students are moving ahead through independent reading.

Education as the way out for a materially impoverished state had already been fastened upon by such Tar Heel natives as Alderman and McIver in the early years of the 20th Century and their vision greatly inspired the young Wilson. True, he preferred being *the* University librarian (he began in 1901) to being just another professor of German, but he also had a shrewd idea of the absolute centrality of libraries. "It didn't take me long," he says, "to learn that the library was at the center, an educational institution of its own. It followed that it ought to be developed along educational lines."

Despite the University's being blessed, even then, with a faculty of ability and personality, the library was left to drift with no policy. There was no continuing head, and there had been four different graduate students in charge during the thirty months prior to Wilson's appointment. Wilson changed all that. In those days the spark for librarianship came from the public library movement, an era during which Carnegie was donating buildings, when library schools were being organized, when a few states were setting up library commissions. Young Wilson lost no time: he helped in the formation of the North Carolina Library Association in 1904, acting as its first secretary.

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