

tional School Library Wartime Study under the direction of Dr. Helen Butler. Participating in this study were approximately fifty school librarians from North Carolina.

Results of this study indicate some of the changes that have taken place and are taking place in our secondary school libraries, brief mention of which follows:

First, all WPA help in school libraries has been discontinued since last year. In some cases this loss amounted virtually to the loss of an assistant librarian. In many more cases it has meant a severe cut in clerical help. NYA help has been reduced generally; some libraries are getting no NYA allotment this year. This loss has meant an added load for many librarians who formerly were able to rely to a great extent on WPA and NYA help in administering the library, in handling the circulation routines, and in the numerous mechanical processes necessary to the library program.

Secondly, the war has affected the circulation of library materials—especially the character of these materials. The demand for non-fiction books has taken a tremendous swing upward, with aviation heading the list of interests, followed by requests for books on submarines, parachutes, the army, navy, WAACS, WAVES, etc. Fiction related to modern living has taken the spotlight over other types. Books about war heroes, battles, etc., are called for frequently: examples being, *The Flying Tigers*, *Queen of the Flat-Tops* and many others of the same type. Atlases are used constantly, whereas, they formerly gathered dust from day to day. It has been gratifying, almost amusing, to observe the enthusiasm of boys for the new *Britannica World Atlas*. When the librarian was reluctant to let it go out overnight, one boy exclaimed, "You don't think I'd let anything happen to a book I like as much as that, do you?" Another declared he studied it the whole week-end and had a wonderful time!

As to volume of circulation, there has been little change in some schools. In others there has been a drop, for the following reasons:

1. There are fewer children in school. Older boys are entering the services, and the accelerated college program has taken many students from the high schools.

EFFECT OF THE WAR UPON SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Speaking for the school librarians, may I say that we do not represent any one subject field, but, functioning as a service unit in the schools, the libraries have felt to an even greater degree than the classrooms the impact of the war. Recognizing early the inevitable effect of the war on the school library program, The American Library Association has recently conducted a Na-

2. Many children are working. A study conducted in one school showed 58 per cent of the student body engaged in part time employment. This fact has affected the time a student has for recreational reading.

3. Many schools are offering a more streamlined curricular program, involving a shorter school day, refresher courses, and compulsory physical education with emphasis upon conditioning.

4. Varied interests related to the war effort, namely, the Victory Corps, the U. S. Treasury Schools at War program, and Vocational Training for War Production Workers Program demand the time of students.

A third effect of the war being felt strongly by school librarians is the daily need for current materials and up-to-the-minute information to satisfy the ever increasing demands of an informed student body. The war has stimulated youth, as well as adults, to analyze the contemporary scene with its many phases and problems. It is the librarian's job to guide and encourage youth by supplying them with vital, interesting, and challenging material.

This brings me to the second question for discussion: What changes would I suggest?

In the first place, we should like to recommend that ready funds be made available to librarians in order that they may secure these current materials without delay. It is particularly important that the budget provide for the purchase of pamphlets, an ever increasing volume of which are coming off the press daily. Often ten cents here or twenty-five cents there means the difference between a question answered and a student pleased with the library service, or a disappointed student who is likely to think the library far "behind the times." We cannot emphasize too strongly that we must have funds at our disposal for the prompt purchase of pamphlet materials.

We should like to suggest that libraries subscribe to *Education for Victory*; that the pamphlet lists therein be clipped and checked as ordered and received; also that librarians be encouraged to use the *Booklist* special lists, which are excellent.

Films are vital to any alert school program. Their use should be encouraged, catalogs should be provided by the libraries and provision made for ordering them through the school superintendent or administration.

Recordings are needed. Here again provision should be made in the budget to finance the collecting of records suitable for school use, that they may be made readily available for circulation to the various classes needing them.

We should like to urge the use of helpful lists and suggestions sent out by the State Department of Public Instruction, as well as those obtainable from Information Centers. The University of North Carolina maintains an Information Center in the truest sense of the word. The librarian of the Center will gladly send lists and will grant, for a period of several weeks, loans of materials on a particular subject.

The present educational method toward a telescoped program and lessened time for use of the library is a present expediency which we recognize, but it will bear watching in post-war planning.

Finally, we cannot urge too strongly the necessity for supplying materials in great abundance, for we undoubtedly agree with the slogan of the Information Center of the University of North Carolina: "A man's judgment is no better than his information." Let us make every effort to function as a service unit in a true sense, supplying not only much information, but good information, at the time it is needed.

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