

NEWSLETTER

FROM

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

July, 1966

LATEST INFORMATION ON THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT (H.R. 14050)

The Department of Libraries has received word that Representative Charles Farnsley voted "present" on the Library Services and Construction Act, rather than an affirmative vote, because he has a financial interest in a company which publishes material on microcards. He therefore believed that a "conflict of interest" existed which prevented him from voting Yes for the bill. Mr. Farnsley has always been in favor of improved Education and Libraries.

The bill has now passed the Senate by a voice vote. It must now be signed by the President, and must be funded. Here is the greatest need of all. Increased appropriations are modest, but strategic. Without them, little progress can be made.

Time and again, before the votes for LSCA, Congressional praise was lavished on the program, extolling it as a model of Federal grant legislation, especially for preserving local and State responsibility and for stimulating increased financial support for libraries.

Admiration was also voiced for the librarians who have accomplished so much with the aid of this program.

The Department of Libraries offers its grateful thanks to all citizens, local officials, library board members and librarians who made this initial victory possible.

Two major battles have been won. Even though the Perkins Bill was not accepted (due to the increased demands on the Federal government at this time), the Pucinski House Bill and the Lister Hill Senate Bill were good compromises.

Removed from the bill as finally passed were two amendments: one to require the local share for library construction to be increased to a minimum of 40% of a total project, and one to allow Federal funds to be used to purchase already existing buildings.

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CARNEGIE CORPORATION RECOMMENDS
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW LIBRARY BUILDING IN PADUCAH

The Department of Libraries would like to applaud the action of the Carnegie Corporation in recommending that a new, modern Library building be constructed for citizens of Paducah and McCracken County. The old building has long been inadequate. A fire, apparently caused by a short circuit, gutted the interior of the 60 year old building. It has been reported that if the building had burned 24 hours earlier, a room full of children would have been trapped and burned in the Children's Room. A remodeled building would of necessity still have the drawbacks of the old building. One would be the dangerous location of the Children's Room, in case of another fire in the hallway.

Those favoring preservation of the building as a form of "outstanding" architecture (a highly controversial point) are apparently unaware of the fact that Libraries exist for active and widespread service.

The old building was never functional. Steep rows of steps are dangerous or a deterrent to the aging and the physically handicapped.

Claims to the contrary notwithstanding, the cost of remodeling this old building would be extremely high. If it were remodeled, it would still be an inadequate Library building, intended for the leisurely, undemanding days of 1910 -- days when modern knowledge, modern technology and modern methods of search and research were undreamed of, and when recreational and educational programs were not a part of a good Library.

It might be appropriate for those who want to preserve the old monumental structure to collect funds to purchase the building for a museum.

Paducah is awakening to the need for good, modern, efficient Library service for everyone.

Our hats are off to Paducah citizens and officials who favor a new, more adequate Library building.

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OWENSBORO TAKES ACTION FOR A NEW LIBRARY BUILDING

The Carnegie Library of Owensboro was condemned as unsafe by local officials and swift action has been taken by city and county officials to make plans for a much larger, more adequate structure. The old building has been temporarily strengthened. The floors had begun to sag to an extent that was found to be dangerous.

Citizens of Owensboro and Daviess County can look forward to a greatly improved Library program after the new Library building is constructed.

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80 LIBRARIANS ATTEND WORKSHOP AT FRANKFORT

80 County, Branch and Bookmobile Librarians studied together ways of improving their Library and Bookmobile service at Kentucky State College June 19-July 2, under the leadership of James O'Rourke, College Librarian.

Among the consultants who contributed to the Workshop were Mrs. Mary Spradling, Head, Young Peoples' Services, Kalamazoo Public Library, Kalamazoo, Michigan, Mrs. Barbara Miller, Director of Children's Services, Louisville Free Public Library, Mr. Arthur Ricketts, Assistant Librarian, Louisville Free Public Library, Miss Cattie Lou Miller, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Public Information, and staff members of the Department of Libraries.

Two workshops were provided -- one on the organization, administration and public relations of public libraries, and one on reference services. The latter was led by Mrs. Lillian Wright, Assistant Librarian, Kentucky State College.

Three credits were offered towards certification of public librarians.

Many participants remarked about the workshop: "This has been the most helpful workshop ever held at Kentucky State College".

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If in any way your library or bookmobile has broken a record for any one day, week or month, the occurrence is worth publicizing. For instance:

(1) On Tuesday, July ____, the library (or bookmobile) circulated more books than ever before in the history of its existence

or....

(2) The library answered more reference questions than ever before

or....

(3) The library served more people than ever before (250 as opposed to an average of 125)

or....

(4) ____ persons visited the bookmobile on Tuesday, July ____.
This was a banner day in which more borrowers came to the bookmobile than ever before.

Another suggestion:

Do you have a nearby college, university or high school where students cannot use the library on Saturday afternoons and evenings, and on Sundays? How about trying to get additional funds to keep the library open at these times -- to help students who must prepare papers or study for the coming week?

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A new Directory has recently been printed by the Kentucky Commission on Aging of addresses of Senior Citizens Clubs.

Do you have such a club? Clinton County Library has a most successful "Jolly Age Club". There is no reason why you can't copy this name, which sounds much more enticing than many other names.

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