

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OPERATION OF A  
LIBRARY IN FAYETTE COUNTY

With a circulation as large as that of the first year, it now seems very necessary that a more complete registration of borrowers be enforced.

The library has grown to such an extent that the librarian should be enabled to make a dictionary catalog of the collection, and to continue the bibliographical work as to the resources of the children's room at the Lexington Public Library. This latter enterprise was of special help to the classroom teachers in the elementary schools.

If the Works Progress Administration wishes to continue the project, the Sponsors would do well to obtain from them some expression of opinion as to the permanency of the project. It is hard on the sponsors, hard on the librarian, and very hard on the public if a project such as a library is not a continuous service. The librarian, who enlists the interest and the support of the community, finds that sudden discontinuance of the project disappoints and antagonizes the public, and therefore hinders cooperation in the future.

The librarian should be supplied with mileage allowance, or given additional salary to cover such costs.

It is in the interests of the sponsors and the community that a trained librarian be employed, both because she can do better "long-distance" planning for library service development and because, in a WPA project, the certified workers are so unqualified for library work.

During the project's existence there was lack of necessary provision made for such items as telephone, office equipment, book centers, supplies and typewriters.

If the project is renewed some provision be made whereby the librarian is not held financially responsible for lost WPA books. A competent librarian is naturally very strict about such records, but her untrained personnel, always changing, and the fact that the patrons are not used to public library service, would make it almost humanly impossible not to lose some books. While the government-owned books did not circulate on this project, it would be well to plan for such a situation.

These suggestions are made in no spirit of criticism, but only in the interest of a more realistic and workable project set up. The library project broke new ground in public service, and its findings ought to be studied carefully.

(over)

The trailer which the Board of Education provided was of great assistance when large loads of books or magazines were transported. The librarian was sorry not to be able to use it more often, but under the prevailing arrangements, it was not possible. Unless a regular, scheduled, and well-known route was followed in the use of the trailer, for distributing books to individuals the use of the trailer was not feasible for such book distribution. If the librarian had had even a part time assistant who was a trained librarian, she could have been free to use the trailer to a greater extent.

During the summer months, when the school libraries are not available to either children or adults in the county, there is an especially acute need for books for county readers. Although county people are especially busy during the summer months, and although even the children work in the fields in many instances, we have found that books are wanted and needed at that time as much as at any other period of the year.