



Lewis W. Hine

*Libraries
Need
State
Aid*

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
520 North Michigan Avenue « Chicago, Illinois
1937

Why do libraries need more funds?

Because of the increasing importance of an informed citizenry as our problems become increasingly complex.

More and more adults want to continue their education through reading, creating a need for better library service.

Modern schools require use of many books instead of single textbooks and are training children to use public as well as school libraries.

Only 37c per capita is now being spent per year for library service—mainly from local appropriations—while the minimum national standard is \$1 per capita.

Forty-five million people are still without public library service. Most of them live in rural areas.

Why aid from the state?

Because the state has a responsibility for the informal education of all its people through the library as well as for formal education through the school.

The state can equalize library opportunities between town and country, and between sections that vary in ability to support public services.

Local revenues come largely from taxes on real estate, which ordinarily are not increasing and are even shrinking in most cases.

Most of the other taxes are collected by the state, which often is able to meet new demands.

State aid is essential to development of library service in poorer sections.

How would state aid be used?

To develop complete, state-wide library service, often through regional, district or county library systems, or branches of the state library, established through state initiative.

To strengthen libraries now in existence through setting standards for receiving state aid and through developing new, cooperative services.

To improve both library service and book collections.

To stimulate, not to replace local appropriations or to discourage local pride and initiative.

To help the state library extension agency, which knows conditions and needs, to put into effect the best possible state plan for library service.

What amount is needed?

This must be figured in each state on a per capita basis, taking into consideration the amount now provided from local sources and the standard of \$1 per capita.

One state plan calls for appropriations increasing each year until \$1 per capita is reached. Another state proposes 25c per capita for a state-wide minimum service; another state proposes 15c per capita as a first appropriation. The emergency grant in Illinois in 1935 was \$600,000 for two years.

The need of showing constructive results from the first appropriation in order to justify its renewal, must be kept in mind in setting the first amount.

How can legislative approval be won?

By the vigorous, concerted effort of all citizen groups and individuals interested in educational and social progress, in cooperation with library leaders.

By wide publicity, to make all the people conscious of library needs.

By continuous, steady work with the legislature, to convince members that their constituents earnestly want aid for libraries.

By alert leadership, and the backing of a few people in each county ready to act again and again when called on by the leaders.

What can you do?

Obtain information about the state aid plan in your state from the state library extension agency at the state capital.

Bring the matter before your local and state organization for discussion and formal endorsement. Send copies of resolutions to the library agency or the leader of the state aid movement and to members of the legislature.

Enlist the support of other organizations in seeking state aid.

Ask your local paper to keep its readers informed.

Write again and again or interview your representatives in the legislature, asking them to back state aid legislation.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state, as a part of its provision for public education, to promote the establishment and development of public library service throughout its various subdivisions.

—*Public Library Act, 1935, State of Washington*

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No longer may the public library be classed as a luxury for the benefit of privileged communities. The broadening of the problems of modern existence has developed a demand for information and enlightenment which has made the public library an indispensable institution. Vastly more than a mere collection of books, the library is a vital force from which emanates an influence for the uplift and progress of civilization.

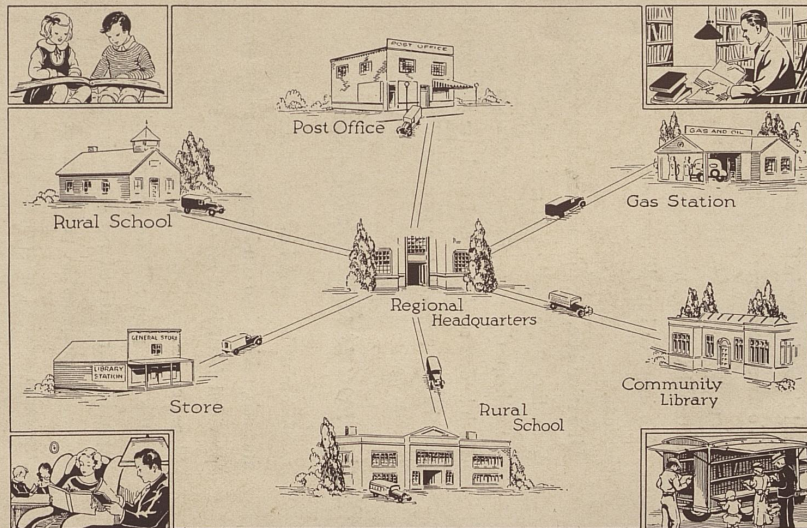
—*Rotary International broadside*

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Free public library service is an indispensable part of a well-rounded program of community life. It strengthens and extends appreciation of the cultural and spiritual values of life; it diffuses information and ideas necessary to the present welfare and future advancement of a community; it offers to every citizen the means of self-education throughout life. Inasmuch as so many governmental units are apparently unable at present to support public library service, it is reasonable to look to each state to organize, administer and support a state-wide system of public library service.

—*Citizens' Library Conference, University of North Carolina, April, 1933*

HOW BOOKS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH-
OUT A LARGE AREA FROM A DISTRICT OR REGIONAL
LIBRARY SYSTEM



FEDERAL AID FOR LIBRARIES

INCLUDED IN THE BILL FOR
FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION

S. 1305 (Senators Harrison, and Thomas of Utah)

H.R. 3517 (Representative Larrabee)

— PURPOSE OF THE BILL —

“To promote the general welfare through appropriation of funds to assist the states and territories in providing more effective programs of public education.”

“To assist in equalizing educational opportunities . . . to maintain local and state initiative and responsibility.”

The bill contains provisions of the greatest importance to library development in every state.

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The Legislation and Its Status

IN FEBRUARY, 1938, the Report of the President's Advisory Committee on Education (Reeves report) was transmitted to Congress. In April, the Harrison-Thomas-Fletcher Bill embodying its recommendations was introduced, reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, and placed on the Senate calendar. In the House, it was still in Committee when Congress adjourned in June, 1938. The intent of the bill is greatly clarified and criticisms met in revisions made since then.

In 1939, in the 76th Congress, Senators Harrison, and Thomas (of Utah) and Representative Larabee sponsored the revision, now known as S. 1305 and H.R. 3517.

State Control of Funds Assured

GRANTS are to be administered by state agencies: rural library grants by the state library administrative agencies "concerned with the extension and development of library service;" school and adult education grants by the state departments of education.

Plans for use of funds are to be filed in Washington but will not be subject to discretionary approval by any federal official.

Library Provisions

RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE. Title III provides for grants of \$2,000,000 for 1939-40, \$4,000,000 for 1940-41, and \$6,000,000 for each year thereafter through 1945, primarily for rural library service. To be allotted to states and territories on basis of rural population. Administration by state library agency with staff appointed on merit basis. Purpose: to provide integrated library service throughout the state and to equalize educational opportunity as far as feasible.

SCHOOL LIBRARY SERVICE (including maintenance of school libraries and purchase of books and other reading materials, and library rooms in school buildings) is specified in Title I as among the purposes for which grants for the improvement of elementary and secondary education may be apportioned.

TRAINING FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS is specifically included in provision in Title I for training educational personnel through grants to be made available to public training institutions.

ADULT EDUCATION. Libraries are specifically named as agencies which may share in grants for adult education authorized in Title II, and adult education includes "facilities for self-education."

RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATIONS. Library projects are eligible for funds under Title IV for surveys and demonstrations looking toward the best utilization of the grants.

Libraries Need Federal Aid

LIBRARIES ARE ESSENTIAL IN A DEMOCRACY. And yet 45,000,000 people in the United States—most of them rural people—have no public libraries within reach, and are deprived of this basic means of education.

INEQUALITIES BETWEEN STATES in ability to provide educational services, account, in a large measure, for the variation in expenditures for public library service from 2c per capita in two states to over \$1.00 per capita in one state. Only federal funds can lessen these inequalities in opportunities for self-education.

"Without federal aid, the establishment of a national minimum standard of library service is quite simply and literally impossible. Only by the united efforts of local, state and Federal governments can the ideal of a nationally adequate program of library service be approached. The final result should be a cooperative partnership in library development in which the Federal Government shares responsibility with the states and the local units."—From a study, *Library Service*, by C. B. Joeckel,

made for the President's Advisory Committee on Education.

A.L.A. Sponsorship

The principle of federal aid endorsed by A.L.A. Council, May, 1936. Action assigned to the Executive Board. Report on *Library Service* prepared by C. B. Joeckel for the Advisory Committee on Education in behalf of the A.L.A. Recommendations of Advisory Committee including grants for libraries endorsed by Executive Board, March, 1938. Support of legislation assigned to A.L.A. Federal Relations Committee in consultation with the President and Secretary.

What You Can Do

Every librarian, trustee and friend of libraries should give the bill the strongest possible support.

Secure a copy of the bill from your Senator or Representative.

Write to the President, to the Senate and House Committees on Education, and to your Senators and Representatives, urging passage of bill at this session.

Urge influential laymen to do likewise.

Urge organizations to pass resolutions of endorsement and transmit them to their Congressmen.

Watch the progress of the legislation and write or wire influential Congressmen at critical times.

Proposed Grants to States

PRIMARILY FOR RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE
ALLOCATED ON BASIS OF RURAL POPULATION¹

State	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42 ²
Total	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$6,000,000
Alabama.....	68,962	137,924	206,886
Arizona.....	10,360	20,720	31,080
Arkansas.....	53,358	106,716	160,074
California.....	54,991	109,982	164,973
Colorado.....	18,706	37,412	56,118
Connecticut.....	17,227	34,454	51,681
Delaware.....	4,178	8,356	12,534
Florida.....	25,687	51,374	77,061
Georgia.....	72,989	145,978	218,967
Idaho.....	11,440	22,880	34,320
Illinois.....	72,333	144,666	216,999
Indiana.....	52,307	104,614	156,921
Iowa.....	54,085	108,170	162,255
Kansas.....	41,739	83,478	125,217
Kentucky.....	65,829	131,658	197,487
Louisiana.....	45,978	91,956	137,934
Maine.....	17,256	34,512	51,768
Maryland.....	23,809	47,618	71,427
Massachusetts.....	15,163	30,326	45,489
Michigan.....	55,847	111,694	167,541
Minnesota.....	47,366	94,732	142,098
Mississippi.....	60,587	121,174	181,761
Missouri.....	64,186	128,372	192,558
Montana.....	12,929	25,858	38,787
Nebraska.....	32,337	64,674	97,011
Nevada.....	2,052	4,104	6,156
New Hampshire.....	6,969	13,938	20,907
New Jersey.....	25,457	50,914	76,371
New Mexico.....	11,476	22,952	34,428
New York.....	74,914	149,828	224,742
North Carolina.....	85,585	171,170	256,755
North Dakota.....	20,578	41,156	61,734
Ohio.....	77,568	155,136	232,704
Oklahoma.....	57,084	114,168	171,252
Oregon.....	16,825	33,650	50,475
Pennsylvania.....	112,323	224,646	336,969
Rhode Island.....	1,888	3,776	5,664
South Carolina.....	49,590	99,180	148,770
South Dakota.....	20,375	40,750	61,125
Tennessee.....	62,365	124,730	187,095
Texas.....	124,561	249,122	373,683
Utah.....	8,759	17,518	26,277
Vermont.....	8,733	17,466	26,199
Virginia.....	59,330	118,660	177,990
Washington.....	24,614	49,228	73,842
West Virginia.....	44,877	89,754	134,631
Wisconsin.....	50,224	100,448	150,672
Wyoming.....	5,637	11,274	16,911
District of Columbia.....			
Alaska.....	416	832	1,248
American Samoa.....	965	1,930	2,895
Guam.....	315	630	945
Hawaii.....	6,673	13,346	20,019
Puerto Rico.....	40,489	80,978	121,467
Virgin Islands.....	309	618	927

¹ Number of persons living in towns and villages of less than 2,500 population and in the open country in 1930 is used.

² This grant is to be continued for the succeeding 3 years.

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