

Educational Media Selection Centers Program

The National Book Committee has received a grant of \$81,844 from the U. S. Office of Education to carry out Phase II of a nationwide Educational Media Selection Centers Program. The Phase II grant brings the total federal funding of the program to over \$300,000. The four-phase program is designed to help develop media selection centers for use by classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, librarians, and other adults concerned with educating children and youth.

In Phase II a guide will be prepared for establishing or developing such centers. This guide will be based on an analytic survey of existing centers made during the initial research phase of the program. The Phase I findings were accepted in final report form by the Office of Education early this year and transmitted to ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center). The abstract appears in the June, 1970 *Research in Education* under the #ED 036 201. The American Library Association plans to publish this report in the Fall of 1970, under the title: "Educational Media Selection Centers: Identification and Analysis of Current Practices."

Announcement of the Phase II grant and a summary of progress on the program were issued by Dr. Mason W. Gross, chairman of the Book Committee and of the EMSC Advisory Committee, a group of professional consultants representing more than forty national education organizations. Dr. Frances Henne, professor at the School of Library Service of Columbia University, is vice-chairman of the Advisory Committee.

Cora Paul Bomar Named Director

Dr. Gross also announced that Miss Cora Paul Bomar, a nationally recognized school media specialist and a past president of the American Association of School Librarians, has been appointed EMSC director. Miss Bomar is an assistant professor at the School of Education, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she also heads a UNC-G committee making a developmental study of the university's needs for instructional media services. Prior to joining the UNC faculty in 1969, she was director of the Division of Educational Media for the North Carolina State Board of Education (1966-'69). Miss Bomar's professional experience also includes classroom teaching, county-system supervision of instruction (Grades 1 to 12), statewide school library supervision, and lecturing at library



CORA PAUL BOMAR

science and educational media institutes.

In her capacity as EMSC director, Miss Bomar succeeds John Rowell, director of School Library Programs at Case Western Reserve University, who directed the eighteen-month study of centers and their analysis for the Phase I report. Mr. Rowell, now concluding his term of office as AASL president (1969-'70), has become a member of the EMSC Advisory Committee.

Miss M. Ann Heidbreder continues as EMSC program coordinator for the National Book Committee, of which she is a staff associate.

Phase II Guide

The guide to be developed for educational media selection centers will cover major aspects of their objectives, services, collections and facilities. Included will be plans for networks of centers; principles for the evaluation, selection and acquisition of media; prototypes of advisory services and education programs for a variety of youth-serving adults; specific recommendations related to budget, space, administration, staff, and dissemination of information about the availability and services of centers.

The EMSC "calendar" calls for development of the guide in a twelve-month period. It is anticipated that publication of the guide will bridge a current information gap for agencies planning new centers or administrators seeking to upgrade and extend their existing center collections and services.

Phase I Study

During the eighteen-month period covering Phase I, about 2,300 centers were queried, out of which 440 were selected to receive comprehensive follow-up questionnaires. After analysis of responses, 50 of these centers offering components of an effective program were studied in depth, through on-site visits by three-man survey teams. Balance and a diversity of professional experience were major considerations in the "design" for on-site visits: center staffs and users were interviewed; qualitative and quantitative data were gathered; and, wherever possible, the survey-teams included a librarian or media specialist, a teacher, and a school administrator or curriculum specialist. As a further step, analyses of these centers were conducted across the country, through a series of group discussions following the on-site visits.

Phases III and IV

During Phase III, it is planned that model or demonstration centers will be established. They will be fully functional and will be located in different parts of the country; they will reflect a variety of administrative and service patterns. Phase IV is designed to evaluate both the model centers and the effectiveness of the Phase II guide. The Phase IV report will be augmented by a comprehensive information campaign and the production of a film about center programs and services.

Information Brochure

To date, 25,000 brochures describing the EMSC Program have been distributed on request to a cross-section of professionals in education, as well as school boards, community agencies, heads of parent groups and civic leaders. A revised, updated version of the pamphlet is now available. Single copies may be obtained free by writing to: EMSC Brochure, National Book Committee, One Park Avenue, New York City 10016.

National Book Committee

Founded in 1954 as a nonprofit organization, the National Book Committee is composed of prominent private citizens associated with the arts and sciences, education and the professions, communications and the business community. It sponsors the National Library Week Program in cooperation with the American Library Association, the National Medal for Literature, administers the National Book Awards, and conducts research in fields related to reading, education and library development. The professional staff of the Committee is headed by John C. Frantz, executive chairman.

AMERICAN LITERARY MANUSCRIPTS (1960) TO BE REVISED AND UP-DATED

Librarians—especially those involved with manuscript and reference departments—will be interested in the project, now underway, to revise and up-date the volume, *American Literary Manuscripts: A Checklist of Holdings in Academic, Historical, and Public Libraries in the United States* (University of Texas Press, 1960), which is now out of print. Believing that a new edition of this census is needed, the sponsoring group of American literature scholars has set up a committee to carry out the task.

The plan is to place the data in the 1960 volume on computer tape, to correct known errors, and to add new data as it can be compiled. Headquarters of the project will be at Indiana University, Bloomington, where the project chairman, J. Albert Robbins, is a member of the Department of English. Within a year or so, scholars may write Professor Robbins and ask for newly reported data. Periodically these requests will be answered from computer print-outs. Once the new data is reported and edited, type for the new volume will be set mechanically from magnetic tape. The University of Texas Press will publish the revised edition. Target date for completion is 1975.

The committee (sponsored by the American Literature Section of the Modern Language Association) consists of Professor Robbins as general chairman and of seven regional chairmen, who, with regional associates, will work with manuscript librarians in gathering new data. The regional chairmen are A. W. Plumstead (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), New England; Joseph V. Ridgely (Columbia University), Middle Atlantic; Kimball King (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), South Atlantic; F. Warren Roberts (University of Texas), South Central; George Hendrick (University of Illinois), Midwest; Edward P. Nolan (University of Colorado), West; and John Stafford (San Fernando Valley State College), Pacific Coast.

RETRACTION—NCASL Scholarship Winner

Mrs. Hilda W. Townsend, Wilmington, North Carolina, recipient of a \$500.00 scholarship awarded by the North Carolina Association of School Librarians, will be attending East Carolina University, Department of Library Science rather than the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as reported in the Spring issue of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES. Mrs. Townsend began her work this summer and will continue her graduate work in the fall quarter in Greenville.