

potential audience for these fine films has not been touched since in most communities there has not been a public agency willing to assume this educational function. The gap between the film and the book is so narrow that a public library cannot fulfill its educational obligation to the community without being willing to conduct an educational film program. With the book, we have information recorded on paper. With the film, we have information recorded on film. Libraries have accepted microfilming and have in many cases purchased reading machines, but few public libraries have accepted the larger responsibility of providing educational films to the citizens of the community.

The average book costs \$2.00. We consider that a book has served the community if it is circulated 50 times. A good educational film can be rented for from 50c to \$2.00 and with one projection a film can be "read" by 100 persons. This does not consider the old Chinese proverb that one picture is worth 10,000 words.

Films may be cataloged and circulated with systems almost identical with those used in the cataloging and circulation of books. It is true that 16 mm. sound and silent film projectors are being manufactured today only for the armed services, but used projectors can usually be located with a little effort. Furthermore, a library can discharge its responsibility for an educational film program by merely promoting the use of films in the community. Projectors which may be borrowed by the library for showing films are usually available. If the library does not have an auditorium, it can provide films to civic clubs, women's clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, schools and individual patrons in the same manner that books are provided.

Certain valuable films may be purchased by the library. The cost of these films vary from \$10.00 to \$50.00, but you may be sure that the value to the community for dollars expended for education films will be equal to that expended for education on paper.

FILMS — THE LIBRARY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Public libraries were recently requested by the office of War Information to assume the responsibility of conducting an educational motion picture program. The OWI is interested primarily in bringing their war information films to the largest possible audience. Not only do public libraries have a responsibility in responding to this request, but they have a greater responsibility in conducting an educational film program as a part of their regular educational services.

Thousands of excellent 16 mm. educational films are available in America but the

The University of North Carolina maintains a Bureau of Visual Instruction where films may be rented at reasonable rates. The National Film Service in Raleigh has a good library of films available for rent. Their catalogs may be had upon request. In fact the entire educational film program can be conducted as simply as normal library procedures.

The H. W. Wilson Co. publishes the Educational Film Catalog which gives a short review of each film, the price, where it may be secured, and, in fact, all the information needed to build an educational film service. If you will not undertake the responsibility of conducting an educational film program, you should at least provide the Educational Film Catalog to your patrons.

The public library is the only agency in the community that can logically provide educational films, but regardless of the responsibility, a library will find that the film program will popularize the library in the community to a degree impossible by any other service.

The Detroit Public Library has introduced a number of slidefilm kits together with small projectors into its collection. These film kits enable the student to benefit by visualization of his book studies in such subjects as basic electricity, aircraft mechanics, shop work and welding. The student merely makes out a slip for the film he wants and then projects the picture on the reading table on which a small screen has been provided. The Detroit plan is a slight variation on the educational film program, but Ernest Miller, Head of the Technology Department of the Detroit Public Library, is enthusiastic about the value of the film service.

The Charlotte Public Library provides films, a sound projector, and a silent projector to clubs, schools and individuals in Mecklenburg County as a part of its library service. Once a film program is started by a public library, it will not be discontinued. It has real and lasting value.

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