

LIBRARY TRAINING AGENCIES OF NORTH CAROLINA

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The Subcommittee on Library Training Agencies of the North Carolina Library Survey has recently completed a report on the status of these agencies in the state. The report covers the year September 1, 1946 to September 1, 1947 and is based on a questionnaire sent to

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institutions which have library training agencies. Four agencies are represented in the final report: Appalachian State Teachers College, East Carolina Teachers College, North Carolina College at Durham and the University of North Carolina. Consideration was given to income and expenditures, quarters and equipment, materials, courses offered, types of position for which the agency trains, accreditation, faculty composition, degrees and certificates awarded, and the student group in terms of enrollment, geographic distribution of students and of employed graduates.

Certain findings of the committee should be especially noted because of their general applications. The need for minimum standards which might be applied in all agencies, particularly in the fields of income and expenditures and of materials in the available collections, is basic. Except for the additional income from the Carnegie endowment fund at the University of North Carolina, the income comes from the regular budget of the institution for all four agencies. The great variation in income emphasizes the need for determining minimum expenditures with reference to programs of the types now offered or which should be offered by such agencies. In the field of expenditures for materials, the adequacy of the funds allotted for any one year depends upon the basic collection of the agency, the institution to which it is attached, and the institutions in the vicinity which have materials available and suitable for the use of faculty and students. Funds are needed currently to maintain collections and add up-to-date materials, but institutions with good basic collections require less than newer

agencies which must build up their collections.

Data included in the report indicates that additional financial support is needed for each of the four agencies and a further study of enrollment should be made. Some of the agencies have had too small an enrollment, especially in the regular sessions, for the financial support they have received and some, if not all, have had larger enrollment, especially in summer sessions, than they could adequately care for. An important question is whether or not the curricula offered have been developed with sufficient attention to the special kinds of libraries and to the library problems of North Carolina and of the Southeast. Each of the agencies is studying the problem of library training and even now is changing courses and attempting to define more clearly the area in which it functions.

Suggested fields for further investigation are indicated as it is hoped that this survey will be of value to the state and to the individual schools in analyzing their present status and that it will serve as a point of departure for future study.