

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

GREENSBORO CITY SCHOOLS CENTRAL LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

The Central Library Department of the Greensboro Public Schools is more than a central cataloging department. It is the library co-ordinating agency for 25 schools (plus the Polio Hospital library), 17 full-time professional school librarians, 460 teachers and 12,292 pupils. The Department was created in June 1941 for the following reasons:

1. As a time-economy measure—to permit professional school librarians to work more closely with pupils and teachers:
 - a. Giving reading guidance and remedial reading motivations.
 - b. Correlating library materials, book and non-book, with the varying school curriculum.
 - c. Giving instruction in the use of the library as a tool of learning.
 - d. Stimulating interest in reading, and the formation of life-time good reading habits.
 - e. Arousing in pupils a growing knowledge of good books and an appreciation of types of reading materials.
2. To provide an adequate card index and a good central library in each school.
3. To provide a union catalog of total library holdings, to insure each school of a good basic library collection, and accurate, complete insurance inventories.
4. To cut the cost of mechanics and professional services in cataloging and processing books and materials.
5. To gain better discounts on books, magazines, professional binding, supplies and equipment through centralized buying.
6. To simplify bookkeeping and elimination of duplication in record keeping, correspondence, ordering, etc.
7. To provide supervision, guidance, and coordination of all library activities of the public school system.

When the Department was created only two senior high schools and four junior high schools had central libraries with card catalogs. Less than ten years later, the two high school collections had been weeded and catalogs revised; seven junior high schools, and 16 elementary schools had well-organized, standard central libraries, fully cataloged (including books, films, filmstrips, slides, and recordings).

In June 1950, the Greensboro Public School Libraries had the following materials: 67,950 books, 665 magazine subscriptions, 5023 phonograph records and albums, 334 films, 496 filmstrips, 557 slides, 250 transcriptions and a beginning collection of ten art masterpieces (framed for classroom walls).

(Excerpts from a detailed description of the work of the Department)

—Hallie S. Bacelli, Librarian,
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