



CLINTON-ESSEX-FRANKLIN LIBRARY

A three county Library System serving 24 member libraries

NEWSLETTER

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As one of our sponsoring counties contributing to our support, we know that you are interested in our progress and our activities especially as it bears on the services which we render to the people of

We intend to send you news of what we are doing regularly. What follows only deals with a small part of our service to the people of
A full report will be sent to you soon when we forward our request for our annual appropriation.

BOOK SELECTION

One of the most important services which a library renders is to get the right book to the right person at the right time.

In order to be able to do this, a number of steps are necessary before a book reaches a library ready to be circulated to the person wanting it. The first step is to select the books which are most likely to be in demand in a particular library. This is not so easy when you consider first of all the vast numbers of books being published and secondly and not unimportantly the budget limitations of the average library. Another factor which makes book selection difficult is the small number of professionally trained librarians in our community libraries.

In order to provide as much help as we can in book selection, we do a number of things for our member libraries in

1. We furnish paid subscriptions to magazines - Library Journal and American Library Association Book List, in which reviews of books currently being published appear.
2. These magazines are of real help to our member librarians in selecting suitable books for the individual library. However, there are many more books reviewed in these periodicals than any of our libraries can use or afford to buy. In order to simplify the process of selection, we provide Current Book Guides twice a month for adult books and once every two months for young adult and children's books. In these lists, we select books which we think are suitable for library purchase. We give the information needed to order the books, price, publisher, we tell what the books are about and where reviews may be found. See samples enclosed.

With this information, a librarian can make a judgment and actually order books.

This is the first step in the process of getting the right book to the right person at the right time. More later. We think that by providing the help described, we have saved time, work and money on the part of our member librarians which they can use to advantage in giving face-to-face service to their public. This, after all, is the most important service a librarian can render.

ECONOMY THROUGH INTER-SYSTEM COOPERATION

To compile these Current Book Guides requires many hours of professional librarians' and clerks' time. We have thought for a long time that this kind of work could be done cooperatively on an inter-library system basis. After all, it does not make sense for all twenty-two library systems in New York State to compile their own individual lists. On the other hand, the same kind of list would not be suitable for all systems since they vary in many respects such as size, composition of population, staff quality etc.

We surveyed the lists being published by systems in an effort to find lists which would be suitable for our libraries. In so doing, we found that Mid-York Library System is publishing one for adults twice a month which we can use. We have contracted with Mid-York for \$220.00 a year to provide us with enough copies for our needs. We are about to contract with Suffolk Cooperative Library System for \$125.00 per year to furnish us with enough copies of a monthly list of children's books.

THIS KIND OF INTER-SYSTEM COOPERATION WILL SAVE US TIME AND WORK. IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT ALL POSSIBLE ECONOMIES BE EFFECTED IN THESE DAYS OF CONSTANTLY RISING COSTS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE SINCE WE HAVE A FIXED ANNUAL STATE INCOME WHICH HAS BEEN CUT 5% THIS YEAR FROM \$194,225.60 TO \$184,514.32, A LOSS OF \$9711.28.

NEW BUILDING

The big news of the month is that our new system headquarters building is about finished. We expect to hear the actual moving date soon from the contractor and architect. The staff is looking forward eagerly to the opportunity of providing more and better service to the people of County which will be made possible by the more efficient layout of the new building.

As soon as the dust has settled, we will invite you all to a formal dedication ceremony. Meanwhile, if any of you would like a preview, please do not hesitate to call.

Anthony F. Vecchio
Director