

From Inside the DLP

By DR. KATHARINE M. STOKES

College and University Library Specialist, Training and Resources Branch, Division of Library Programs, Bureau of Libraries and Educational Technology, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202.

After a hiatus of a couple of months with nothing specific to report from a rather inactive summer (I was on jury duty for all of August), I'm glad to have some news that will interest those of you who are working in cooperative groups or thinking about becoming members of such groups. You will probably have forgotten that in early 1970 we made an announcement about a study of academic library consortia that was implemented by a Title II-B (HEA) research grant awarded to the System Development Corporation of Santa Monica, California. Phase I of the study was to result in a directory of the consortia identified. Phase II was to comprise a study in depth of fifteen consortia and was to result in suggested guidelines for setting up successful consortia activities.

Phase I was completed in September 1971 and two copies of the "Directory of Academic Library Consortia" by Diana Delanoy and Carlos A. Guadra arrived in our office for review and approval in early October. The final version, needing only slight changes in the introduction, was of great interest to several commercial publishers since it includes descriptions of 125 consortia with 50 percent or more academic members and adds a Selected Bibliography of Non-Academic Library Consortia identified in the questionnaire survey. Three indexes by name, state, and activity make access easy to the detailed information on each academic group. There are also two tables in chart form. Table I, comprising four sheets, shows a comparison of consortia by type, membership, budget, and staff. The three sheets of Table 2 show the activities in which consortia are currently engaged or are projecting programs. The "Directory" will probably be available for purchase in some form by the time this article appears.

There are at least fifty groups identified of which we were not aware in our office, some of them new, but many of some years standing. Dr. Raymond Moore's 1967 OE publication, *Guide to Higher Education Consortiums* based on 1965-66 answers to his questionnaire survey, identified 123 library components in the groups. About sixty-five of them can be determined to be duplicates of the ones in the SDC study. This probably indicates that some of the ones existing or planned five years ago have not survived or did not materialize. Or

perhaps changes in a name, or in its reporting, make identification of a consortium's existence in both studies inexact.

For each of the academic consortiums there is information under most of the following fifteen subsections, though in some cases not all of them were able to be filled in from the answers given in the questionnaires.

Consortium Name and Date Founded: The name and founding date of the consortium. For those consortia without names, the names suggested by the questionnaire respondents are entered.

Part of: If the consortium is part of a higher level education consortium, the latter is indicated here.

Area Served: The name of the city, state, or region in which members of the consortium are located.

Participating Libraries and Year Joined: The names of the participating libraries, both academic and nonacademic, and the year in which they became members.

Purposes and Objectives: A brief statement of purpose and objectives, taken directly from the questionnaire.

Current Activities: Activities are listed as they were presented in the questionnaire. Where an activity not covered in the questionnaire was reported, it was added to the list in this section.

Projected Activities: Activities that are in the planning or development stages.

Special Services: Services provided by the consortium to users other than its member libraries.

Conditions of Participation: A brief description of the type of agreement entered into by members of a consortium, and any special condition prescribed for those who wish to join or withdraw.

Annual Budget and Source: The amount of the current annual budget and its sources, such as dues, fees, grants, etc.; significant changes expected in budget level or funding sources are also noted.

Staffing: Persons (by job title) employed by the consortium directly or by member institutions for the consortium.

Advisory Boards: The role of advisory boards, if any, in setting consortium policy.

Publication: The title and the frequency of publication of any regular publication of the consortium that is available to nonmembers.

Headquarters: The consortium mailing address and telephone number, if available.

Information Source: The name and title of the director, coordinator, or other person who may be contacted for further information; the address of the information source, if there is no headquarters. BB