By Dr. Katharine M. Stokes


Congratulations to the 22 successful consortia of libraries that were awarded Special Purpose Type C grants in the Higher Education Act, Title II-A program in June! The range in amounts awarded was from $20,000 to $286,000, though the range in amounts requested was from $44,803 to $1,740,000. The amounts requested by 39 unsuccessful combinations and those requested by the successful ones totaled $15,557,324. Only 15 per cent of the $25 million appropriation could be used for all three types of Special Purpose Grants, A, B and C.

The larger half of that $3,750,000 was put into the Type C grants, which totaled $2,276,000. For Type B grants, $678,000 was divided among 18 successful applicants in amounts ranging from $3,000 to $50,000. The applications for that successful group ranged from $3,000 to $454,518. The amounts requested by the successful libraries and those requested by the unsuccessful 52 totaled $4,160,157.

Type A Special Purpose grants were awarded to 37 libraries out of the 670 which applied. The range of awards was from $2,000 to $40,000, though the amounts requested by the successful libraries ranged from $3,000 to $600,000. The total requested by all Type A applicants was $24,147,958, almost the whole amount of the $25 million appropriated for Title II-A.

Basic grants of up to $5,000 were awarded to 2,223 institutions and supplemental grants to 1,746. Although almost 250 more libraries received supplemental grants this year than in 1968, the amounts for which they were eligible were funded at 46 per cent rather than the 43 per cent funding last year. In every category there were more awards this year than in 1968. The Special Purpose awards increased for Type A from 19 to 37; for Type B from 9 to 18. Eleven consortia received Type C grants in 1968, involving 65 institutions; and 22 consortia, involving 209 institutions, received them in 1969. The number of supplemental grants increased from 1,524 in 1968 to 1,746 in 1969, and the number of basic grants from 2,111 to 2,223. The total requested for all categories decreased from $88 million in 1968 to $79,696,212 in 1969. The 1968 Amendments to the Higher Education Act authorized up to $75 million for Title II-A in 1970, but the recommended budget is $12,500,000. Those of you who have just received grants to be used by June 30, 1970, should be counting your blessings as you spend your money wisely and well. We wish it could have been more!

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

The National Library Week Program, now embarking upon its thirteenth year of activity to promote reading and library development, has announced its calendar of annual observances for 1970 and 1971. The dates designated, for what has been called “an annual festival in behalf of the civilized mind,” are April 12-18, 1970 and April 18-24, 1971.

The nationwide year-round campaign is sponsored by the National Book Committee, Inc., an independent nonprofit membership group of prominent citizens, in cooperation with the American Library Association. The special “Week” itself, traditionally held in the Spring, has a dual related purpose. It is the occasion for attracting massive public attention to the benefits of lifetime habits of reading and library-use; and it provides renewed focus for the year’s program goals and allied activities, developed and carried out by local, state and national committees drawn from all facets of community and library leadership. Overall plans and the theme for the 1970 Program will be announced in the Fall. Queries concerning the forthcoming campaign and supportive materials should be sent to NLW Program headquarters, One Park Avenue, New York City 10016.

ACRL GRANTS PROGRAM

The Grants Committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries will not request applications this year but will award grants to emerging institutions based on past applications and on the experience of the Committee. Only cash awards to support library programs will be made.

Over the past 14 years, the ACRL Grants Program has awarded some $700,000 to strengthen the libraries of four-year, privately endowed institutions and to aid individuals involved in library research.

“While the ACRL program was one of the pioneers in providing aid to libraries, it is felt the time has come to examine the aims, procedures, and policies of the program in relationship to other funding agencies now available to libraries,” J. Donald Thomas, Executive Secretary of ACRL, said. The 1969 grants will be awarded during the first week in November.