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A Taxonomy of Federal Aid Available to the Public Libraries of Iowa

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A Taxonomy of Federal Aid Available to the Public Libraries of Iowa

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Abstract

Statement of the problem. This study is designed to compile information concerning federal assistance to public libraries in the State of Iowa, in a form which will indicate clearly and immediately the purpose and procedures for requesting such assistance, The data is organized in the following categories: (1) purpose of the assistance, (2) authorizing legislation, (3) eligibility requirements, and (4) application process.

A TAXONOMY OF FEDERAL AID AVAILABLE TO
THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF IOWA

A Research Project
Submitted to
the Department Of Library Science
University of Northern Iowa

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Library Science

by

Neal Jerome Johnson

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

I. INTRODUCTION

The Federal Government has spread its responsibility in the field of public libraries and library services among no less than eight departments, agencies, and bureaus. No one agency is responsible for all of the various programs. In the particular area of public libraries and library services, the diffusion of authority makes it extremely difficult for the library administrator to learn of all of the federal assistance available to his library.

II. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. This study is designed to compile information concerning federal assistance to public libraries in the State of Iowa, in a form which will indicate clearly and immediately the purpose and procedures for requesting such assistance. The data is organized in the following categories: (1) purpose of the assistance, (2) authorizing legislation, (3) eligibility requirements, and (4) application process.

This study is limited to those legislative acts in force on January 1, 1972.

Importance of the study. Public library administrators face a monumental task when attempting to become sufficiently familiar with all aspects of federal legislation which can effect the growth of the public

library system. A complete and self contained listing of the programs provided by the various departments of the federal government would appear to be an extremely valuable instrument. Federal funds go untouched each year due to a lack of response, primarily, because administrators are not aware of the availability of this aid. Other federal monies are not utilized because local matching funds are not provided by advanced planning. Prompted by this knowledge, I am attempting to place a single document into the administrator's hand which contains enough information on the majority of the federal programs available to libraries to stimulate further investigation. I am aware that this document is subject to early obsolescence due to the rapidity of change in the enabling legislation.

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

Public library. A library that serves free of charge all residents of a community, district, or region without discrimination and receives its financial support in whole or in part from public funds. The term does not include libraries such as law, medical, school, and academic libraries, which are organized to serve a special clientele or purpose.

Public library service. Library services which are provided by or on behalf of a public library free of charge. The term does not include those library services that are properly the responsibility of schools.

State library administrative agency. The official agency of a state charged by the law of the state with the extension and development of public library services throughout the state, which has adequate

authority under the law of the state to administer state plans.

State plan. A plan to provide a framework within which the state will encourage the establishment or expansion of programs and to provide the basis on which federal payments to the state can be made. State agencies desiring to participate under the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) must submit a state plan for approval by the Commissioner of Education.

Construction. Includes construction of new buildings and acquisition, expansion, remodeling, and alteration of existing buildings, and initial equipment of any such building, or any combination of such activities.

Library materials. Books, periodicals, newspapers, documents, pamphlets, photographs, reproductions, microforms, pictorial or graphic works, musical scores, maps, charts, globes, sound recordings, slides, films, filmstrips, processed video and magnetic tapes, printed, published and audiovisual materials, non-conventional materials designed for the handicapped, and other materials of a similar nature.

Library services for the physically handicapped. The providing of library services through public or non-profit libraries, agencies, or organizations, to physically handicapped persons.

Interlibrary cooperation. The establishment, expansion and operation of local, regional, and interstate cooperative library networks which will provide for the systematic and effective coordination of the resources of school, public, academic and special libraries and information centers for improved supplementary services for the special clientele served by each type library or center. Such networks may be designed to serve a community, metropolitan area, region within a state

or may serve a statewide or multi-state area and shall consist of two or more types of libraries.

Disadvantaged persons. Persons who have educational, socio-economic, cultural, or other disadvantages that prevent them from receiving the benefits of library services designed for persons without such disadvantages and who for that reason require specially designed library services. The term includes persons whose needs for such special services result through poverty, neglect, delinquency, or cultural or linguistic isolation from the community at large, but does not include physically or other handicapped persons unless such persons also suffer from disadvantages described in this paragraph.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The Committee on Education and Labor compiled a list of all Federal Education Acts in February, 1969.¹ This compilation, while containing legislation pertaining to public libraries, is unlimited and includes all legislation pertaining to elementary and secondary education, higher education, vocational education, and education and training of the handicapped as well. It does not include all sources of aid to public libraries.

Although more recent, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is also an extremely general catalog in that it contains some 1049 programs administered by 61 agencies.² The chart that follows is a listing of officially designated library programs as well as other legislation which have, or could have, implications for the public library. Perhaps some of the listings could be described as "sleepers", programs that may have significance but which may be very easily overlooked as a source of library aid. Fry was quick to point out that millions of dollars of federal aid have assisted librarianship under programs that have not included the word "library" in their titles.³

¹ The Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives 91st Congress, "Compilation of Federal Education Laws," U.S. Government Printing Office, February, 1969.

² Management and Budget Office, Executive Office of the President, "Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance," 1971.

³ R.M. Fry, "Federal Aid to Libraries," Law Library Journal, 63: 537-42, November, 1970.

The programs which have had the greatest impact on libraries, librarians, and library users are those under the Library Services and Construction Act. The Iowa State Traveling Library is the state library administrative agency, as earlier defined, for the State of Iowa. The LSCA Amendments of 1970, signed December 30, 1970, extended LSCA due to expire June 30, 1971, for another five years.⁴ The state plan is a requirement of this act and is in the development stage at this time.⁵ Requests for LSCA aid are directed to ISTL, preferably, through one of the seven regional centers or cooperative h for fiscal year 1972 were to be addressed to the following priorities:

1. Services to institutions
2. Service to the physically handicapped
3. Service to the disadvantaged
4. Drug abuse education
5. Environmental education
6. Early childhood education
7. Career education
8. Right to read programs
9. Service to the aging
10. Improving inadequate library service
11. Extending service to individuals without access to libraries
12. Metropolitan or regional resource centers
13. Strengthening the state library agency
14. Development of media resources

The entire federal aid program for Iowa under LSCA is jeopardized by lack of a realistic salary for the director of the ISTL. A bill, SF 1081, to lift the ceiling on the salary of the director to \$16,000 from

⁴

U.S., Congress, House Committee on Education and Labor, Library Services and Construction Amendments of 1970, Hearing, 91st Congress, 2nd Sess. September 10, 1970 on HR 16365 and S 3318 bills to extend, consolidate, and improve programs under the LSCA (Washington: Government Printing Office) May 1971; see also Germaine Krettek and Eileen D. Cooke, "LSCA Signed as Congress Adjourns," American Libraries 2:175-6 February, 1971.

⁵

Governor's Advisory Council for Library Service, "A Preliminary Draft of the Long-Range Plan for the Development of Library Service for the Citizens of Iowa," February, 1972.

\$11,500, lowest in any of the fifty states, set by the 1971 legislature was introduced in the 1972 legislature.⁶ The bill was not acted upon prior to the termination of the 1972 legislative session. Retaining a qualified director at the present salary is most difficult.

There are many programs that often can be used to aid library services to special groups of people. Contact with key coordinating agencies focused on the needs of these groups can be very helpful to the librarians concerned with extending service. Direct source for information on programs for American Indians are the Area Offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior.

In order to take advantage of appropriate federal assistance and to maintain balanced overall programs, librarians need to do purposeful planning, prepare proposals, and set priorities. Hall reaffirmed that writing project applications and having them approved for funding from local, state, and federal government agencies is not an easy task for most librarians.⁷ The need for imaginative thinking needs to be emphasized. With so many deficiencies in all types of libraries, it is urgent that librarians, with opportunities afforded by federal program support, go forward in advancing the capability of libraries and librarians to respond to the entire range of our library users and potential users.

⁶"Pay Increase Bill for ISTL Director," The Catalyst vol 26:2, 8 March, 1972.

⁷Clem Hall, "Writing Project Applications," American Libraries 1:779-80, September, 1970.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Using the Committee on Education and Labor, Compilation of Federal Education Laws, and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, 1971, as points of departure, an examination of the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications was conducted to locate subsequent pertinent legislation. The update so produced was examined for applicability and relevancy to the area of public libraries. The resulting documents were utilized to form the basis of a catalog of federal aid to the public library.

The legislative programs were organized in the following categories:

1. For Construction.
2. For Programs, Instruction, and Administration.
3. For Librarian and Other Professional Training and Student Assistance.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS

I. FOR CONSTRUCTION

Programs administered by the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Authorization. Library Services and Construction Act
(PL 91-600)

Purpose. Aid construction of public libraries.

Eligibility. Local public library.

Application. Apply to ISTL through one of the seven regional headquarters.

Authorization. Housing Act of 1964, Sec. 702 as amended
(PL 83-560)

Purpose. Provides interest free advances to assist the planning of essential public facilities, including libraries, which must be constructed within a reasonable period.

Eligibility. Non-federal public agencies legally authorized to plan, and construct the proposed projects.

Application. Ass't. Secretary of Metropolitan Development, HUD, Washington, D.C. or HUD Regional Office.

Authorization. Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965,
Sec. 703 (PL 89-117)

Purpose. Grant aids for construction and/or rehabilitation of multiservice neighborhood centers which offer a wide range of community service.

Eligibility. Local public bodies, agencies, or Indian tribes possessing authority under state or local law.

Application. Renewal Assistance Administration, HUD, Washington, D.C. or HUD Regional Office.

Authorization. Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965,

Sec. 704 (PL 89-117)

Purpose. Grant funds to encourage communities to acquire land in a planned and orderly fashion for future construction.

Eligibility. Cities, towns, counties, states, Indian tribes, or a public agency or instrumentality of one or more states or of one or more municipalities established to finance specific capitol improvements.

Application. HUD Regional Office.

Authorization. Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966. Title I, as amended (PL 89-754)

Purpose. Provides supplemental financial and technical assistance to enable cities to improve the quality of their physical and social environment.

Eligibility. Libraries and planned components included in model city programs.

Application. Ass't Secretary for Model Cities and Government Relations, HUD, Washington, D.C.

II. FOR PROGRAMS, INSTRUCTION, AND ADMINISTRATION

Programs administered by the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Authorization. Library Services and Construction Act, Title I (PL 91-600)

Purpose. Extend and improve public library services.

Eligibility. Local public library.

Application. Apply to ISTL through one of the seven regional headquarters.

Authorization. Library Services and Construction Act, Title III, (PL 91-600)

Purpose. Promote interlibrary cooperation.

Eligibility. Local public library.

Application. Apply to ISTL through one of the seven

regional headquarters.

Authorization. Library Services and Construction Act,
Title I, (PL 91-600)

Purpose. To establish and improve library services to
the physically handicapped including the blind and
other visually handicapped.

Eligibility. Local public library.

Application. Apply to ISTL through one of the seven
regional headquarters.

Authorization. Media Services and Captioned Films.

Purpose. To provide cultural and educational services to
the handicapped through films.

Eligibility. Groups of handicapped persons and non-
handicapped groups for training.

Application. OE's Bur. of Education for Handicapped,
Division of Educational Services.

Authorization. Library Services and Construction Act,
Title I (PL 91-600)

Purpose. To establish and improve state institutional
library services.

Eligibility. Public or institution library. Application.

Apply to ISTL through on of the seven
regional headquarters.

Programs administered by the Office of Surplus Property
Utilization, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Authorization. Federal Property and Administration
Services Act of 1949, as amended (PL 81-152)

Purpose. To make surplus federal property available to
educational agencies, including public libraries.

Eligibility. Public libraries, libraries in schools,
colleges, and university. Libraries in schools
for the mentally retarded and for the physically
handicapped.

Application. Office of Surplus Property Utilization,
DHEW, Washington, D.C. or DHEW Regional Office.

Programs administered by the Administration on Aging, Social Rehabilitation Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Authorization. Older Americans Act of 1965 (PL 89-73
as amended by PL 90-42)

Purpose. A program of grants to benefit older people for community planning and coordination of programs; for service projects; for demonstration programs; for training of special personnel in programs of aging. Also for research and demonstration projects of national or regional interest or value.

Eligibility. Any public or private non-profit agency, organization, or institution.

Application. For community planning and for services: the State Agency on Aging. For research and demonstration and for training: the Administration on Aging Social and Rehabilitation Service, U.S. DHEW, Washington, D.C.

Programs administered by the National Foundation on Arts and the Humanities.

Authorization. National Foundation on Arts and Humanities Act of 1965; (PL 89-209 as amended by PL 90-348 and PL 91-346)

Purpose. To transmit humanistic knowledge and insights to public, nonacademic audiences, particularly through projects that help the general public understand the background of contemporary issues or problems.

Eligibility. Nonprofit institutions, among others: museums, libraries, education television stations, colleges and universities.

Application. Headquarters Office: Director of Public Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C.

III. FOR LIBRARIAN AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Programs administered by the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Authorization. Media Services and Captioned Films.

Purpose. To improve the quality of instruction available to deaf persons.

Eligibility. Persons who will use captioned film.

Application. OE's Bureau of Education for Handicapped, Division of Educational Services.

Authorization. Higher Education Act of 1965.

Purpose. Increase opportunities throughout the nation for training in librarianship.

Eligibility. Fellows and others undergoing training in librarianship and related fields.

Application. Participating institutions (Information OE's Division of Library Programs)

Programs administered by the Manpower Administration, Department of Labor.

Authorization. Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (PL 88-452, as amended by PL 89-794 and PL 90-222)

Purpose. To enable young people to resume or maintain school attendance through in-school and summer programs of employment with on-the-job training.

Eligibility. Public, public school, college, and non-profit organization libraries.

Application. Local OEO Community Action Agency or local employment service.

Authorization. Social Security Amendments of 1967 (PL 90-248, Title IV, Part C)

Purpose. To train clients of Aid to Families With Dependent Children program; men, women, and out-of-school children age 16 and older.

Eligibility. Public and private nonprofit agencies including libraries.

Application. Local employment service offices.

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