

A Cooperative Collections Development Committee has been established

December 6, 1972

A cooperative agreement to coordinate the development of book collections at the three major libraries in San Diego County has been established by the San Diego Public Library, California State University, San Diego, and University of California, San Diego.

The agreement, scheduled to go into effect immediately, establishes a three-member Cooperative Collections Development Committee designed to strengthen present efforts to provide the library resources needed in the San Diego area without needless duplication of lesser used materials. It is a major step in establishing a regional library consortia to insure that San Diego County will have the research library capabilities necessary to meet the present and future requirements of a highly developed industrial, educational, research, and scholarly metropolitan area.

The project was jointly announced today (Wednesday, December 6) by Marco Thorne, San Diego City Librarian, Dr. Brage Golding, President of CSUSD, and Dr. William McElroy, Chancellor of UCSD.

It is an outgrowth of a plan established last January by the three institutions in which they agreed to increase and improve the already extensive cooperation among their libraries. At that time a Committee on Library Cooperation in San Diego (CLIC) was established following discussions by Thorne, Dr. Louis A. Kenney, Director of Libraries at CSUSD, and Melvin J. Voigt, University Librarian at UCSD.

The major objectives of CLIC are to seek new and expanded methods of sharing resources, to render more effective library service, and to avoid unnecessary duplication in collections. A recommendation improving reciprocal library use was made in May and has now been implemented by each library.

A second recommendation, relating to collection growth, has resulted in the establishment of the three-member Cooperative Collections Development Committee. Committee membership is made up of one representative from each library appointed by the chief librarian. Dr. Andrew Szabo, Collection Development Librarian, represents CSUSD, Mrs. Helen Johnson, Central Library Head, represents the city library, and Mrs. Georgina C. Peyton, Collection Development Coordinator, represents UCSD.

The Committee has been charged with several primary responsibilities in the search for greater coordination. Committee members are to identify and make recommendations for the purchase of books and other library materials which may not need to be duplicated due to cost, rarity, need and projected use, or current library holdings in the specific field.

Also, the committee is to become familiar with the fields of interest and emphasis in each of the three libraries. When justified, recommendations for consolidation or transfer to improve the effectiveness of the libraries in meeting the needs of their users will be made.

Broken sets of periodicals, held by the three libraries, could be combined to make a more complete set in one library if the need is indicated. Coordination and greater utilization of gifts, exchanges, and withdrawals will be encouraged.

In addition, the members of the Committee will serve their respective libraries as contact points through which bibliographers, faculty members, students, and other library users can make their wishes and ideas in the area of collections known.

The emphasis of the collections by the three libraries are somewhat different, so that through the combined efforts, it will be possible to achieve a high degree of regional independence in library resources. San Diego residents have had to depend heavily on library resources in Los Angeles, but overuse of those collections and increased demands made by San Diego's growing scholarly and scientific community makes use of libraries 120 miles away less feasible.

The agreement establishing a regional consortia for library development will help insure that research library availability will become a reality for residents of the metropolitan San Diego area.

The combined total of more than 2,700,000 volumes in the three libraries already makes San Diego one of the highly important resource and research areas in California and the United States.

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