

Library Research in North Carolina

Jinnie Y. Davis, Editor

Research is generally considered to be the province of teaching faculty who are trained in the conduct of rigorous scholarly inquiry. In a profession such as librarianship, however, practitioners can bring to a research project a more intimate knowledge of its applications and setting, an immediacy that may be lacking in a faculty member long removed from daily work in a library.

In 1982, the Council on Library Resources established a program to bridge the gap between faculty and librarians. The Cooperative Research Program awarded grants to stimulate research of high quality and to bring faculty and librarians together to work on library-related problems. More recently, the program added as its expanded goals: stimulating productive communication between teaching faculty and librarians, encouraging librarians to develop more fully their research skills, and increasing the quantity and improving the quality of research and analytical studies related to library operations. It also seeks to reward research that exhibits an imaginative approach to solving or analyzing problems and issues in our field.

Since October 1982, the council has awarded 102 grants to librarian/faculty research teams across the country. An analysis of the winning grants shows that New York (twenty-two) and

Illinois (fifteen) dominate by far the states that have received grants. By contrast, only four were awarded to researchers in North Carolina.

In 1984/85, Barbara Moran (School of Information and Library Science, UNC-Chapel Hill) received a grant jointly with two non-North Carolinians to explore the role of the library in Brown University's efforts to incorporate electronic technologies in teaching, learning, and research. The authors published the results of their research in *College and Research Libraries* and plan to follow up with a study five years after the first investigation.

During the 1987/88 cycle, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill had two more winners. Ridley Kessler (Documents Department, Davis Library) and Evelyn Daniel (School of Information and Library Science) proposed a survey of fifty-two U.S. regional depository libraries to establish baseline data, and to determine the relationship of these libraries to one another and to the library community. They will distribute their just-completed report to all the regional depository libraries, and they plan to publish and disseminate it more widely as well. The second team, Jerry D. Saye (School of Information and Library Science) and Eric C. Palo (Circulation

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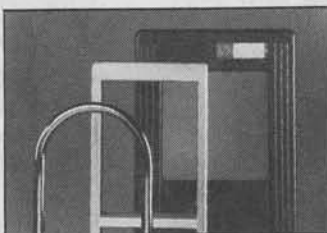


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