

Some ABC's

in education

BY RON INOUE

Editor's note: This weekly column is being written to provide you with general information about educational issues and topics. If you would like to comment on the column, or if you would like to suggest additional topics to be covered, please write the author at the Center for Northern Educational Research (CNER), University of Alaska-Fairbanks, 99701 or call (907) 479-7815.

To extend library services to communities which don't currently have a library, the State Library has several regional centers to help the public locate and obtain the library materials they need.

Books, hardbound and paperback, 16mm and super-8 movies, sound cassettes, records, and many other items are available through the various lending services of the regional centers.

Family Mail Service

The "Family Mail Service" is offered to families who live beyond the reach of a local public library. An adult member of the family appeals to the regional library and then provides a profile of reading interests for the family. Ten books come to the family each month and they can be kept for one month. The titles are provided by the library according to the family reading profile or by specific request. The return postage at the relatively inexpensive "library rate" is the only charge for this ongoing service.

Mail-A-Book

"Mail-A-Book" is an easy-to-use paperback lending service. Upon request a catalog of books available through "Mail-A-Book" is provided. The catalog has the necessary mail order cards with which you request the books you selected. The books are available for one month and range from best sellers to old favorites, with child through adult reading levels, and, large print books are also available.

Another important service offered by the regional library centers are staff people who can talk with community and school leaders about planning for library facilities in their new community centers and schools. Many times in the past, buildings were built without any planning to accommodate a library which could serve both the community and the school.

Planning for Libraries

There are many examples of poorly planned libraries in existing community centers and schools. The planning was poor because of windows which can't be darkened for movies, too few outlets for audio-visual equipment to be utilized, entrances which don't allow for security, etc. Some earlier planning and consultation with people at the State Library and the regional centers could have avoided many of those problems and allowed for even greater use of community and school buildings by all members of the community.

To receive more information about the many services offered to the public by the State Library and particularly for those not now served by a local library, write to the State Library closest to you at one of the following addresses:

Ms. Verda Carey
Alaska State Library
Pouch G
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Ms. Betty Galbraith
Alaska State Library - Northern Region
1215 Cowles
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701