

News Release: American Library Association

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From: Peggy Barber, Director
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship, a Standing Committee of the American Library Association (ALA), has won the 1979 Bailey K. Howard-World Book Encyclopedia-ALA Goal Award.

The \$5,000 grant is made annually to a unit of ALA, by the ALA Awards Committee, chaired by Kay Cassell, and World Book Childcraft International, Inc., "to encourage and advance the development of public, academic and/or school library service and librarianship through recognition and support of programs which implement the Goals and Objectives of ALA." The Award honors Bailey K. Howard, former Chairman of the Board of Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, who died in 1972.

The Committee on the Status of Women will use the grant to construct a demographic profile of women members of the ALA. This investigation will serve as a pilot study to precede the development of a similar profile of women in the library profession.

In her proposal for the grant, Status of Women Chairperson Ellen Gay Detelfsen wrote that while there has been increased concern about the status of women in the library profession in recent years, the profession still lacks sufficient research data to analyze causal factors and trends. Although 80 per cent of librarians are women and librarianship is considered one of the "female professions," Detelfsen points out, "women in librarianship have not

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participated at the same level of advancement that men have."

She goes on to explain that the status of women in the profession is a matter of urgent concern not just for women, but for all members of the profession. No profession can function at its full potential if a large block of personnel are unsuccessful in attaining higher levels of professional status.

The data will be collected by a mail questionnaire which offers advantages in terms of cost, distribution to a larger sample, and for the opportunity for thoughtful and truthful replies by the respondents. The project results will be distributed to the library press and will be discussed in forums by the membership at ALA's Midwinter and Annual Summer Conferences.

-30-

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In her proposal for the grant, Status of Women Chairperson Ellen Day Detelisen wrote that while there has been increased concern about the status of women in the library profession in recent years, the profession still lacks sufficient research data to analyze causal factors and trends. Although 67 per cent of librarians are women and librarianship is considered one of the "female professions," Detelisen points out, "women in librarianship have not

-302-