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ALSC

Dr. Nancy Van House
School of Library & Information Studies
University of California
Berkeley, Ca 94720

Dear Dr. Van House:

Last week I returned from ALA in New York where I attended numerous meetings and programs. Two of them, and the response from others who also attended the meetings, have prompted me to write this letter.

At The Public Library Association Goals, Guidelines and Standards for Public Libraries Committee meeting on the Public Library Development Program I asked the question, "Is information gained from the Wisconsin modification of output measures for use with children (published as REPORT ON OUTPUT MEASURES FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN WISCONSIN PUBLIC LIBRARIES: A PILOT PROJECT, 1984-85) being used in the revised manual?" The answer given was vague which indicated to me that attention probably had not been given to the adapted definitions and forms for children in the new publication for it surely would have been considered in enough detail at this time to provide an answer about its use.

After the program, people spoke to me about their concerns that children's services need to be addressed in the new document and that young adults' services data is even more difficult to gather because of lack of uniform collection and methods for collection.

In preparing for the second meeting, that of the joint research committees of AASL, ALSC and YASD, where I presented a small group session on the Wisconsin pilot project, I did background work on statistics on library services to youth. I agree wholeheartedly with Mary Jo Lynch

who said in an article in TOP OF THE NEWS, Winter, 1985:182, "Clearly, the amount of data collected on the state level about services to children and young adults in public libraries is small. On the national level there is even less data collected about public library services to youth." She also found it difficult to find consistent information on statistics for school library media centers.

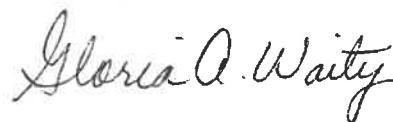
My reason for writing to you and others involved is to request that you consider inclusion of children's services measures in the revised manual. I know the time is short because completion of the final draft is near, but if specific instructions for use with children are not included in this document, especially when there is field tested information available, I feel that another opportunity to strengthen data collection for children's services will be lost.

I have chosen to write to you because according to the article in LIBRARY JOURNAL of June 15, 1986, you are doing the revision of the measurement manual. I would like very much to know what considerations took place in deciding what to include in the revised manual relating to children. In addition, even before the second revision is out, I urge your group to consider the complicated issue of measuring service to young adults, certainly for the third edition of the manual!

You will note I am sending this letter to selected others on the Task Force, to chairpersons of the three youth division research committees, to those people whose names I know who approached me about their concern, and to the chairperson of the PLA-Service to Children Committee. These are people or groups I know to be concerned about integration of children's issues with those of total public library service.

I hope to hear from you soon regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



Gloria A. Waity

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|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| cc:Charles McClure | Leslie M. Edmonds | Clara N. Bohrer |
| Mary Jo Lynch | Elaine P. Adams | Douglas Zweizig |
| Shirley Mills-Fischer | Leslie Farmer | Faith H. Hektoen |
| Philip M. Turner | Karen Krueger | Ronald Dubberly |