

June 28, 1985

Report of the AASL/ALSC/YASD Task Force on Alliance of Excellence

The Task Force met on March 29, 1985. Ray Fry, Chair of the Advisory Board of Libraries and the Learning Society, and Director of the Division of Library Programs, U.S.D.E., reviewed the dissemination of the document. It appears that at present the Department of Education has no plans for implementation of Alliance for Excellence.

We reviewed all of the "Recommendations" A through M. It is our conclusion that Recommendations D, E, I, and L have implications that could be addressed by the three youth divisions, but would probably best be addressed by a wider range of the "library community".

Recommendations D, I, K, L, and M have implications for research, much of which would need to come from outside of the youth divisions.

Phase 2 may wish to prepare specific proposals for action on Recommendations D, E, I, and L.

Judith King
Eleanor Pourron
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Attachments: Report of E. Pourron
Report of M. Salvadore
Recommendations of Alliance for Excellence

Copies to: Division Exec. Directors
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Roger Parent
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Alliance For Excellence

Librarians Respond
to
A Nation at Risk

Recommendations and Strategies
from
Libraries and the Learning Society

U.S. Department of Education
Terrel H. Bell, Secretary
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
Donald J. Senese, Assistant Secretary
Center for Libraries and Education Improvement
Malcolm D. Davis, Acting Director

July, 1984

Libraries in Support of Education

Recommendation A

We recommend that the elementary and secondary school curriculum be strengthened by teaching the effective use of information resources, including libraries. Further:

- (1) Students should spend time in the school library media center to learn and practice information skills coordinated with class work;
- (2) Students should be tested for competency in information skills in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and computer science;
- (3) Students in grades one through twelve should have guided reading, listening, and viewing experiences, for pleasure and fulfillment as well as for information and knowledge, to acquire skill and abiding interest in learning.

Recommendation B

We recommend that every elementary and secondary school have quality library services and resources.

Recommendation C

We recommend that libraries, associations, state educational and library agencies, and accrediting organizations adopt more rigorous and measurable standards for school library media services.

Recommendation D

We recommend that school library media centers and public and academic libraries be open, to the fullest extent possible, to elementary and secondary school students and area residents. This policy would have the joint aims of expanding the time available for learning, while making more effective use of a community's library and information resources.

Recommendation E

We recommend that school library media centers and public and academic libraries develop the collections needed to inform educators and librarians about developments in education and the library and information science field, and about new or expanded professional concepts and practices in those fields.

Recommendation F

We recommend that candidates for the position of school library media specialist receive a broad general education that is geared to meet the challenge of the Information Age.

Recommendation G

We recommend that school library media specialists be offered professionally competitive salaries and working conditions that are rewarding and satisfying.

Recommendation H

We recommend that candidates for teacher or school administrator receive meaningful instruction in the role and activity of a school library media center.

Library Leadership in the Learning Society

Recommendation I

We recommend that libraries accept their central role in the Learning Society as valid learning centers. Further, we recommend that these centers be staffed with user-oriented professionals who not only understand community needs but also know learning resources. These "learners" advisers would help patrons to gain the information and skills to function successfully in the Learning Society.

Recommendation J

We recommend that libraries become active in adult literacy education programs at local, state, and national levels.

Recommendation K

We recommend that the nation's school library media centers and public libraries be assessed for their ability to respond to the urgent proposals for excellence in education and lifelong learning. Further, we recommend that studies be conducted in such vital areas as:

- defining information-seeking skills and behaviors;
- fostering adult literacy;
- promoting adult learning;
- defining training and retraining;
- developing a marketing strategy.

Recommendation L

We recommend that librarians at local, state, and national levels develop and implement plans to share the resources and services of their institution in support of education and lifelong learning. We also recommend that at the national level, leadership should be exerted to endorse, assist, and support the states and local communities in their efforts to share resources.

Recommendation M

We recommend that library and information science educators reform and refine the recruitment, preparation, and continuing education of librarians and information scientists. Further, we recommend that the entire library community hold higher education responsible for providing high-quality education to equip professionals with special competencies to work effectively in libraries and information centers in the Learning Society.