



AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Telephone (312) 944-6780

From: Peggy Barber, Director
Public Information Office

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For immediate release

The 1974 Distinguished Library Service Award for School Administrators was presented to Dr. George N. Smith, Superintendent of Schools of the Mesa Public Schools, Arizona, on Monday, July 8, at the AASL Honor Luncheon, at the Plaza Hotel, in New York City, during the 1974 Annual Conference of the American Library Association in New York City, the week of July 7.

Dr. Smith demonstrated outstanding leadership in developing the media center programs in the Mesa Public Schools during the past six years since coming to the district from Tucson, Arizona.

In the Flowing Wells School Newsletter, a student editor once stated, "Dr. Smith embodies those qualities which we, the student respect in an administrator. The interest he holds for each student has endeared him to the student body; his integrity has caused us to seek his guidance, and his philosophy of education has helped build a school of high caliber, and a student body strong in ideals and principles."

Media centers in the Mesa Public Schools, even those built at the turn of the century, are the hub of the school. By design, the new centers are in the center of each school, and the philosophy of Dr. Smith has made them the center of all curriculum development and implementation.

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All thirty of the elementary and junior high schools of the Mesa District are staffed by professional librarians and the two high schools are staffed with several media specialists. All libraries have supportive clerical personnel. Each school media center has at least 10 books per student plus abundant audiovisual materials, even though the per pupil operational budget of the district is only \$788.27.