Letters to the Editor

National Library Week

New York City
October 20, 1957

Editor, Educational Leadership

Dear Sir:

I should like to direct attention to a service which can be rendered by each ASCD member in his own community. This service is to cooperate with National Library Week which occurs on March 16-22, 1958, and which all communities are asked to observe. It is sponsored by the National Book Committee, Inc., and the American Library Association.

The committee developing this program has come up with the following facts:

1. The habit of reading is not keeping pace with increased education, leisure time or high disposable income.

2. Sixty percent of American adults did not read a book, other than the Bible, during 1955.

3. Half of the adults in this country live within a mile of a public library—but only one-fifth of them visit it.

4. New standards of public library service have just been issued by the American Library Association; they need community attention and acceptance.

5. Recruiting trained personnel is a major problem for all libraries; more efforts are needed to attract young people to the profession. The shortage is handicapping library expansion.

6. Soaring enrollments mean that school and college library facilities must be expanded.

ASCD has an Ad Hoc Committee cooperating with the National Book Committee. Each of us can cooperate on the local level with library groups and others organizing local activities for National Library Week, March 16-22, 1958. The National Book Committee has agreed to furnish interested ASCD'ers with a special flier which tells of this campaign. This can be secured by addressing National Book Committee, Inc., 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, New York.

Sincerely yours,

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