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Letter to Catherine Maybury regarding library manuals, November 19, 1959

Helen Gray Gillam

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THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
SCHOOL OF LAW
ATHENS, GEORGIA

November 19, 1959

LAW LIBRARY

Mrs. Catherine Maybury, Librarian
Institute of Government
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dear Cathie:

Did you not say, "Go home, think, and write me a letter"?
However good, bad or indifferent, this is a letter.

In order to implement any type of in-service training program as discussed in the committee meeting there should be

1. A survey of the state areas to reveal what we have to work with.
2. Put a "floor" as well as a ceiling on the program; that is, where county collections are deposits of state laws and court reports and nothing more with no funds for additional purchases, I think we should not consider such as libraries within the scope of this program.
3. After having arrived at this point, both a manual and teaching program go hand in hand.
4. The manual should be kept to extremely basic steps, such as:
 - a. Choosing books (Acquisitions)
 - b. Sources of books and other materials--publishers of law books and possibly sources of free materials.
 - c. Simple methods of recording a collection and shelf arrangement of the books. This aspect might include some comments on loose-leaf services and the art of pocket parts.
 - d. Outside sources (university libraries, etc.) where help is available.

If we are thinking in terms of something as elementary as I have in mind, I should think that would about cover the field.

To such a manual I think should be attached possibly in the form of an appendix a list of authorities in certain subject fields and possibly a bibliography of sources for further reading and study for the eager as well as a list of publishers.

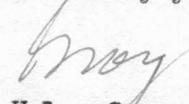
I would further suggest that the preparation of the various parts of the program be spread throughout the chapter so that it will in fact be a chapter project.

However, since the spade work has already been done in North Carolina, I think it would appear wisest to use that area as the guinea pig, or trial balloon, for the entire program.

The greatest difficulty I think is going to be the travel involved in both the survey and the actual performance of the training program. It occurs to me to wonder who can be away from a job to indulge in this sort of extra-curricula activity regardless of its admirable qualities.

This is my current thinking. I notice that practically every sentence is prefaced with "I think"; I can't vouch for the usefulness of the thoughts. I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Helen Gray Gillam
Law Librarian

I was so busy being official that I forgot to say how nice it was to see you again and what a fine job I thought you did in your share of arranging and conducting the meeting. As my boys say, "I'm IMPRESSED."