

THE AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY IN A CALIFORNIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

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Costa Mesa, California

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

Costa Mesa, California

Left to right: David Cavanaugh, Gary Smith, Dorothy Bender, John Taberna.

DH Students.

Much thought and planning has gone into the Library at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California. It is not a large library but it is hoped that it adequately serves our over 80 majors in Agriculture. We are one of three Junior colleges in our small county. We are approaching a million population but have only 780 sq. miles of area. One of the other 3 Junior colleges has an agricultural program. Orange Coast College has over 4,000 day time students and some 11,000 attending night classes. By 1975 it is estimated that our county will have 10 Junior colleges with an average day time enrollment of around 5,000 students each.

The above information will give some idea of the population explosion of Southern California. Our agriculture is changing of course but is not taking a back seat to industry. We still have 21 enterprises in our county with over one million dollars income. Valencia oranges lead the list of course with over 40,000,000 dollars annual value.

Forty-two agricultural courses are taught at Orange Coast College. Three instructors teach five majors in agriculture and manage a 150-acre farm. Our courses in Agriculture transfer to five of our state 4-year colleges where agriculture is taught and to several of the branches of the greater university of California. The courses are all taught by instructors who have either a major or minor in the subject taught. Most of the courses carry 3 semester units of credit and have two, one-hour lectures, and one, three-hour laboratory. Text books are required in most of the courses, but, in order to provide the students majoring in agriculture with adequate reference materials, a good library is maintained.

Our library might be discussed under five different headings, namely: 1. Reference books; 2. National, state, and local magazines and newspapers; 3. National state, and local bulletins and leaflets from the experiment stations and extension service; 4. Commercial publications; 5. Visual aids equipment and materials.

There are over 500 volumes of reference books on the shelves of our library covering the entire field of agriculture. In these books are regular library cards. The Division chairman checks out all these

books from our main college library, is personally responsible and is checked by a regular annual audit. A student may check out a book by merely writing his or her name on the card in the book and leaving it on the instructor's desk.

When the student is ready to check in the book, he places it on the desk of the instructor and the instructor replaces the card in the book and puts it back on the library shelf. We have found that the books and other materials are used often because of the ease of checking in and out. We are proud of our record of few losses, too. They are much less than our main college library where full-time librarians are on duty at all times.

The materials under part 2, (magazines and newspapers); part 3, (bulletins and leaflets); and part 4 (commercial publications) are usually used by the students in the library and not checked out. When they are checked out the student writes his or her name, the date, and the name of the publication on a special card which is left on the desk of the instructor.

Audio visual equipment and materials include 2 darkened rooms, one overhead projector, one 16mm. sound movie projector, and one film strip and slide projector used exclusively by the division of Agriculture. Movie films and some other materials are ordered and scheduled a year in advance whenever possible. They are ordered from commercial agencies and many educational libraries.

We have in our agricultural library some 160 film strips and over 3,000 colored slides, some of which have been purchased, some made up special for us, and many made by ourselves. Some 500 colored slides were made by this writer while on sabbatical leave traveling in over 40 states and visiting 142 Junior colleges, 4 year colleges, and land grant universities.

In conclusion I might state that we have around 25 key farmers and business men in our district, who act and serve as our Agricultural advisory committee. This committee is very interested in a good library. For the past five years we have spent over 500 dollars from our regular budget on our library besides having many items donated to us from the community.