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*\*\*\*\*\*UTHSCD library conducts original  
loaning system study.*

DALLAS--The library of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas has been selected by the National Library of Medicine to conduct a six-month study on the effectiveness of loaning original journals and hardback volumes to interlibrary loan users in lieu of photocopied materials.

According to Dr. Donald Hendricks, library director, the HSC library was chosen because of its large collection of duplicate books and journals now used by the Regional Medical Library Duplicate Exchange Program, which has been in operation for two years. The exchange program collects published materials from a variety of sources and distributes them upon requests from other medical schools, hospitals and clinics.

The study was initiated due to concern that pending federal legislation will forbid journal copying as it is done now, despite a recent Supreme Court decision which upheld a lower court ruling in favor of library photocopying of published writings.

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first add library experiment

The library is experimenting in sending original magazines or books requested by qualified interlibrary loan users who are health practitioners outside the Dallas city limits. The Interlibrary Loan System used now by the center's library exchanges books, journals and other published materials with libraries in a five-state region known as TALON. States included are Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Materials not available in a library within this region may be obtained from another TALON member by checking out the original copy or having it photocopied and sent to the requesting member. By sending out only original copies of requested publications, the study will test the borrower's willingness and promptness in returning these originals and paying the needed return postage.

Other aspects of the study are to predict various time elements involved in the loaning and returning process and the number of copies needed to satisfactorily develop the service to loan users. Results may also indicate the feasibility of dividing particular journals into individual article sections and filling requests in this manner.

Since 1972, over 90,000 issues from the Duplicate Exchange Program have been deposited with hospitals and medical schools. In addition, the program was used to rebuild the medical library in Managua, Nicaragua after the 1972 earthquake with a donation of 8900 journals and 950 bound volumes.

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