THE BERLIN Educational Service Center aims at being a living institution, which offers not only a library, reading rooms, textbook writing and test-research departments, but also a meeting place for free discussion among educators. Established in Nov. 1947 by the Education & Cultural Relations Branch, OMG Berlin Sector, the center has expanded its activities from textbook writing to a great number of additional projects to aid students and teachers.

One of the most popular departments at the center is the library. A teacher visiting the library one morning asked if he might telephone his principal. The librarian heard his conversation. He told the principal he would like to stay all day and explained, “this is a paradise of books!”

About 10,580 books are available, 60 percent of which are German language and 40 percent Swiss, Dutch, American, British and French-language volumes. The book collection includes many textbooks from other countries, and all German textbooks published in the four zones since 1945. Many of the American textbooks are beautifully illustrated. The Germans admire and wish to copy these texts because of the content, fine make-up and illustrations.

ONE THOUSAND books were loaned to the Pedagogical Hochschule (teachers’ college) when it moved from the East Sector of Berlin and established new quarters in the former barracks in Lankwitz, American Sector. Books and other instructional materials of necessity were left behind in the Russian Sector. The Free University also is in great need of instructional supplies. Several sets of wall maps have been loaned to these two educational institutions, and will be loaned to other schools who may need this type of equipment.

There are also 70 German and English-language periodicals in the center library. Until recently, these magazines were mostly pedagogical, but gradually current magazines on other subjects are being placed on the shelves.

As a teachers’ aid, a committee of students and teachers is preparing a picture file, clipping pictures from old magazines and filing them according to topics studied in the school. Another file, also available for use of teachers, is of German and English-language pamphlets on subjects including social science, history, curriculum and current events.

ANOTHER COMMITTEE of educators has been appointed to assist in the selection of books for the library to make sure that helpful, interesting volumes are chosen. Committee representatives are selected from the public schools, the Pedagogical Hochschule, the Free University and the Pestalozzi-Froebel-House, a center for training kindergarten teachers.

Interesting work is being done with children to help find the kind of readers which will appeal to young boys and girls. A reading research committee, composed of an elementary school principal and classroom teachers, is doing a creative job of planning and teaching as an integral part of the research.

This group studies the problems of reading in the early grades which include vocabulary, type and difficulty and suitability of content for the Fibel (German basic reader). Several supplementary first readers are being prepared. A particularly interesting manuscript to be published is the story of Baby Lion “Kora” of the Berlin Zoo, to be illustrated with photographs. Kora was born during the blockade of Berlin and was one of a family of three who survived. The pictures of Kora were made by the Educational Service Center’s visual aid workshop. A teacher of (Continued on next page)

Old and young enjoy the use of Berlin’s Educational Service Center library which contains approximately 10,580 German, French, Swiss, Dutch, British and American-language books. (Center photos)
however, the center has secured two very small portable projectors which can project slides and film strips onto the various size screens. Soon an annotated list of films, film strips, slides and records will be available for schools and other interested groups.

THE FILM program was greatly handicapped by the Berlin blockade. Many showings, however, were arranged for evenings or for other times when the limited electric current was available. Performances were presented to school youth groups, labor unions and political party meetings. Up to the present time only so-called educational and documentary films have been shown. There is a need for more entertainment film, cartoons and "shorts" to put life into the programs. Before the war, Walt Disney films were popular in Germany. Requests have been made for such productions as "Pinocchio," "Snow White," and "The Three Little Pigs." West Berlin needs to laugh, and programs should be enriched with good musical or cartoon films.

In the field of intelligence and achievement test research which advanced rapidly in other countries while Hitler Germany lagged behind, the center's program has made progress. Standardization and evaluation work is being carried out in workshops in the public schools of Berlin. Twenty-five teachers and 30 students of the Free University and the Pedagogical Hochschule are learning the techniques of administering and checking tests. About 4,000 west Ber-

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