DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 174 239 IR 007 515

AUTHOR McClure, Charles R.; Million, Anne
TITLE Distribution and Availability of State and Areawide Water Quality Reports in Oklahoma Libraries.
INSTITUTION Oklahoma Univ., Norman. School of Library Science.
PUB DATE 79
NOTE 27p.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Conservation (Environment); *Depository Libraries; Federal Legislation; Government Role; *Information Dissemination; Library Surveys; *State Surveys; *Water Pollution Control

ABSTRACT

This report examines the distribution and availability of water quality reports in the state of Oklahoma. Based on legislation from the Clean Water Act and regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency's "Public Participation Handbook for Water Quality Management," depository libraries must be established to provide citizen access to various water quality reports. Results from a survey questionnaire investigating the effectiveness of the depositories in Oklahoma suggest that the depository system has been ineffective in accomplishing its mandated responsibilities. Appendices include a list of agencies and depository libraries, tabulated responses of the survey of depository libraries receiving water quality materials from the three agencies designated by the governor of Oklahoma, and sources for additional information. (Author/CMV)

DISTRIBUTION AND AVAILIBILITY

OF

STATE AND AREAWIDE WATER QUALITY REPORTS

IN OKLAHOMA LIBRARIES

BY

DR. CHARLES R. MCCLURE
and
ANNE MILLION

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73019

DISTRIBUTION AND AVAILABILITY OF STATE AND AREAWIDE WATER QUALITY REPORTS IN OKLAHOMA LIBRARIES

THE CLEAN WATER ACT

The rapid and pyramidal growth of population, industry and technology in the mid-twentieth century and its attendant problem of waste disposal has led to increased pollution of the waters of the nation. Although every state has developed agencies to deal with water pollution, mounting public frustration and pressure led Congress to pass one of its most far-reaching environmental laws, the "Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972", also known as the Clean Water Act.[1] The goal of the Act is to eliminate completely by 1985 the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters. However, an interim goal of water quality also was established to provide, wherever attainable, for the protection and propagation of fish and wildlife and for recreational benefits--popularly termed "fishable-swimmable" goals.[2]

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (hereafter referred to as EPA) is designated to administer the Act,[3] and while that federal agency is to assist, oversee and approve all measures taken to achieve the national goal, the states have primary responsibility for planning and for controlling water pollutants in conjunction with municipalities and areawide

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[1]Public Law 92-500, 86 Stat. 816; 33 U.S.C. 1251.

[2]Ibid., Sec. 101 (a-1) and (a-2).

[3]Ibid., Sec. 101 (d).

agencies. Section 208 of the Act requires the governors to identify areas within their states having water quality control problems and to designate the agency or agencies responsible for developing an areawide waste treatment management plan. The agencies so designated and the water quality plans they develop are commonly referred to as "208 agencies" and "208 plans."

The Clean Water Act is a landmark, being the first federal law that specifically mandated public participation as an integral part of a nationwide program operated by the states and their agents with federal funds. In the most sweeping of terms Congress called for "public participation in the development, revision, and enforcement of any regulation, standard, effluent limitation, plan, or program established...under this Act."[4] However, most states and local governments have not had much experience, other than the public notice/public hearing technique, building public participation into the decision-making process. Involving the public from initial planning stage throughout the process proved every bit as challenging as expected.

Under promulgated rules and regulations for public participation the agencies carrying out activities under Section 208 must "provide continuing policy, program, and technical information at the earliest practicable times and at places easily accessible to interested or affected persons and organizations so that they can make informed and constructive contributions to governmental decision-making."[5] The output of information covers every aspect of the problem, including water quality standards and criteria,

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[4] Ibid., Sec. 101 (e).

[5] 40 CFR 105, Sec. 105 (a).

socio-economic projections, land use summaries, stream and navigable waters classification, inventories of pollution sources and problems, waste load allocations, identification of control methods and management systems, assessment of alternative measures, and evaluation of planning impacts. At the very least, the information published has pulled together much scattered and isolated data from numerous government departments and agencies. To facilitate public access to all this information, the "208 agencies" must "provide, either directly or through others, in an appropriate location or locations, one or more central public collections or depositories of water quality reports and data pertinent to the geographic area concerned."[6]

This public information/participation requirement has been both a boon to and a bane for the agencies as well as citizens. It is advantageous to all to have citizen input early and continuously in the decision-making process rather than, as often happened in the past, at the end of the process when few options remain open. On the other hand, it is a herculean task to present highly technical information to the public in a manner that enables citizens to participate meaningfully in highly complex political decisions. Although stated unequivocably, the access-to-information clause is very general and too vague to provide much guidance. However, the EPA Public Participation Handbook for Water Quality Management spells out how to facilitate public access to water quality data and what is required in the way of depositories:

> Several depositories should be established, scattered through the area, conveniently located, open during evenings and weekends, and have low cost copying facilities. They

[6] Ibid., Sec. 105.4 (e).

should contain draft as well as final documents and reports of citizen comments and participation. Assistance in locating documents in the depository should be provided.[7]

The handbook further suggests that the legal requirements are best met by spreading the depositories throughout the region in various facilities such as libraries, schools, government buildings, and community centers.[8]

THE DEPOSITORY SYSTEM

The "208 agencies" designated by the Governor of Oklahoma to develop water quality plans were: the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) for the four-county central area,[9] the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) for the Tulsa area, and the Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control (ODPC) for the rest of the state.[10] The three agencies are at different stages in developing their respective plans. The ACOG and INCOG plans are nearly completed, but the state only began to distribute "208 materials" after the beginning of the year. Any attempt to evaluate the public information portion of the plans will necessarily reflect this difference. However, the experience of the agencies and the depository libraries has been markedly similar.

ACOG officials chose to deposit the water quality reports and materials in all the public libraries in the central area, as well as in the University of

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[7]Water Quality Management Guidance 6-76-02 (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Protection Agency, 1976), p. 3.

[8]Ibid., p. 40.

[9]Oklahoma, Canadian, Cleveland, and Logan Counties.

[10]With the exception of Sequoyah and LeFlore Counties that are covered by an inter-state agency.

Oklahoma library. The contractor for the INCOG "208 plan" also used the public library system as a depository, although as it developed the documents are kept only in the Central Library of the Tulsa City-County Library System and not in the branch libraries (one exception being a branch where the librarian, who serves on a citizen advisory committee, has put her own copies in the collection). Statewide the Department of Pollution Control has placed "208 information" in a dozen or more public libraries in each of ten substate planning districts, as well as 17 higher education institutions; the substate planning directors are responsible for distributing the materials and making personal contact with the depositories. This blanket distribution is based on the principle that the public should have the greatest possible access to water quality materials. Even in the less populous parts of the state, the "208 agency" tried to make it possible for any citizen to be within a day's trip of a depository library. Duplicate collections exist in communities with both public and academic libraries. Appendix A contains a list of the agencies and the depository libraries.

METHODOLOGY

The object of this study is (1) to investigate the depositories selected in Oklahoma to receive water quality reports and technical information and (2) to determine how they serve to inform the public and meet both the general legal requirements of the Act and the specific guidelines and directives of EPA. Final federal approval of state and regional plans will undoubtedly use these guidelines in evaluating the public information/participation part of

the program, although such guidelines are recognized as only the minimum requirements needed to carry out the spirit and intent of the Clean Water Act.

In order to evaluate public access to and use of the "208 documents" throughout the state, this writer developed a questionnaire which was sent to head librarians in the depositories during March of this year. Questionnaires were sent to all 21 libraries in the central Oklahoma area, for which reporting was complete. Twenty-one questionnaires were also sent to the Tulsa City-County libraries, and one system-wide report was made. Because 147 libraries were designated depositories by the Department of Pollution Control for the statewide water quality materials, a representative 45 libraries were selected--four to six in each substate planning district. Twenty-five of these libraries responded at the time of writing. The over-all response rate was therefore about 77%. A copy of the questionnaire appears as Appendix B.

The questionnaire elicits data on how the documents are handled and arranged in the libraries, their use by the public, and an evaluation of the process and suggestions for improvement. Responses were first summarized according to each of the designated areas and then combined. Initial interviews and correspondence with the "208 agencies" helped to balance their role and viewpoint with that of the depository libraries.

RESULTS

Awareness. On the whole, awareness of the "208 program" on the part of librarians is good, although in a half dozen cases they had no record of the documents and no knowledge of the program. The awareness of the general

public, on the other hand, as to the nature and availability of the "208 publications"--much less the public importance of the water quality plan--is uniformly low. About half of the libraries indicated that no one seemed to have used the "208 documents", and none estimated that more than two persons had made use of the documents in an average week. Many simply said there was no way of keeping track of the number of people using the materials. This is understandable since the documents were placed in reference or browsing areas of the public libraries. In only one instance were the documents permitted to be checked out, though no circulation data was reported.

In most cases librarians attempted to call the public's attention to the documents with signs or by placing them in a prominent position. A dozen or more used card catalogs and indexes to direct patrons to the materials. A like number relied on referral or newspaper and newsletter publicity by the agency to attract public attention to the materials. One or two libraries placed articles in the local paper themselves. The Tulsa City-County Library and the Oklahoma Environmental Information and Media Center in Ada put announcements concerning the "208 documents" in their own newsletters. The Tulsa Library also made up an attractive brochure of its own to describe the "208 program" and its collection of materials.

Virtually all libraries felt that lack of public interest was the single most contributing cause of disuse of the documents and that better publicity was the key to arousing such interest. Librarians suggested that depositories be listed with every meeting notice. Two added that the notice sometimes did not arrive until the day of the meeting--"hardly enough time for a

patron to notice it, much less research these documents."

The depositing of "208 publications" in libraries is only one aspect of the public information/participation program. The agencies have generally placed more emphasis on organizing public meetings. Initially, these meetings were town hall or forum type meetings, essentially informative in character. Designed to reach as wide a public as possible, they were announced and held at dispersed locations. In only four communities were meetings held in reporting libraries. Later meetings involved task-oriented committees and citizen or technical advisory commitees and were held at less publicized and less public locations; the subject of these meetings ranged from review of technical data to policy recommendations and decisions.

Although they might possibly be aware of the town hall type meetings, librarians other than those in the large urban libraries did not indicate specific knowledge of any "208 meetings" held in their area. Only in two urban libraries did a staff member report attending a meeting and publicizing the library's "208 collection." In one case advance publicity caused two patrons to ask for the documents even before they were received; the librarian did not know whether those patrons ever came back. There was an underlying feeling that even when the agency did an adequate job of publicity people did not know what the documents had to do with them or why they should be interested in water quality planning.

Usability. This suggests a basic problem due to the nature of the documents. Unlike many Government Printing Office publications which are sent

to a number of state depository libraries, the water quality documents are not "popular" in subject interest, not very easy to read or to handle, and not very eye-catching. Several small libraries and urban branch libraries indicated that the documents being very technical and complex in nature should be housed in large libraries with similar reference materials. Indeed, those libraries having special collections of government documents or scientific and technical works--such as the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, the Metropolitan Library System, and the Tulsa City-County Library--are able to index or catalog the materials, making them much easier to use. In the case of the Tulsa Library, they are also on microform.

One agency official also felt, based on experience, that the "208 documents" should be concentrated in a few, central libraries that are able to handle the technical materials and that are expected to have in-depth reference works. By foregoing a blanket distribution, money could be saved and used to bind the documents or otherwise improve their format. Binding, or even durable covers, would increase the feasibility of circulating the documents by making them easier to handle and less likely to get lost or dog-eared. With a more selective depository system citizens could still be reached by distributing to non-depository libraries attractive, readable pamphlets, flyers, and summaries and by making the technical materials available through interlibrary loan. This system is used to some extent in the INCOG area.

Most librarians felt that the highly technical data was difficult for the average citizen to understand and that there was a need for explanatory

material in lay terms or ways to "get into" the detailed reports. The absence of a summary accompanying each document was particularly noted. Federal regulations stipulate "special efforts shall be made to summarize complex technical materials for public and media use."[11] Although early efforts by "208 agencies" to prepare a summary for each document presented problems, the substitution of a final over-all summary would not seem to accomplish the same purpose.

Bibliographic Control. Lack of bibliographic control was described as a problem by at least one library specifically and was implicit in most other instances. Besides the two largest public library systems and the Oklahoma State University library, only a few libraries had cards for the "208 documents" in the card catalog; although the University of Oklahoma collection is accessible through a computerized KWIC index in the documents department.

One special library, Oklahoma Environmental Information and Media Center, plans to bind and catalog the documents as part of its permanent collection at East Central University. All other libraries had no plans for maintaining the documents on a permanent basis other than to continue the present arrangement as long as the documents were useful and usable. None anticipated assistance from the "208 agency" to maintain the materials permanently.

Although a majority of librarians reported that they had not received an index or checklist for the purpose of determining whether all published

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[11] 40 CFR 105, Section 105.4 (a).

documents had been received, a half dozen librarians replied affirmatively, indicating that they recognized the publications listed in the accompanying letter or newsletter from the agency as a kind of checklist. However, if such a list were separate and identified as a checklist, librarians could then spot missing documents easily and also keep the list with the documents as an index for improved public usage.

Some difficulty in bibliographic control is incurred by document numbering, which was reported as confusing by one librarian. The actual number of documents received by librarians varied greatly, indicating that the number sequence certainly did not help ascertain whether documents were missing from the collection. In the central Oklahoma area librarians reported receiving from as few as one to as many as thirty documents and in the rest of the state from three to twenty-one. Most librarians were unable to report whether their collections were complete to date.

Organization. The organization and arrangement of the "208 publications" varies among the libraries. Generally, the materials are located in browsing areas, in reference areas, with government documents, in Oklahoma collections, with business and technical materials or in scientific collections. Browsing areas include pamphlet and periodical areas, open shelves near entrances, and tables and counters in the reading room or other main areas.

The first set of statewide documents were in loose-leaf folders that could be shelved conveniently. Because other publications are received and arranged as loose reports and stapled together without covers, they are

stacked on shelves, on tables, or on counters; often they are in library boxes, chronologically as issued or received, or more likely in random order. Branch and small libraries generally have put the loose reports in a vertical file under various headings (e.g., water, Oklahoma, or name of agency).

Depository Facilities. Library facilities, as might be expected, differ as to how adequately these materials can be handled. Many libraries have severe space limitations, part-time or volunteer staff only, and minimal financial support. Such libraries, in their own opinion and that of agency personnel, probably are not suitable depositories for highly technical and difficult to handle materials. The larger libraries are open at very convenient hours throughout the week; the smaller libraries were of course open fewer hours various days of the week. As far as can be determined, though, all the libraries provide time in the evening and/or on the weekend during which working people would have access to the documents--another of the criteria outlined in EPA guidelines. In addition, all but nine of the libraries had inexpensive (5¢-15¢) copying facilities conveniently on site, with the Tulsa Library also providing microfiche copies for 25¢--copying facilities were required by EPA since "citizens don't always have time to study complex data on location."[12]

Suggestions. There were many areas of agreement among librarians regarding reasons for ineffectiveness in the depository procedure and suggestions for increasing public awareness and information regarding "208 data."

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[12]Water Quality Management Guidance 6-76-02, p. 40.

The chief reason for ineffectiveness appears to be the lack of public interest in the subject. This points up the need to inform the public through better publicity as to what the water quality program is, why they should be interested in it (i.e., how it affects them personally), and where "208 information" is located.

Numerous forms of publicity were suggested to increase public awareness and information: newspaper, radio, and television. The agencies have made substantial use of press releases, advertisements, and spot announcements, all of which are mentioned in EPA guidelines. However, this media approach appears less effective in getting the issues before the people than more in-depth coverage. Interviews, discussion programs, and documentaries were cited repeatedly in the survey as better interest-arousing techniques.

Another suggestion was a special display of materials, including handouts and pamphlets. Librarians welcome being supplied with posters and other visual aids to attract attention to their collections, since it is hard to find the time and appropriate materials to make up their own displays. Agencies are aware that they might have done more in this respect. Just recently they procured some electronic games from EPA (multiple-choice quiz cards with light-up answers), which are to be rotated among the libraries. These games, displayed with the "208 publications," can be expected to stimulate interest in the materials.

Academic libraries could promote user interest by publicizing receipt of the water quality materials among the faculty of pertinent disciplines

(e.g., engineering, geography, political science, urban and regional affairs, agriculture, and health sciences). Those pursuing studies in related subject areas are naturally most likely to use the publications. In fact, one academic library, having failed to receive the "208 documents" through the normal channels, was not even aware of their existence until an informed member of the faculty sent his students looking for them. Instances such as this indicate that there is no substitute for initial contact by the "208 agency" directly with the appropriate person to receive the documents. In the state "208 program" initial contact with librarians was made by form letter from the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries; subsequent contact, by the substate planning directors when distributing documents, was reportedly minimal and not very informative.

Clearly, in order to interest the public in the "208 materials" and to assist the patron in finding and using them, librarians must understand the significance of the program. To achieve this understanding librarians need close cooperation and assistance from the "208 agencies." Person-to-person contact and group meetings are a valuable means of communicating the goals of the program and facilitating the role to be played by the depository libraries.

One-to-one contact was emphasized by an agency official as the best way to reach the general public as well. Contact might have been closer if agency personnel had talked to civic clubs and public service organizations, as some librarians suggested. This would provide two-way communication in many localities where no agency-sponsored public 208 meetings were held.

Another reason why library collections have not been used as much as expected is undoubtedly the wide distribution of "208 publications" to specially interested persons and groups. Selected distribution lists are required in the government regulations,[13] and the people on them are naturally the most likely to read the materials and participate in the decision-making process. However, such lists are by no means a substitute for making the materials readily accessible to the general public, and readily accessible for an indefinite period of time because students and researchers will continue to be interested in the "208 data" and because many citizens will look at the data for the first time when implementation of the water quality plan begins to affect them personally. Librarians almost unanimously agreed that libraries were "natural depositories" and the best means of making these documents available to everyone. Citizens do seem more comfortable seeking this information in a library than in agency or city offices, where publications might have to be shared with staff or where questions or eyebrows might be raised.

SUMMARY

From this study of the distribution and availability of state and areawide water quality reports in Oklahoma libraries the following summary of recommendations is offered for improvement of the depository system:

1. Librarians and the public need to know more about the significance and scope of water quality planning, data, and policies. The "208 agencies" and government officials should be responsible for creating this awareness through better publicity and personal contact.

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[13] 40 CFR 105, Section 105.4 (d).

2. Publicity should be continuous throughout the water quality planning process and could be more attention-getting. In-depth discussion programs and feature articles are important supplements to spot announcements, advertisements, and routine news releases. Editorializing is helpful if it is based on accurate information.

3. Meetings need to be carefully planned and announced; timing should be coordinated with the issuance of documents pertinent to topics under discussion at the meetings. To achieve closer public contact, meetings or talks should be held in as many communities as possible throughout the process; both before and at every meeting mention needs to be made of the documents and their location.

4. The method of handling and the readability of the materials ought to be improved. Shelving and cataloging of these complex reference materials is preferable to placing them in vertical files with more ephemeral publications. Therefore, binding and durable covers are essential and could be provided by the "208 agency." A summary for each document, with page references perhaps, would provide a lay approach to the technical materials.

5. Bibliographic control and access ought to be addressed. If the documents were given a chronological series number, librarians could readily identify missing items. For the same reason the agency should provide a checklist, which would also be available to patrons. An index could be used to locate specific data and subject matter in the documents. Use of uniform cataloguing should be explored. Microform copies of the water quality data could be made available to any library with a reader; this may well be the

best way to store "208 data" indefinitely.

6. Posters and displays, with attractive hand-out material, could be used in libraries to draw attention to the water quality publications. Other library literature, supplementary reading materials, or reading lists could also be part of the display. Maps are appealing to the eye as well as giving direct, easy to absorb information. Rather than being multi-folded and lost amid the documents, "208 maps" would have been more useful if placed in a special portfolio or mounted.

7. Finally, the selection of the depositories and distribution of documents need reappraisal. Depositories should be reduced in number and selected according to their facilities for maintaining the collection and to type of patron usage. Nonetheless, an effort should be made to distribute depositories widely throughout the state--for example, six depositories in each metropolitan area and in each substate planning district. Initial contact should be directly with library personnel who will be handling the documents, and complete information concerning the program and publications should be given at that time. Continued personal contact is desirable and can provide regular feedback to the agencies.

Evaluation and feedback from the water quality planning process will be very important in the implementation and management phase of the program following completion of all the plans by the end of the year. Moreover, it will be a key factor in the success of future plans similar to "The 208." There are indications already that other nationwide environmental plans are scheduled

by the federal government.[14]

Public access to information and participation has undoubtedly reached a higher level in the water quality planning program than in any national program heretofore. Any innovative process involves some trial and error, but overall the performance of the "208 agencies" in involving the public has been encouraging. Everyone has shared the learning experience--public officials, technical experts, and citizens. Admittedly, governmental decision-making is unlikely ever to involve more than a small minority of the public, but citizens can expect, and in turn will be expected, to be informed and to participate throughout the planning and policy-making process of future plans. This might result in government decisions that are better conceived and better received.

Libraries can be an important link in the communication between government and people. No longer mere repositories of the written word, they have become complex information systems. Participatory democracy requires a system by which people have the ability to find out how, and what, the government is doing. Professional literature indicates that librarians are acknowledging a role in the movement towards open government and freedom of information--that of working with patrons and with government to keep the public aware of and the government accountable for policies and programs which affect us all.[15]

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[14]The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 (P.L. 95-95) requires all states to submit to EPA by January 1979 detailed regional plans either for maintaining or for meeting national air quality standards. In addition, EPA officials foresee the next program on the scale of the water quality plan as being solid waste management.

[15]Kathy Schneider, "The Public's Right to Know," Wisconsin Library Bulletin, January-February 1977, p. 29.

Agency

Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control
N.E. 10th and Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Area Libraries

*Bartlesville
Catoosa
Chelsea
*CLAREMORE
Copan
Dewey
Grove
Inola
Jay
*Miami
Nowata
Pryor
Ramona
Vinita

Beggs
Checotah
Coweta
Eufaula
Haskell
Morris
*MUSKOGEE
Okmulgee
Sallisaw
Stilwell
*TAHLEQUAH
Wagoner
Warner
Westville

Alva
Beaver
Boise City
Buffalo
Gage
Goodwell
GUYMAN
Hooker
Laverne
Mooreland
Seiling
Shattuck
Texoma
Waynoka
WOODWARD

Altus
Cheyenne
CLINTON
Cordell
Elk City
Hobart
Hollis
Mangum
Sayre
Sentinel
Snyder
Thomas
*WEATHERFORD

Boley
Chandler
Cleveland
CUSHING
Holdenville
Konawa
Okemah
Pawnee
Prague
SEMINOLE
*Shawnee
*Stillwater (& OSU)
Stroud
Tecumseh
Weleetka
Wetumka
WEWOKA
Yale

ANTLERS
Broken Bow
Hartshorne
Heavener
HUGO
Idabel
McAlester
*Poteau
Spiro
Stigler
Talihina
*Wilburton
Wister

Anadarko
Apache
Blanchard
*Chickasha
Duncan
Frederick
Hinton
*Lawton
Purcell
Walters

*ADA (& ECU)
Atoka
Ardmore
Coalgate
Davis
*Durant
Healdton
Lindsay
MADILL
Marietta
Pauls Valley
Sulphur
*Tishomingo
Wilson
Wynnewood

BLACKWELL
Carmen
Cherokee
*ENID
Fairview
Geary
Hennessey
Kingfisher
Loyal
Medford
Nash
Okeene
PERRY
Ponca City
*Tonkawa
Watonga

* 208 information also found in higher education institutions at these locales.

208 AGENCIES AND DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

(Libraries participating in the survey appear in capital letters)

Agency

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
4801 Classen Blvd., Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Area Libraries

METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

Belle Isle Branch Library
BETHANY BRANCH LIBRARY
CAPITOL HILL BRANCH LIBRARY
Del City Branch Library
Edmond Branch Library
MAIN LIBRARY
Midwest City Branch Library
NICOMA PARK READING CENTER
RALPH ELLISON BRANCH LIBRARY
SOUTHERN OAKS BRANCH LIBRARY
VILLAGE BRANCH LIBRARY
WRIGHT READING CENTER

EL RENO CARNEGIE LIBRARY
GUTHRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY
MOORE PUBLIC LIBRARY
MUSTANG MUNICIPAL LIBRARY
NORMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
BIZZELL LIBRARY
YUKON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Agency

Indian Nations Council of Governments
630 West Seventh
Tulsa, OK 74127

Area Libraries

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
CENTRAL LIBRARY - Depository

Bixby Library
Broken Arrow Library
Brookside Library
Collinsville Library
East Second Library
Florence Park Library
Jenks Library
Martin East Regional Library
Nathan Hale Library
North Harvard Library
North Regional Library
Owasso Library
Page Memorial Library
Prattville Library
RED FORK LIBRARY
Sheridan Library
Skiatook Library
Sperry Library
Suburban Acres Library
Woodland View Library

SURVEY OF DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES RECEIVING 208 WATER QUALITY MATERIALS*

1. How often have you been receiving the 208 Water Quality Management materials from the agency?

   Variation in frequency is too great to determine average time--see p. 11

   How many documents have been received to date? (Please give identifying numbers or titles of documents where possible)

   Average number of documents received is 8. Range is from one to 32 documents.

2. Have you been furnished with a checklist or index so that you can determine whether you have received all the materials required to be deposited?

   Yes--14% *No--81%* *No Answer--5%*

   If so, is your collection complete?

   Yes--16% *No--8%* *No Answer--76%*

   If not, have you made an effort to secure the missing materials?

   Yes--0% *No--43%* *No Answer--57%*

   Have you had to replace missing pages or worn-out copies?

   Yes--0% *No--57%* *No Answer--43%*

   From whom did you request the missing materials?

   With one exception, no answer from any Library

   Were you able to secure them?

   With one exception, no answer from any Library

3. Where are these 208 materials shelved? (Please be specific in describing their location)

   a) Reference area
   b) Vertical file
   c) Table or counter top
   d) Pamphlet or periodical area

4. How are the materials organized and arranged? (Please indicate whether they are bound, in library boxes, in folders, loose, or arranged in some other manner.)

   a) Bound--1%
   b) In library boxes--16%
   c) In folders--16%
   d) Loose--49%
   e) On microfiche--one Library

5. How is the public made aware of their availability and location?

   a) sign
   b) prominent location
   c) card catalog
   d) newspaper
   e) agency publicity/referral
   f) Library newsletter/bulletin board
   g) none/self help

6. How many people in an average week have used these materials?

   Figures do not average one person--most libraries do not keep a record (p. 7)

7. What hours is the library area in which these documents are kept open to the public? *Answers indicated libraries all have hours for working people. Libraries are open an average of 47 hours per week.*

8. What copying facilities are available to the public for duplicating any of the 208 materials? (Please specify cost and convenience.)

   All but nine libraries have low-cost copying facilities in the Library.

9. What arrangements have been made for keeping these documents and materials on a permanent basis?

   No arrangements have been made for maintaining the materials permanently except to continue the present arrangements. Two libraries will catalog the collection when complete.

10. Have you received from the agency any display materials or display suggestions and/or assistance in handling the 208 materials and informing the public about their availability? (Please describe.)

Yes--5%
No--89%
No Answer--5%

11. Where have 208 Water Quality Management meetings (such as public hearings, town hall meetings, committee meetings) been held in your community?

Meetings have been held in libraries of four communities.
In metropolitan areas meetings have also been held in downtown area, motels, banks, and agency offices.

If in the library, have the 208 documents and materials been displayed at the meetings and attention called to their availability and location in the library? (Please indicate by whom.)

Yes, according to three reports, by the city manager, an agency official, and a library staff member.

12. Do you feel that using selected libraries such as yours as depositories for these 208 materials is an effective way to provide for public information in this program and in any future federally-funded projects such as the 208 Water Quality Program?

Yes--78%
No--8%
No Answer--14%

If you perceive the procedure to be ineffective in any way, please explain why?

Need for better publicity, to inform public
No interest on the part of the public
Lack of bibliographic control--difficult to catalog, need for a checklist or index
Display suggestions are needed
Technical library would be a better location

13. What suggestions would you have for increasing public awareness and information regarding the 208 Water Quality materials, and the program generally?

More publicity--newspapers, radio, tv interviews
Improve notice of meetings, especially timing
Mention materials and depositories at meetings
Posters and displays needed, including lots of hand-outs
Summaries and brochures to increase appeal
Contact interested people and organizations, special county officials, faculty members at academic institutions--talks to special groups
More information from and interaction with the "208 agencies"

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*This survey is based on one over-all report for the Tulsa City-County Library System, plus one branch library; an over-all report for the Metropolitan (Oklahoma City) Library System, plus the Main Library and seven branches; seven central Oklahoma libraries; and nineteen reports from libraries across the state--a total of thirty-seven reports from library depositories. Six additional depositories for state water quality materials responded but were unable to supply information, mainly because there was no record of the documents being received.

SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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League of Women Voters. Getting in the Swim: How Citizens Can Influence Water Quality Planning. No. 188. League of Women Voters of the U.S., 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. 1977.
Serves as a community guide and handbook for local citizen groups on public participation in Section 208 water quality planning and implementation.

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