

2/19/37

200 R
American Library Assn
microphotography
37050

It was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of Sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000), or
RF 37013 as much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it is
hereby, appropriated to the AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
towards the expense of a project in MICROPHOTOGRAPHY at
the Paris Exposition, the fund to be available during
the period March 1 to December 31, 1937.

AMERICAN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION -
MICROPHOTOGRAPHY

The following were the considerations presented:

Relation to Program: Humanities: This proposal is within the plan
for aiding American and foreign libraries in the collection and
distribution of materials for research workers.

Previous Interest: At the meeting of the Foundation on December 12,
1936, a grant to the University of Chicago provided \$23,000 towards
a laboratory for library microphotography. This is to serve the
needs of the University and to be the national center of demonstra-
tion of method and of service to the members of the American Library
Association. Some of the equipment being prepared for that labora-
tory will be lent for use at the Paris Exposition.

General Description: Two results are anticipated from the project of
the American Library Association for a continuous demonstration of
microcopying of materials during the period of the Paris Inter-
national Exposition of 1937. The larger purpose is to demonstrate
to scholars and librarians of all countries what are the possibili-
ties of microcopying. The other is to bring back to the United
States large stocks of film carrying exact copies of newspaper files
and other classes of documentary material constantly needed by
American scholars.

The possibilities of microcopying are fairly well understood
even though continued improvement of processing undoubtedly will ex-
tend the known range of its usefulness. Film is being used for
single copies of documents, research articles of all sorts that will
not be put in print, and doctoral theses. These are supplied eco-
nomically. The same is true of any material, particularly such as
contains diagrams or tables, for which the demand will be less than
sufficient to warrant typesetting. The process will presumably be
of use in producing entire issues of smaller learned journals. It
is now being used for bibliographical work and for preservation of
the text of perishable news print. One of the more interesting ap-
plications to be developed through a grant of the Foundation is the

microfilming of Chinese materials so that the film copies may be provided for any scholar within the United States, either through his own university or through the Library of Congress.

In connection with the present project, arrangements have been made whereby the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation will furnish without charge materials for copying and will provide adequate space in one of the Exposition buildings.

The plan is the outcome of discussions extending over several months. The interested groups are the American Library Association, the American Committee of the League of Nations Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, and the Joint Committee on Materials for Research. The last named group represents all American societies in the fields of social science and the humanities. An American Committee on Documentation, which includes all the groups in the field of natural science, also is included in the proposal as relevant to their World Congress of Universal Documentation to be held in Paris during the third week of August, 1937. By general agreement the American Library Association was named to carry out the project.

AMERICAN
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MICROPHOTOGRAPHY
(Continued)

Finances: The budget submitted by the committees in charge of the project provides as follows:

Salaries	\$ 5,000
Travel and incidental expenses	3,000
Materials and equipment	5,000
Contingent	3,000
	<u>\$16,000</u>

Future Implications: None.

Comment: The proposed demonstration of film-copying would go far towards setting minimum cost figures for various classes of such work. Americans already have the advantages of cheap production through Science Service, Washington, and at a few universities. In part this effect is due to the generosity of Dr. Draeger in giving his patents to the Government so that photographic machines now being produced in Government shops under his direction can be sold commercially without royalty charges. Libraries, learned societies, and universities in all countries will soon find it possible to secure production from non-commercial agencies here and abroad or to do film-copying with their own machines operated by staff.
