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VIRGIN ISLANDS COMPREHENSIVE LIBRARY PROGRAM PLAN

ST. CROIX PROGRAMS

PROPOSED BY ROBERT V. VAUGHN

(Member Governor's Library Advisory Council 1971-1978)

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Box 1224, Kingshill, St. Croix, VI 00850

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FOREWORD

This study is being prepared as one of the last "official" acts of this member of the Governor's Library Advisory Council (hereafter referred to as GLAC), and it is in response to requests by the Chairperson of that council for "assistance" in preparing the Virgin Islands Bureau of Libraries' Five Year Plan for submission to the Federal Government under the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).

Because of the fact that the input of GLAC members has usually not been seriously solicited, but rather approval of completed plans has been sought to comply with Federal regulations, and because of the fact that previous studies have been ignored and not even acknowledged, this author hesitated to submit additional studies to the Bureau of Libraries. With the hope of having recommendations recorded for more than the Director of Libraries to view, this hastily prepared study of a library program for St. Croix is being published.

This author wrote to the Director of Libraries on March 6, 1978:

It also appears that Bureau personnel may be confusing the role of participants in assisting the Bureau. The Governor's Library Advisory Council should not be the originating body for revising reports of prior years. The Council should assist and people have volunteered to assist, but assistance does not mean that they will actually research and write the proposals. The corpus of a plan or proposals or revisions should be prepared by the Bureau with the expectation that it will be revised by the advice of the Governor's Library Advisory Council.

When contacted by a St. Croix citizen concerning participation on councils and being able to give citizens assistance, this writer stated:

For your guidance, I am employed by the Good Hope School, exclusively. I assist in library matters on councils which are strictly advisory in nature, and for which I receive absolutely no pay, and for which tremendous amounts of my personal time are required, and I may add, often for very little satisfaction.

It appears that the role of the Governor's Library Advisory Council Member is confused in the eyes of the community, the Bureau, and the Council itself. In 1972 this writer suggested a detailed 5 year plan for St. Croix, a portion of which is included in Appendix I, which was ignored and was never even acknowledged. Subsequent efforts to influence input including efforts to halt the planned construction of the present Christiansted Public Library proved hopeless even though it was to be located in a location editorialized by a Virgin Islands newspaperman as an "insane location." It was constructed there even after a survey of St. Croix librarians indicated the library should have been constructed near the center of the island at Kingshill. It should also be noted that the GLAC, as a body, requested the Governor not to construct the library in the present location.

This publication is just another page in the history of Virgin Islands librarianship, but at least it is in the realm of written history, instead of just "oral" history.

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Individual Governor's Library Advisory Council members have been invited to submit a new revision to the 1973 comprehensive five-year plan, Networks of Knowledge. I have been a member of the Governor's Library Advisory Council (hereafter abbreviated to GLAC) during the term of three individual Virgin Islands Governors, including the first elected Governor of the Virgin Islands, Governor Evans. Over the period of years, it became obvious to this member that the problems in St. Thomas/St. John are entirely different than those in St. Croix, because of terrain, population dispersion, distances, quality of education, languages (English, Spanish, Papiamentu, French Creole, and many European languages are heard regularly on St. Croix).

I could not, and would not, speak for the needs of St. Thomas/St. John, but I can and will speak for the needs of St. Croix. Therein lies the problem, for library plans are made in our centralized Bureau of Libraries and St. Croix's needs are mitigated by St. Thomas/St. John's needs, and a value judgement must be made according to how to divide the existing funds, federal and territorial (there are no local or district funds), according to someone's evaluation of needs.

The recommendations herein are minimal, but are for the island of St. Croix, with the exception that there be a reduction in central administration expenditures (including air fare between islands), so as to permit expansion of library services at the

neighborhood level to serve the presently unserved.

Networks of Knowledge was a moteworthy 1973 study of library service and the five year plan, prepared under the direction of the former Director of V. I. Libraries, Miss Enid M. Baa. Perhaps one of the problems with that study was that it was too extensive, and as a result perhaps confusing to outsiders who had to judge the merit of the plan. Some of the statistical data is of questionable validity although prepared by outside Virgin Islands departments and bureaus, thus further complicating this already complicated study.

I do not know what the needs of St. Thomas or St. John are, but I know the needs of St. Croix will never be reflected in any written survey, requiring reading a survey form and replying in writing, for many people, especially the people we must reach, will not or cannot read and write well enough to respond.

The major thrust of library service in St. Croix must be directed outward from the two libraries, to reach the reluctant patrons. This will involve several steps, all of which require additional funding and additional librarians of a different type than we have utilized in the Virgin Islands in the past, including: (1) Moving the Frederiksted Public Library to the old location (after renovation); (2) Purchasing two bookmobiles (insure regular visits--repairs, illness, etc.)--with driving librarians (not chauffeured); (3) Establish a viable cultural activities center at the Virgin Islands prison at Golden Grove; (4) Establish a branch at the Hospital in Christiansted; (5) Establish a branch library at Villa la Reigne; and; (6) Provide additional library materials at all areas.

Frederiksted Public Library - The present Frederiksted Public Library is not performing adequately as a public library, since it is used as a lounge area to lime and talk while escaping the heat. The open nature of the library magnifies the problem of noise and the glass windows encourage people to come in and talk with their friends. The library in its present location is totally inadequate, and will always be so. It is further directed away from library activities because of its depleted collection and because it is used as a substitute school library for the St. Patrick's School, instead of the school's developing its own basic library. The physical layout of the Frederiksted Public Library precludes it's being useful as a library, and should be utilized as a social or activities center for the housing project, instead of a library. At the present time, the Frederiksted Public Library services only the Government offices, St. Patrick's School and the Lagoon Street Project. It is mandatory that its location be moved to the time-proved old location on Strand Street.

Two Bookmobiles - Two bookmobiles and driving-librarians should be incorporated into the systems. Both bookmobiles should operate out of a library with a collection large enough to serve them. The two bookmobiles should allow a weekly visit to most remote areas of St. Croix which could not regularly be served from a central or branch library. It is imperative that there be two bookmobiles, so that in case of illness on the part of either driving librarian that the weekly visits could be maintained. Regularlity on the part of bookmobile service is imperative. Additionally, with two bookmobiles, and the state of the art of motor/mechancial work on St. Croix, this could still permit the

weekly visits. The bookmobiles could serve housing areas and housing projects such as: Mon Bijou, Glenn, Barrons Castle, Colquohoun, Grove, Croixville, Paradise, Profit, Harvey, Mt. Pleasant, Sofarelli, Whim, Kingshill, Campo Rico, Prosperity, etc. These areas are now unserved and have perhaps some of the neediest persons living there. Perhaps over one-half of the population of St. Croix, who live there, are unserved and will remain unserved under existing five-year plans.

Cultural Activities Center at V. I. Prison - The need for an ongoing program at the V. I. Prison at Golden Grove and at the proposed Juvenile Detention Center is well documented, by studies and the fact that the Legislature passed legislation and the Governor signed into law enabling legislation to establish a Cultural Activities Center. The primary impetus for that legislation was a study by the Institutions Committee of the St. Croix Library Association, prepared by this writer.

Because of unclear language in the legislation, the Bureau of Libraries was not authorized to initiate such service, however the Bureau should take the initiative to establish a viable center and supply it with full-time personnel and materials on an ongoing--not on an interim basis. There must be some permanency to develop continuity and responsibility. The enabling legislation is there, all it takes to put it into operation is the funding and the cooperation between two branches of the Governor's Cabinet (a seemingly impossible task).

Christiansted Hospital Branch - The Christiansted Hospital has a number of long term patients and quite a few juvenile patients who are presently unserved. No matter how well intentioned volunteers

are, they cannot and will not suffice to^ooperate such a library. People recuperating have the time for library activities but not the opportunity at this time. Again, continuity and responsibility are important, and again this would require the cooperation between two branches of the Governor's Cabinet.

Villa la Reigne Branch - Villa La Reigne is the most centralized shopping area serving most of the area west of Sunny Isles, including the Frederiksted area. Frederiksted has no major shopping areas, but individual stores instead. People from mid-island and west, currently unserved by libraries, could utilize a conveniently located store-front type library located there at Villa La Reigne. The importance of the area as far as expansion goes is illustrated by the fact that there is new construction going on at the present time, including a new fast-food outlet (and they would not have located there without research). Again, this branch should be staffed and supplied with library materials. The hours should be geared to the shopping hours.

Additional Library Materials - There are continuing complaints to this member of the GLAC that the Christiansted and Frederiksted Public Libraries do not seem to get any new materials, or if they do, they are very insignificant. It appears that funds are expended for personnel, especially at the administrative level, but not for materials. The magazine subscription lists of all libraries should be examined annually to determine their usefulness, or if additions are necessary. Additionally, perhaps administrative duties could be rearranged so that a cataloger could be provided on the island of St. Croix, thus preventing the impossible delays and losses of materials resulting from their having to be sent to St.

for cataloging. Too much material leaves St. Croix and never returns, it appears (this is particularly true of Virgin Islands or West Indian materials).

Conclusions - Six proposals for a five- year plan revision have been suggested, herein. Many of them are the same proposals which have been recommended by this GLAC member since 1971, but with little, or no implementation. The six proposals would require considerable flexibility in individuals and in hours. The American Library Association requirements for a MLS should be dispensed with until the Bureau is able to upgrade its staff. It may be difficult to obtain an ALA-qualified driving-librarian, with a MLS, therefore the driving aspect should take precedence over the MLS. ALA standards may be perfectly acceptable in the States, but become impractical in many areas of library service in the Virgin Islands, as is evidenced by the existing vacancies in the Bureau of Libraries.

This will be my final recommendation as a member of the GLAC to the Virgin Islands' five-year plan, for my term expires at the end of 1978, and I recommend that someone just as vocal as myself be recruited in my place. Complacency, while assuring traditionalism and maintenance of the status quo was never responsible for social change. It took people like Martin Luther King, Martin Luther, Abraham Lincoln etc. to do that.

I trust St. Thomas and St. John will submit their recommendations for changes on their islands. As a philosophy, perhaps libraries should become less monolithic in their planning, such as not building large "Carnegie" monuments which do not serve, but small service areas able to respond to the "grass roots" rather

than to the centralized bureaucracy. Serving the people is the first goal of library service. Serving the existing government is only one role, but of very low priority. We have too many unserved, and must attempt to reach them, if society is to be able to bring them into the mainstream of creative citizenship, rather than to the destructive areas which seem to be the rule in some cases now.

Robert V. Vaughn
Member
Governor's Library Advisory Council
March 15, 1978

APPENDIX I

CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES 1969 - 1975

(Excerpts)

We have submitted herewith a 6-Year Plan for the construction of public library buildings for the fiscal years 1969/70 through 1974/75...

It is...proposed that branch libraries should be provided for all of the outlying communities extending from Charlotte Amalie in St. Thomas, and from the two towns of St. Croix to the areas of greatest concentration. A time schedule is given for proposed constructions...

Library buildings should be planned with a minimum of 20 years' expansion of service and community growth, and for enlargement if and when needed. Public library buildings should be located in or near community shopping centers, near banks, post offices, etc., whenever possible. Buildings should have open-faced fronts with considerable glass, and built to sidewalk-line, not recessed from the beaten path, and if possible on streets with two-way traffic and street parking. If not, parking area should be provided in the rear for readers and staff...

Accordingly, seven (7) branches are planned for St. Thomas and one large central library. One branch in 1974/75 is planned for St. John, and in St. Croix (4) branches besides -the two (2) existing libraries in towns, a medium sized one at Orange Grove (Cruzana) in 1970/71, and a large central library in 1973/74 at Center Island...

SUMMARY SIX-YEAR CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTIONS

Year	St. Croix	St. Thomas	St. John	Total
1968/69	---	\$ 40,000	---	\$ 40,000
1969/70	\$ 100,000	570,100	---	670,100
1970/71	360,000	123,400	---	483,400
1971/72	139,250	309,350	---	448,600
1972/73	113,400	1,658,250	---	1,771,650
1973/74	841,500	---	---	841,500
1974/75	---	---	139,250	139,250
Total	\$1,554,150	\$2,701,100	\$ 139,250	4,394,500

CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET BY ISLAND

<u>Year</u>	<u>St. Croix</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>	<u>St. John</u>
1969/70	Christiansted (\$50,000)	Bourne Field (\$139,250)	---
	Frederiksted (\$50,000)	Oswald Harris Court (\$139,250)	
		Tutu (\$291,600)	
1970/71	Orange Grove (\$350,000)	French Town (\$10,000)	---
	Profit (\$10,000)	Bovoni-Nadir (\$113,400)	
1971/72	Mt. Welcome (\$139,250)	Bordeaux (\$139,250)	---
		Vessup Bay (\$170,100)	
1972/73	Marly (\$113,400)	Charlotte Amalie (\$1,658,250)	---
1973/74	Center Island (\$841,500)	---	---
1974/75	---	---	Cruz Bay (\$139,250)

The foregoing is excerpted from the captioned study by Enid M. Baa, Director, Division of Public Libraries, dated September 23, 1968.

APPENDIX I

Total V.I. and Division of Libraries and MuseumsFive Year Projections

<u>Year</u>	<u>V.I. Total*</u>		<u>Libraries and Museums**</u>		
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Library**** Administration</u>
1968-69	\$ 55.5	---	\$ 283.6	---	---
1969-70	64.8	\$ 9.3	347.4	\$ 63.8	---
1970-71	79.8	15.0	452.2	105.0	---
1971-72	90.3	10.5	495.2	43.0	---
1972-73	\$100.8***	---	538.2***	---	\$ 134.5
1973-74	111.3	---	581.2	---	145.3
1974-75	121.8	---	624.2	---	156.0
1975-76	132.2	---	667.2	---	166.8
1976-77	142.8	---	710.2	---	177.5

* In Millions of Dollars . ** In Thousands of Dollars *** Use 1971-72 Increase
**** Use 1/4 of Total Library Budget; includes museums.

DIVISION OF LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMSProjected Operating Budget

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Admin.*</u>	<u>Balance**</u>	<u>St. Croix ****</u>		<u>St. Thomas*****</u>		<u>St. John*****</u>	
				<u>Amount</u>	<u>Lib.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Lib.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Lib.</u>
1972-73	\$538.2	\$134.5	\$403.7	\$205.5	2	\$187.3	2	\$ 10.9	1
1973-74	581.2	145.3	435.8	221.8	3	202.2	2	11.8	1
1974-75	624.2	156.0	468.2	238.3	3	217.2	3	12.7	1
1975-76	667.2	166.8	500.4	254.7	4	232.2	4	13.5	1
1976-77	710.2	177.5	532.7	271.1	5	247.2	4	14.4	1

* In Thousands of Dollars ** 1/4 of Total Budget *** 3/4 of Total Budget
**** Budgeted by % Total 1970 Census: St. Croix 50.9%; St. Thomas 46.4%; St. John 2.7%

St. Croix LibrariesOperating and Capital BudgetsProjected

<u>Budget</u>	<u>1972-73</u>	<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>	<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>
<u>Operating Budget</u>					
Salaries	\$ 72,000	\$ 137,300	\$ 154,950	\$ 171,700	\$ 190,500
Other Expenses	133,500	84,500	83,950	72,000	80,600
Total	\$ 205,500	\$ 221,800	\$ 238,300	\$ 254,700	\$ 271,100
<u>Capital Budget</u>	\$ 165,000	\$ 880,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
	\$ 370,500	\$1,101,800	\$ 253,300	\$ 404,700	\$ 421,100

ST. CROIX LIBRARIESFive Year PlanPersonnel

<u>Year</u>	<u>Library</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Unit Salary</u>	<u>Total Salary</u>
1972-73	C'sted Branch	1 Deputy Director	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
		2 Librarians	11,400	22,800
	F'sted Branch	2 Librarians	11,400	22,800
	Bookmobile	1 Librarian	11,400	11,400
	Total	1 Dep. Dir, 5 Lib.		\$ 72,000
1973-74	C'sted Branch	2 Librarians	\$ 11,400	\$ 22,800
	F'sted Branch	2 Librarians	11,400	22,800
	Bookmobile	1 Librarian	11,400	11,400
	Central Library	1 Deputy Director	15,000	15,000
		2 Librarians	11,400	22,800
		5 Clerks	8,500	42,500
	Total	1 Dep. Dir. 7 Lib. 5 Clerks		\$ 137,300
1974-75	C'sted Branch	2 Librarians	\$ 12,000	\$ 24,000
	F'sted Branch	2 Librarians	12,000	24,000
	Bookmobiles (2)	2 Librarians	12,000	24,000
	Central Library	1 Deputy Director	15,200	15,200
		2 Librarians	12,000	24,000
		5 Clerks	8,750	43,750
		1 Dep. Dir, 8 Lib., 5 Clerks		\$ 154,950
1975-76	C'sted Branch	2 Librarians	\$ 12,000	\$ 24,000
	F'sted Branch	2 Librarians	12,000	24,000
	Bookmobiles (2)	2 Librarians	12,000	24,000
	Central Library	1 Deputy Director	15,200	15,200
		2 Librarians	12,000	24,000
		5 Clerks	8,750	43,750
	Grove-Calquhoun	1 Librarian	12,000	12,000
		1 Clerk	8,750	8,750
		1 Dep. Dir, 9 Lib., 6 Clerks		\$ 175,700
1976-77	C'sted Branch	2 Librarians	\$ 12,250	24,500
	F'sted Branch	2 Librarians	12,250	24,500
	Bookmobiles (2)	2 Librarians	12,250	24,500
	Central Library	1 Deputy Director	15,750	15,750
		2 Librarians	12,250	24,500
		5 Clerks	8,900	44,500
	Grove-Calquhoun	1 Librarian	12,250	12,250
		1 Clerk	8,900	8,900
	Sunny Isle	1 Librarian	12,250	12,250
		1 Clerk	8,900	8,900
	Total	1 Dep. Dir., 10 Lib., 7 Clerks		\$ 190,500

ST. CROIX LIBRARIESFive Year Plan

<u>Year</u>	<u>Library</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Capital Budget</u>	<u>Personnel</u>
				(1)
1972-73	C'sted Branch	New Location (Orange Grove)	\$ 150,000	3
	F'sted Branch	Continue	---	2
	Bookmobile-F	Establish	15,000	1
	Total		<u>\$ 165,000</u>	<u>6</u>
1973-74	C'sted Branch	Continue	---	2
	F'sted Branch	Improve	\$ 30,000	2
	Bookmobile-F	Continue	---	1
	Central Library	Establish	850,000	8
	Total		<u>\$ 880,000</u>	<u>13</u>
1974-75	C'sted Branch	Continue	---	2
	F'sted Branch	Continue	---	2
	Bookmobile-F	Continue	---	1
	Central Library	Continue	---	8
	Bookmobile-C	Establish	\$ 15,000	1
	Total		<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>14</u>
1975-76	C'sted Branch	Continue	---	2
	F'sted Branch	Continue	---	2
	Bookmobile-F	Continue	---	1
	Central Library	Continue	---	8
	Bookmobile-C	Continue	---	1
	Grove-Calquhoun	Establish	\$ 150,000	2
	Total		<u>\$ 150,000</u>	<u>18</u>
1976-77	C'sted Branch	Continue	---	2
	F'sted Branch	Continue	---	2
	Bookmobile-F	Continue	---	1
	Central Library	Continue	---	8
	Bookmobile-C	Continue	---	1
	Grove-Calquhoun	Continue	---	2
	Sunny Isle	Establish	\$ 150,000	2
	Total		<u>\$ 150,000</u>	<u>18</u>

(1) Appoint Deputy Director of Libraries for St. Croix, who will transfer to the Central Library.

March 7, 1972

DIVISION OF LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMSALA Minimum Standards for Public Library Systems 1966*Professional and Clerical Personnel

<u>Island</u>	<u>Professional</u>	<u>Clerical</u>	<u>Total</u>
St. Croix	5	10	15
St. Thomas	4	9	13
St. John**	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	10	21	31

* "For every 6,000 population served there should be one professional and two clericals."
These figures are based on the 1970 Census.

** Minimum.

St. Croix LibrariesFive Year Plan

The main problem in St. Croix is from June to September when the school libraries (the normal source of materials for juveniles) are closed. The The Division Public Libraries, in conjunction with the Department of Education should arrange to keep key libraries open during this period (See AMERICAN LIBRARIES, Jan 1971, pps. 56ff, 'Where Will All The Children Go'). If this cannot be accomplished, massive mobile library service must be provided at that time.

These libraries could be kept open with a minimum of expense, primarily salaries (an added benefit to the Department of Education would be that librarians could be working on their own collections during this period).

Some of the school libraries which could be used as summer libraries, since they are conveniently close to potential patrons are Claude O. Markoe, Grove Place, Central High School, Sion Farms, Christiansted Elementary School (and perhaps Christiansted Junior High School), and St. Peter's.

The serious concern of the Department of Education Administration for the youth of our community could not be better demonstrated than by keeping these school libraries open the year around.

Robert V. Vaughn
St. Croix Library Association
March 7, 1971

SELECTED LIBRARY RELATED STUDIES BY ROBERT V. VAUGHN

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