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A Duluth high school teacher, unable to discover whether or not a certain readability formula had recently been used to evaluate biology textbooks, finally located the answer in UMD's 76,000-volume library.

The Education Index, the reference tool in this case, and the publication "School Science and Mathematics", which contained the desired article, were available only at the UMD library.

The request is typical of many solved through Mrs. Gladys Barber, director of reader services, who has been connected with the UMD library since 1927,

Mrs. Barber not only aids University faculty, staff and students but also serves the special needs of the community, including high school students, educators, government employees, newspapermen and clergymen.

"Requests have ranged from information about the organization of the Russian Army to a recipe for fortune cookies," said Mrs. Barber.

UMD has some 30 to 40 indexes and abstracts covering areas such as psychology, chemistry, biology, geology and physics.

"Our resources are built around our curriculum," explains Librarian Rudolph Johnson. "Therefore, we necessarily are stronger in some areas than are public libraries.

"We have a good beginning in the sciences," points out Johnson. "This includes important abstracts, indexes, journals and books.

"And we have a growing business and economics department and are building a large collection of texts and journals in this area," he added.

The UMD library, according to Johnson, has the ability to secure currently published scholarly works soon after they are finished. Johnson said the lack of funds hurt the public libraries in this respect.

"We currently receive over 12,000 periodicals," said Johnson. "The difference in what the public libraries receive is vast. There is no comparison."

About 4,000 volumes are contained in five branches; biology library, chemistry library, math-physics library, teaching materials library and Laboratory School library.

"We add about 6,000 volumes per year and are rapidly outgrowing our space," said Johnson. "However, we expect to double our present facility within the next two years."

Library hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday; and 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday.

"Everyone is welcome to use the facilities of the UMD library," said Johnson. "While we have some resources and materials not available elsewhere, we believe our major task is to serve campus needs and to complement the services of the public libraries in the community."