

Central Media Center Working Toward 10-Books-A-Pupil Goal

By GAYLE HAYES

Central High School's media center is gaining on the 10-books-a-pupil rule required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, but it's not quite there yet, said a school media specialist.

But the accreditation standards are not fair, said Honorine Highsmith, Central media center specialist.

"It's books only that are counted, not the other materials and audio-visual equipment. As of June 1, the center had 14,010 books for the about-1,400 students," she said.

The center also maintains current subscriptions for 66 magazines and two newspapers, with a third to be added in the fall, and 11 microfiche files, she said.

"I don't have the exact number of audio-visual aids, but we spent \$1,440 this year for film strips, tapes, transparencies, slides, etc.," she said.

The center's total annual allotment from the state Department of Education was \$16,682, she said, which was divided

and spent among equipment and materials.

Circulation figures were "pleasing," she said, with 7,461 books checked out, and 10,853 check-outs of other media aids.

Selecting May as an average month, circulation figures showed 2,052 check-outs, broken down to 740 books, 507 times projectors were requisitioned for use, 35 transparencies, 295 records and five maps, she said.

By using the circulation figures and the number of times different classes used the center for research, "we averaged 8,730 students in May," she said.

While the center is working toward the 10-book goal, it also is losing books.

"We lost 400 last year," said. "Some were paid for by the students and some were not.

"I had a state media specialist tell me not to worry about the loss — if a book is gone from the center, it is in somebody's home and somebody is reading it," she said.

The Central center's losses are not as great as in other schools, but losses are happening everywhere, she said, in public libraries as well as schools.

A review of the media center was the main item for the Thomas County Board of Education's monthly information meeting — a time when various programs in the different schools are presented for the board's and the public's general knowledge, said board chairman Hansel P. Chastain.

Half a dozen years ago, a media center used to be called a library, said Supt. E.R. Cone, in introducing the program. "And now instead of librarians, we have media specialists."

Media assistant Opal Lewis and student assistant Donna Sherrod — president of the CHS and Second District Student Association of Media Assistants — gave a slide presentation of the center and the various activities taking place within its walls.