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Tobie Grant Library Gets Nat'l Award

The Tobie Grant Homework Library is reaping honors for the DeKalb Library System as the recipient of the 1984 Southeastern Library Association (SELA) Library Program Award for outstanding service.

Director Barbara Loar and Alison White, project coordinator, traveled to Biloxi, Mississippi for the SELA biennial conference to accept the award amidst an audience of colleagues from 11 constituent states, spanning a professional field of academic, school, public and special librarians.

Tobie Grant Homework Library is located at 644 Parkdale Dr. in Scottdale and was developed as an alternative library service for a low income area. After determining the needs of the community, funding was obtained through an LSCA grant from the Division of Public Library Services of the Georgia Department of Education.

The small traditional public library was then converted to one designed primarily to provide direct support to the educational needs of elementary and high school students. The building was renovated, refurnished and supplied with a micro-computer, electric typewriters, video cassette recorder, needed software, children's books and much more. Homework assistance is provided and library hours are tailored to student needs.

STATISTICS reveal an overwhelming increase in the use of the once-fading facility. In the first year of service between September, 1982, and May, 1983, circulation increased 91 percent and jumped an additional 26 percent in the 1983-84 school year.

As grant funds ran out, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners voted to absorb the costs on a permanent basis. Full-time professional librarian Anne Hayward joined the DeKalb Library System this fall, assuming the position of branch manager.