

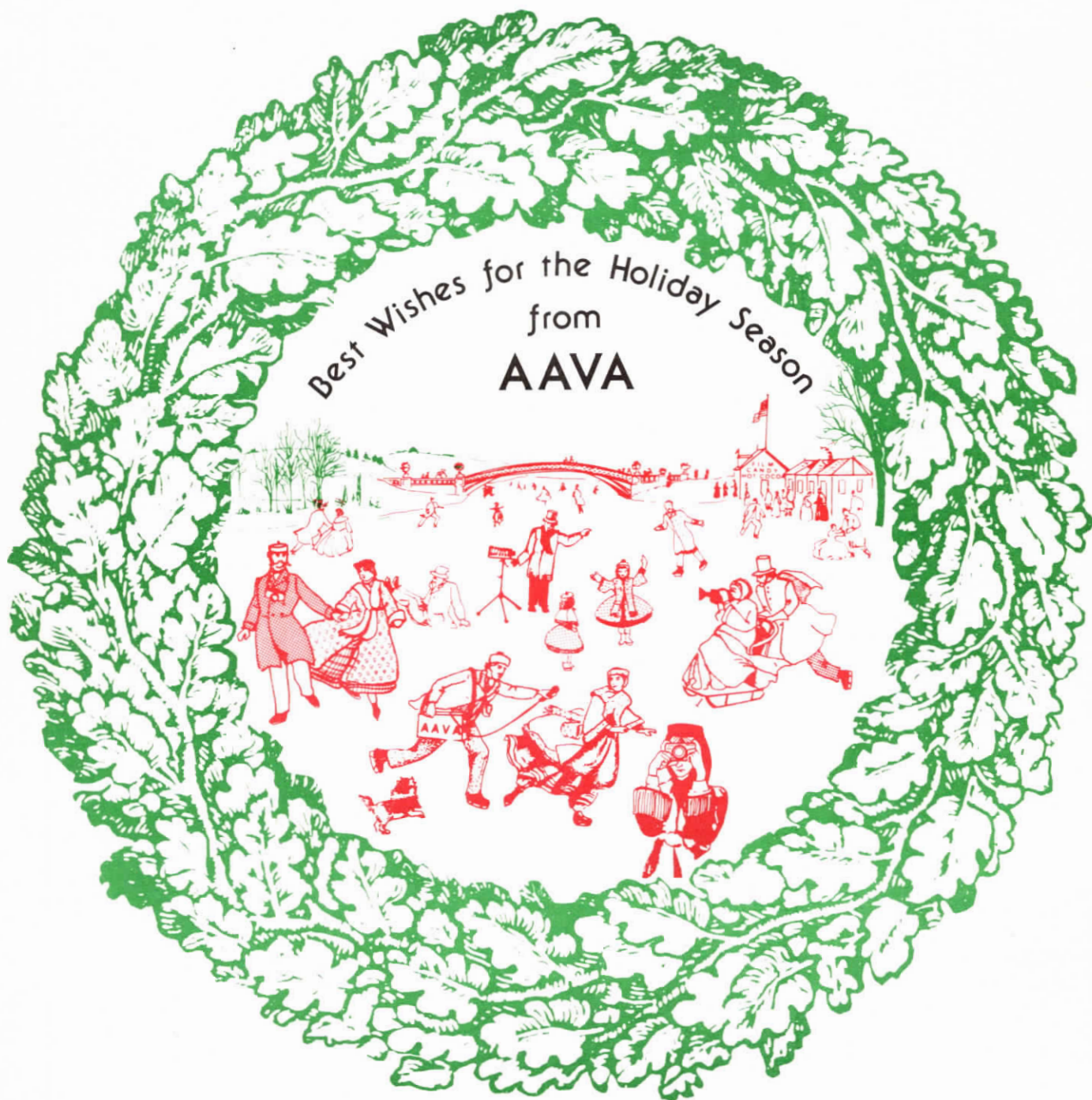


# News and Views

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## One Year After Adoption

# State Certification Requirements Reviewed

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It has been a year since new certification requirements were adopted for school library-media specialists in Arkansas by the State Department of Education. It seems time to check the progress that has been made by the educational institutions and how their programs are reflecting the certification change.

The new document requires that all persons certified after January 1, 1984 comply with the new requirements. This means that those working on their certification on a part-time basis at present should check on their status immediately.

We did a quick survey of library media educators in the state to find out what is happening in their educational programs. Here are the results. (NOTE: we were unable to reach UAPB or Ouachita for this report.)

All institutions are encouraging their students to certify under the new document rather than the old and the first persons to certify under the new document should complete their coursework in December of 1980.

The new certification document requires 24 hours of coursework to certify as opposed to the 18 hours of library science or the 10 hours of instructional technology coursework required previously for two different certificates. This 24 hours constitutes level-one certification and the competencies combine the library science and instructional technology areas into a single general-purpose curriculum.

We asked the library media educators if they were merging library science and instructional technology into their coursework and doing extensive course revision. All are making progress as follows: UA Fayetteville, UCA, and Arkansas Tech have rewritten their 24 hours of coursework completely. ASU is making progress toward their revision; UALR had revised their program a year previous to the new certification and is now working on the addition of new courses.

One aspect of the new certification should be made clear to prospective students. The 24 hour program is intended to attach to the secondary or elementary teacher certification already attained and is not automatically a K-12 certificate as has been true in the past. This means that if you have a secondary certificate you will only be able to practice in secondary library media centers. K-12 certification is available under the new plan but requires more coursework. Check with each institution for their requirements.

As you may be aware, in addition to level-one certification, there are two other levels. We asked the library media educators which levels of the certification they were intending to offer. All the institutions in the state are offering level one. UA Fayetteville, UCA, and UALR are, or will be, offering level two. UA Fayetteville is offering level-three certification as a part of a specialist degree.

Again we asked if there were any plans to help those who have the old certification change over to the new. A program to do this is not mandatory since all those certified under the old certification are under a grandfather clause, i.e., they need not seek the new certification. We do, however, expect many to change their certification both to update themselves and to be competitive with those who have the broader qualifications. Most of the institutions expect to offer some changeover program. These emphasize that each person's credentials will have to be analyzed and a prescriptive program built so that the number of courses, workshops, or independent studies will probably be different for each person. The new certification requires certain competencies rather than courses so this requires personal adjustment.

Our brief survey has shown that excellent progress is being made by our educational institutions toward merging library science and instructional technology into a single accreditation program, but more progress is necessary. Prospective students are advised to ask about this progress as they seek a program of study.

## Young Educational Consultant Conducts Computer Workshop

Springdale and Fayetteville library-media specialists were recently treated to an impressive demonstration of the applications of micro-computers for educational uses. The demonstration was conducted by Brian Burdick. Mr. Burdick is the educational representative of the computerland store in Overland Park, Kansas. Using an Apple II computer, he showed that micro-computers are extremely user oriented, that is, they can be utilized by students or anyone who may not have previous computer experience, "even teachers." Educational software, the programmed material used on a computer, may be purchased or developed by users. Mr. Burdick taught himself to program on the Apple II in one weekend. The cooperative exchange of successful computer programs is also becoming more and more common. Some of the potential uses for schools include educational games, instructional drills, simulations, and many management functions like record keeping, circulation files, and inventories. Another very exciting capability of small computers is in the creation of graphic art.

When Mr. Burdick is not presenting computer workshops, he is a seventh grade student at Hillcrest Junior High School in Overland Park.



Brian Burdick demonstrates Apple II