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Criteria for the Selection of Classroom Films

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CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF CLASSROOM FILMS

bу

John A. Lynn

A paper prepared in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Education in the Graduate School of the Central Washington College of Education

August, 1952

This report submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Education in the Graduate School of the Central Washington College of Education

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this paper wishes to express his indebtedness to Dr. Hamilton Howard, for his constant help and
encouragement, Mr. George Sogge, and Mr. Bennet K. Bedford,
committee. The writer also wishes to give recognition to
his parents and wife for their patience and encouragement
which contributed to the completion of this project.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
ı.	Introduction	1
II.	Importance of Film Selection	5
	What to Expect From Films	10
	Is the Best Film Being Used?	12
	Is It a Good Film?	14
III.	Criteria For Film Selection	17
	What Are Suggested Criteria?	21
IV.	Procedures In Selecting Films	35
	Basic Steps in Selecting Films	36
	Who Should Select Films	38
	What Printed Forms Are Recommended To be Used In Film Selection	42
v.	Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations	54
	Appendix	62
	Bibliography	64

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figur e	Page	•
I.	EFLA Evaluation Form45	
II.	Film Appraisal Form47	
III.	Film Evaluation Form49	
IV.	Audio-Visual Material, Inventory, Use and Evaluation System - Film52	
v.	Film Selection Card60	

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Educational 16mm motion pictures have been used in our public schools for many years and are being used more now than ever before. "How are the films being selected for the schools?"; "Do the children see films that are really helpful in the learning process?". These are just two of the many questions that have passed through the mind of the author on this problem of appraisal and selection of classroom films.

It is the purpose of this paper to justify and describe a systematic approach to the appraisal and selection of classroom films in the light of the current literature on the problem - to formulate a set of criteria which can be used in film selection, and to compile these criteria into a form which will invite use by the classroom teacher.

The writer was stimulated in his choice of a problem by a chapter, "Selection and Evaluation of Films", from Elliot's (6:577-90) notable book, Film and Education. The above mentioned chapter is primarily a general discussion of appraisal and selection of the classroom film but does not give a detailed treatment of the formulation of criteria by which films are selected, who should select films,

or what printed forms would aid in film selection. The purpose of this paper is to discuss in detail these factors in an attempt to put before the reader a more fully developed guide to be used in film selection

Extensive materials in books and articles point out the definite need for a systematic approach to this problem. Increased use of films has developed an increased need for proper appraisal and selection if steady improvement of the educational program is the goal.

In gathering data for this paper the author surveyed all available literature in the Central Washington College of Education Library concerned with the selection and appraisal of classroom films. This included books and pamphlets on Audio-Visual Education and articles in education periodicals such as Educational Screen, The Instructor, Education, High Points, and Elementary School Journal.

Many of the sources were concerned with only part of the problem of film use. Some discussed only the selection of the films and did not concern themselves with the appraisal of the film before selection, although it seems logical to expect that appraisal must come before selection if the appropriate films are to find their way into the classroom.

Data were gathered from the many leads indicated in Education Index, Readers Guide, the card file of the Central Washington College of Education Library, and from the bibliographies of the sources themselves. Each source was read, summarized and recorded on special forms developed by the author (see appendix). As is shown on the form, the author was concerned with two main topics, namely, "appraisal" and "selection". Each source was analyzed and annotated specifically with these two points in mind. A complete general summary of the article or book covering the entire source, was added to the form.

In the process of gathering data for the study the author continually was faced with the problem of semantics. What was mentioned in one source as "evaluation" was treated in such a way as to give the impression that "selection" was meant, and what was mentioned in another source as "selection" was meant to be "appraisal". This indicated the need for clear definitions so the reader of this paper would pursue the line of thought intended by the author. For clarity in this paper the author will use the following terms:

- 1. Selection implies that appraisal has taken place.
- 2. Film as used, means 16mm, sound and silent educational motion pictures.

The author has used three basic guiding questions as working hypotheses in writing the following chapters, and has assumed that answers to them must be furnished if the educational motion picture is to be used effectively in the teaching situation:

- 1. Why is film selection important to film utilization?
- 2. What are the necessary criteria for film selection?
- 3. How are the criteria used in film selection?

An attempt will be made by the author to answer these basic questions in subsequent chapters.

Chapter II

IMPORTANCE OF FILM SELECTION

It is a well known fact that it is impossible for any of us to experience all things at first hand in one short lifetime. We must get much of our experience by vicarious means. We are indeed fortunate to be living in this Twentieth Century, to have at our fingertips so many means of securing these vicarious experiences - one of these being the educational motion picture. Through the use of film we can view things and people in the four corners of the earth. It is not possible for all to climb the highest mountains in the world, to visit the back country in the jungles of Africa, or to see the inside of large steel mills in this country, but through the medium of the motion picture, such things can be placed within our otherwise limited grasp and within our scope of immediate understanding.

When one considers the magnitude of the things which can be brought into the classroom through the use of films, the importance of the proper selection of such films becomes frightening. Hoban (8:90) states "It is particularly important that the need for rational direction of experience derived from motion pictures be kept clearly in mind in the consideration of the use of motion pictures in education since films have in their nature the power to still emotions,

to reinforce existing prejudices, and to push an audience to uncritical conclusions. Films should not be refused admission to the curriculum because of these powers. the contrary, these powers are the very reasons why they should be used. It is the essence of education to develop the ability to keep the emotions under control, to direct these emotions toward the goals that can and should be achieved, and to enjoy to the fullest the emotional rewards that make life rich and worthwhile." Following Hoban's line of reasoning we can then say that because films may serve to reinforce existing prejudices which are found in the classroom, it provides an ideal situation to get at the basis for these prejudices and determine whether or not they are true in fact or just a figment of the imagination. This points out the definite need for wise selection of films so that their maximum utilization may be reached in a given teaching situation.

Hoban (8:81-2) states further that the fact motion pictures have the power to push an audience to an uncritical conclusion is one of the very reasons it should be used in the school. Students must learn to deal with situations of this sort if they are to develop their ability to think, and to use this ability in dealing with forceful situations in everyday life. They must learn to

examine data critically, suspend judgement until these data can be examined, and to draw conclusions from data - not just ready made exercise books or carefully prearranged laboratory manuals, but from the kinds of experiences they must deal with in out-of-school life.

Obviously then, one of the most important problems in connection with the use of films in the classroom is that of proper selection. Teachers should learn how to judge the probable effectiveness of a particular film for the study unit, lesson or activity for which they happen to be planning. Practice in rating will equip teachers with skill in determining the educational worth and the specific limitations of films.

Many times the poor selection of a film defeats the possible contribution the film could have made to the learning situation. Brunstetter (37:364) uses the following example, "A fourth-grade group had been studying the life-history of frogs, toads, and newts as a result of interest developed through seeing them in gardens, pools, and brooks. Toads, newts, and frog eggs had been brought into the classroom. The film, TINY WATER ANIMALS, (this picture deals with microscopic pond life) was introduced to broaden the unit but proved not as interesting to the class as a whole as the teacher had hoped. The children

kept looking for the water animals they knew. Had the film, THE FROG, been shown it would have fitted exactly into the pupils experiences and would thus have suggested further points for study. As it was, the pupils did not have the background to appreciate and study the content of the film selected. This is a prime example of poor film utilization caused by unwise film selection. If a teacher is to use a film with educational effectiveness, there must be a clear understanding as to the purposes for which the film is being used - the films must be selected in terms of the age levels and interests of the students, and must be previewed so that their use may be integrated with other activities and directed toward specific and general objectives. This direction must actually be given.

It must be kept in mind, that in the use of films at any point in the curriculum, the interest of the pupils is not isolated from subject matter, or subject matter from the development of the learning process, or the classroom objectives from either of the above mentioned factors.

It was evident in the example given by Brunstetter that the teacher should be clear as to the kinds of student reactions a film situation may develop as well as cognizant of the fact the film should contain material which will

contribute to the development of these reactions - poor choice of films to serve given purposes is responsible more than any other factor for the variety of ratings that teachers attach to any given film.

This demonstrates the necessity of carefully selecting films in terms of the desired purposes and points out the absurdity of evaluating films by calculating the average rating assigned them by teachers, irrespective of the purposes for which they were used. It is not enough to know that a film is good or poor. A teacher must know for what purpose and on what grade levels a film is good or poor.

Cain (38:411) states "If motion pictures are conceived as teacher-learning aids, those who teach and learn are the best judges of their usefulness and worth. No matter what the technical excellence of any given film - its superb photography or acting, its highly emotionalized music or sound, its theatrical excellence - if the film fails in achieving the educational purpose for which it was selected, it is educationally, a poor picture. If it fails to change pupil behavior in the direction desired, it is relatively useless in that specific teaching-learning situation."

It is then evident that in many cases the failure of

visual aids to make any noticeable contribution to the work of the classroom can be blamed on poor selection on the part of the teacher. Knowlton (72:53) points out that ".....Textbook teaching in this country has progressed to the point where textual material is subjected to the most vigorous scrutiny and appraisal - no teacher expects to get very far with his pupils who has not at his command a vital well-organized body of textual material. teacher does not deceive himself into thinking that he can "make bricks with straw". He has no illusions as to the need for carefully chosen materials rich in teaching value, if there is to be any learning. Apparently it does not matter to the teacher whether the picture or film contains pertinent information or not - it is a "picture" and for that reason alone great things are expected of it. the majority of teachers selected the films used in teaching situations as carefully as textbooks were chosen, films would be better utilized and more nearly attain their rightful place in the educational "spotlight".

What To Expect From Films

When a teacher is confronted with the task of selecting a film, he should choose and show only those films which correlate with and contribute to the unit that is being taught. Snider (92:303) suggests that "Usually a

film is shown for one of the following reasons; (1) to summarize the unit, (2) to develop in detail some particular phase of the unit, or (3) to give an overview of the unit. Judging the films for the educational value they contain may involve asking one's self if they meet the particular subject-matter requirements of the group, or if the material and its presentation is adapted to the particular grade level. The film should accomplish something above and beyond what can be accomplished by using traditional materials. The film should assist in the development of the child in so far as increasing his fund of information, improving his interest in the subject, increasing his reading, developing his reflective thinking, his ability to understand, and attitudes of appreciation. It should motivate his class participation, clarify his ideas and give him definite concepts...."

Providing the teacher does what Snider suggests, he must also have clearly in mind the spedific ways in which children behave. He must describe teaching aims in terms of behavior, both verbal and nonverbal, and state his objectives specifically and in some detail. He must go into more detail and be more consistent in selecting learning experiences (films) if boys and girls are to learn behavior represented by the objectives.

Is The Best Film Being Used?

Are the greatest benefits being derived from the film through integration with the classroom teaching? This integration is only possible through proper planing and film selection by the classroom teacher - only the teacher can bring about this improvement. Denno (48:18) states. "There are at least three steps involved in evaluation and each must follow an integral part of The teacher first appraises the film before the process. using it with children. If suitable, the film is then used in the classroom. The final step involves the careful recording of its effectiveness with the learners." Denno points out that these three steps are well-known and can be widely expanded but very few films are selected in this way. Selections for purchase seldom go beyond the first step. If carried into the second and third steps, the treatment is often of such a shallow nature that results are of little value to anyone. It is further stated by Denno (48:19) that "It is imperative, therefore, to both educators and producers, that teachers become competent in good evaluation practice. Many techniques of in-service training have been devised to meet this An effective one was used at the 1948 Spring Conference of the Audio-Visual Education Association of California, Southern Division, held at San Diego, California.

The dramatic presentation was used to show good evaluation practice. Written and verbal comments following the conference indicate that this type of in-service educational technique is one which is worthy of greater consideration than it has heretofore received.

It is a known fact that as motion pictures come to be used more and more as an important kind of learning tool, those in control must exercise the best judgement possible in selecting the films that are used in the learning situation if these films are to be fully utilized.

Why should the teacher be concerned with film selection when the film catalogs give descriptions of all films? It is often necessary to "book" films many months in advance of their use. Few teachers can predict within a day or so the status of their class progress months in the future. Instead of adjusting the showing of the film to class instruction they are compelled to do just the opposite. Though teachers are urged to preview films which are to be used in the teaching situation, not all can find the necessary time to do so and those that do very often must stay after school to do it. Rosenberg (89:49-51) states that "The titles and descriptions of films in catalogs are often misleading in determining their content and objective. This makes the selection of films very

often a hit-or-miss affair. Teachers sometimes find that they have chosen films completely or in part unsuitable for their class. Again it is evident that without careful selection the film cannot be utilized to its fullest.

Is It A Good Film?

Wise selection of new films is as desperately needed as any one thing in the field of audio-visual education.

Occasionally, reviews of some of the new films and numerous advertising "blurbs" are written by promotion experts, but on what can we rely for valid estimates of these new films? Valid, in the sense of value to the final consumer of the product? Film librarians and directors of audio-visual programs are faced with endless hours of screening in order to test for themselves the worth of unknown titles.

It is pointed out by Finstead (52:52) ".....it may be assumed that the motion picture producers can evaluate a film's technique of presentation; the experts, its accuracy of presentation; the instructor, its objectival correlation; and the pupils, its effectiveness as an aid to learning." Finstead further states that "Unfortunately, production planning of educational motion pictures, has not been, in effect, an auxiliary to curriculum development. Since this is so, it is essential that evaluative agencies

or evaluative procedures be promoted. A hope for the future is that producers of educational motion pictures will except and promote surveys to obtain teacher's expressions regarding areas that need sound motion pictures vitalization. Finstead has a very good point here, but, as was pointed out previously by the author, the teacher must know how to select a film wisely and be able to fully utilize the film before she can be relied upon to give pertinent information concerning motion picture areas of production.

Pease (86:164-5) states, "Educational quality or design is in the production of films as it is in the production of textbooks, a cooperative job between the school people themselves and the producer. The making of the film is the particular job or skill of the producer. The making of textbooks is an art in which the publisher is skilled. Both try to design their tools to help the teacher in the particular job of teaching he has to do, and it is the teacher who must judge the efficiency of these tools, for the teacher is the workman who uses them..." This further substantiates what Denno suggested in the way of in-service training of teachers since most teachers are not competent enough to give a critical analysis of what constitutes a "good" educational film. This type of training

is vital if the teacher is to "judge" the efficiency of the educational motion picture.

Until films are given the same opportunity to contribute to learning as has been accorded the textbooks they will continue to occupy an insignificant place in the instructional program. There will not be the same challenge for critical selection as confronts the teacher in the case of the textbook. Not all teaching calls for the use of films (nor the use of textbooks), but present day teaching demands the use of much more visual materials than are now being used. Each teaching situation must be appraised from the standpoint of the curriculum materials likely to prove the most effective - whatever their nature. Films must not be overlooked in such an appraisal. When this is once recognized, the same care must be used in selecting and utilizing them as marks the selection and utilization of a bit of text.

This chapter has been devoted to the importance of film selection as it affects utilization. The following chapter is concerned with how the standards for selection are developed and gives samples of suggested criteria for the selection of educational motion pictures.

Chapter III

CRITERIA FOR FILM SELECTION

The suddenness of the appearance of the motion picture film in the educational field is largely responsible for a general lack of knowledge of the function of motion pictures in classroom teaching. Much may be expected in the future, however, toward a more complete and intelligent use of the classroom film. Even though the use of motion pictures for classroom teaching is now in an elementary stage, there are certain criteria which can be employed to judge the value of specific classroom films.

In order to effectively use educational motion pictures in the classroom or in the teaching process, it is necessary that individual teachers, administrators, and Audio-Visual Directors be adequately acquainted with what constitutes a "good" educational film.

When an individual is concerned with the selection of an article, no matter what it may be, for purchase or rental, he selects that article on the basis of some established criteria. It may be criteria he has conceived himself through trial and error or it may be criteria

established by experts in the production and use of the particular article in which he is interested. Just as a prospective buyer or renter of a home examines a house in terms of principles of utility, comfort, and taste which were used by the builder in constructing the house, so the educators selecting educational motion pictures must employ as a general rating scale the criteria which guided their production.

whether or not an educational film has instructional value is determined by the care and professional skill which has gone into its production. The task of producing an educational motion picture having instructional value is not only the responsibility of the producer but also the responsibility of "school men". The producer must be congnizant of the problems of classroom teaching and of the areas in which films are needed. The school man must be aware of the many problems and limitations which are faced by the producer of the educational film. Unless close harmony exists between the two - producer and school man - "good" educational films are not possible.

The producer of the educational motion picture must be aware of the criteria, set up by the educators, by which high caliber instructional films are measured. He must meet the demand of educators if he is to stay in business. The demand is for good films. If this demand is not met, there is no market, and without a market the producer is soon out of business.

What does the producer do to secure criteria for the production of films? What does he use as a basis for these criteria? In most cases the bases for criteria are secured from surveys of schools, colleges, and institutions using educational films for teaching purposes. These surveys are concerned with the type of film needed in the educational field, with the desires of educators as to what should be included in the film, and with the specific subject matter fields in which films are needed. Another source of information for the producer is representatives sent out into the "field" to secure from teachers, and audio-visual people what they want in the way of films. After securing information of this type the producer knows better what to film. He is then concerned with grade level placement of the film; the portrayal of objects or events whose essential meaning is best understood when they are seen in motion; material that is unfamiliar or new to the majority of the pupils; he must be concerned with individual differences by grading material filmed as to length, nature, and difficulty; script which is clear and written in the simplest manner; organization,

so that the story is told in a simple, unified, and easily understood manner; authenticity of material which is to go into the film; and with the photography, which must be up to accepted standards of the film industry.

If the educator consults the general criteria used by the producer in making the film, he then has a basis for the formulation of more specific criteria upon which to base his selection for either purchase or use in a specific teaching situation.

Before anything can be done in the way of adequate selection of classroom films, the teacher or educator must know the concepts he wants to develop and what the ultimate outcomes of the teaching activity are to be. The outline of these concepts will provide the frame of reference for the selection of the films to be used. That a definite "flow sheet" of ideas is necessary seems to the author so obvious that it need not be elaborated upon here. However, the writer has the impression that this approach is the exception rather than the rule. One of the indirect advantages of the use of films and not the least of them is the definite, meaningful reorganization of the course of study to better insure the outcome for which it is given. From this outline it is possible to determine the range of concepts the educator desires to present, as well

as the factors upon which the concepts depend. possible to determine the nature of the factors involved in the conceptual development. Are they factual? they depend on motion, size, organization, color, and relationship of other things? By knowing the concepts needed for their development, the educator can determine which of the films to use for building any particular concept or structure. The problem of reorganizing the unit and integrating the film into it is a step that makes the use of films in a course of study more difficult than the traditional method of teaching. Once this problem has been solved only minor changes and adjustments are needed to fit new and better films into a given teaching situation. The results of such changes will be reflected in greater pupil achievement and development. Only by knowing the limitations of the various types of films can a teacher select the most efficient film for the purpose at hand.

What Are Suggested Criteria?

There are numerous criteria which have been established by authors of the many articles and books surveyed in this study. The following list of criteria is by no means a summation of all criteria found, may be viewed as a sample of the varied opinions on what criteria

should be used in the selection of classroom films.

Blair (34:25-6) is concerned with the <u>technical make-up</u> of the film in his list of criteria for film selection.

- A. Subject of film must be suited to motion picture medium of moving, visual images.
- B. Theme and message of film should be clearcut - proper presentation of message will be thoroughly assimilated by audience for which it is intended.
- C. The film message must be integrated into a complete aesthetic expression.
 - 1. Is the film well organized? Several topics may profitably be considered in relation to organization.
 - 2. Is the film well paced?
 - 3. Were there enough long shots? Enough close-ups?
 - 4. Was the film fresh and original in treatment, or was it loaded with cliches? (back-motion of persons or things in film).
 - 5. Did the people in the film seem unaffected or self-concious?
 - 6. Was the sound track overloaded with commentary?
 - 7. If background music was used, was it suitable?
 - 8. Are transitions from shot to shot and sequence to sequence effective and smooth?
 - 9. Does the cinema technique intrude upon the reality of various shots in the picture?

- 10. Are incidents handled skillfully to give a feeling of anticipation?
- 11. Is the photography good?

While the source mentioned above gives some of the general criteria to be used in film selection it does not go into detail on the criteria.

McKowan and Roberts (11:229-33), in their book gives a more detailed study to the necessary criteria for selection of film. They conclude that "Because motion-picture film is the most expensive of all projected aid, it should be carefully selected. In reality, this selection means two decisions: (1) whether or not to use a film in a particular classroom setting and (2) if advisable to use a film, a choice of the one considered most suitable."

As pointed out by McKowan and Roberts it is obvious that a film should not be utilized if some other instructional aid will present the desired information, skills, attitudes, or techniques as effectively, or more effectively. For example, if the film portrays objects where motion is not an important element and which could be shown just as acceptably by flat or projected pictures, an unjustifiable expenditure of funds is represented.

McKowan and Roberts list the following as pertinent questions to be asked when selecting an educational film:

- 1. Can the film be correlated and integrated with the course of study for a particular subject and specific grade level? (Many teachers look upon the film as something set apart from their regular teaching materials. Consequently, much of the value of the film is lost unless it is of such a nature that it can be correlated with the course of study.)
- 2. Is the film authentic? The large majority of classroom films are authentic.
- 3. For what purpose was the film produced? A film may be authentic in every respect, and yet the students may misinterpret it unless they are familiar with the purpose for which it was produced.
- 4. Are the pictures of good quality? Pictures that are not sharp, clear, and distinct represent a poor educational investment.
- 5. Is the content of the film limited to pertinent facts? Irrelevant facts, processes, or episodes, even though they may be interesting, add nothing but useless expense to a film.
- 6. Does the film meet reasonable standards of technical excellence? The central object, theme, item, or emphasis of the picture should be plain and intelligible. The film should be steady and smooth.
- 7. Does the film possess good motivating qualities? A film that is a "closed and forgotten book" when the students have seen it is usually an inferior educational picture.
- 8. Is the film a good financial investment? In answering this question, one should determine, if possible, the number of times that the film will probably be used each year.

The majority of writers on the subject of criteria

used in the selection of educational motion pictures do not give as detailed treatment of the criteria as did McKowan and Roberts (11:229-33). Weaver and Ballinger (14:234-5) list the following suggestions as worthy of the teacher's consideration in the selection of films for instructional purposes:

"Use films that:

- 1. Show simple, direct treatment.
- 2. Challenge the students thinking.
- 3. Depict basic principles and operations
- 4. Present clearly the technical facts or information.
- 5. Alternate a series of "shorts" with discussion.
- 6. Dramatize and recreate events.

Hesitate to use films that:

- 1. Are "interesting but present little or no useful information for student learning.
- 2. Are technically correct but have no specific application to the problems of your training schedule or course of study.
- 3. Are of considerable length with a limited amount of useful consideration.
- 4. May be considered as "dessert" or entertainment as far as the course of study is concerned.
- 5. Consume the entire period and permit no time for discussion.

In contrast to the criteria presented by McKowan and Roberts (11:229-33) the above is a very brief consideration, but there is one area mentioned in these criteria which has not been considered in the afore-mentioned sources. This consideration is the time element of the film. How long is the film? Is it so long that no time is possible for class discussion? Is it so long that the interest of the students is lost? According to Fern (7:68) "...six-teen minutes or less is the preferred length of an instructional film."

Corey (42:324) approaches the subject of necessary criteria for film selection from yet another direction.

He maintains that the major test for a good classroom film is arrived at by taking the following four steps:

- 1. Stating explicity and in detail the specific kind of pupil behavior that is desired.
- 2. Testing a pupil population to determine its status with respect to this behavior.
- 3. Teaching both with classroom film and with other alternative instructional materials in accordance with the best utilization procedures.
- 4. Retesting the pupil population at intervals in order to determine the relative effects of the picture in comparison with other kinds of material that might be used to achieve the same purposes."

It is explained by Corey that although these steps

will lead to good classroom film selection, in actual practice these steps are not feasible for groups that must reach quick judgements about the worth of particular classroom films. This then is another argument for the establishment of good criteria for film selection - to have at hand at all times a set of systematic criteria which can be used for quick and effective selection of the film to be used in the teaching situation.

Jensen (69:198-99,218) attacks the problem of arriving at good criteria from a different point of view. He states that the characteristics common to all good films are:

- "1. Composition, organization or arrangement of the material pictured. This should be pleasing, orderly and conducive to the differentiation for which the film is being used.
 - 2. Material pictured should be accurate.
 - 3. Quality details should be clear and sharply defined and of sufficient size so they can be seen from the seats farthest from the screen. The picture should be clear and free from blemishes or imperfections.
 - 4. The film should contain only the material pertinent to the main item of the film. It should not be cluttered up with unnecessary detail or extraneous objects.
 - 5. Relativity each picture in itself should contain an item that will give the whole picture the proper scale value.

6. Validity - by validity is meant how well does the film we have selected do the task we have set it to do. This single criterion of validity is the most important standard to be recognized in the selection of any film, yet an examination of many visual instruction programs discloses how haphazardly this criterion is applied."

Jensen in closing his article reiterates that "...validity to the purpose for which the film is used is the
most important qualification to be considered in the selection of the film." We might mention, in connection with
validity, that the educational activity in which the film
is used should also be valid.

If we agree upon what has been said we may perhaps agree upon the idea that the present catalog descriptions of visual aids are inadequate for making valid selection probable and that the task of building validity of use into a course of study is next to impossible because we do not know just what the film is about or what its content is. To point out the need for more adequate description than exists at present, we might coin the slogan, "The film catalog of today is the teacher's Textbook of tomorrow". The writer believes that the need for more detailed and adequate descriptions of films is imperative in order to insure validity of use. The increasing number of films being made available to education increases this need.

Those of us who are in administrative positions in the

visual instruction field would do well to develop adequate standards for such descriptions in film catalogs as our part in making valid selection possible as well as probable.

Many of the sources read while gathering material for this study were concerned with the criteria needed for the wise selection of films for specific subject areas. The authors of these articles, while concerned only with their specific subject area in establishing criteria, do list some very pertinent criteria which would serve as a basis in the selection of a film for any subject area. Luecke, et al, (79:465-6) is concerned with the criteria for the selection of films for home economics and lists the following as necessary for the selection of films in that field:

- "1. The film contributes directly to the homemaking program.
 - 2. It is presented in terms of problems of the homemaking program; that is, its content has functional use in daily living.
 - 3. Its pictorial and technical qualities include such features as timeliness, attractiveness, and an interesting them or background.
 - 4. It has suitable scope; its problems are suitable in type and number."

Lucke states further that "When these four criteria were applied, it was found that evaluations of films made from catalog description - when these descriptions were adequate and informative - corresponded well with ratings

of the same film after it had been viewed by the co-operating teachers. This, a good selection could be made based on the catalog descriptions, without the necessity of first viewing the film."

In the treatment of the criteria for the selection of educational motion pictures it would be folly to disregard the criteria necessary to determine the educational value of sponsored films. Kinder (10:226) defines a sponsored film as "...films produced by industrial concerns which directly or indirectly advertise the products of the firm." These industrial concerns which produce films are one of the major sources of educational films. Many of the larger school districts are able to secure their films elsewhere, while the smaller districts, being less wealthy, use them gladly.

Sponsored films are produced by International Harvester, General Electric, United Fruit, American Can, and Aluminium Company of America, to mention a few of the many.

Twenty-three outstanding educators met in Detroit on April 4-6, 1946 (96:76,126) to consider the adoption of a uniform policy toward the sponsored film. The following "suggested policy" was adopted:

"Public schools should serve the interest of all the

people. Therefore, instructional material used should be free of the influence of special interests. Audio-visual materials, particularly films, subsidized by special interest groups, are being offered to the schools in increasing quantities. Some of these materials do have significant instructional values and do offer experiences not otherwise available. The use of the best of these, however, involves furthering the sponsor's interest in some degree.

Schools cannot develop adequate audio-visual programs based solely on sponsored materials. Indeed, too great an acceptance of sponsored films will retard the development of the nonsponsored film enterprise.

The use of a sponsored film can be justified only in terms of bringing to the classroom a valuable experience that would otherwise be denied the students. Constant care must be exercised in weighing the educational value of a film against the furthering of the sponsor's special interest.

The final determination of whether or not sponsored audio-visual materials shall be used and the condition under which they shall be used is a matter for local decision. Each school system has a responsibility for developing its own criteria and policy with regard to such materials."

The conference also offered the following considerations for determining the educational value of sponsored audio-visual materials:

- 1. To what degree do the objectives of the material harmonize with educational objectives of the school?
- 2. Is the material:
 - a. Accurate and authentic in fact?
 - b. Representative in its selection of fact?
 - c. Truthful and sincere in treatment?
- 3. Does the material present general, outstanding facts, processes, or methods, or does it present a particular point of view or promote a specific brand?
- 4. To what extent is the material sound in terms of educational philosophy?
- 5. To what extent is the material significant in the sense that it promotes an educational program better than any other material generally available at the time?
- 6. Is the material adapted to the needs, interests, and the maturity level of the students who will use it?
- 7. To what extent is the sponsor's relationship to the materials clearly known and acceptably stated?"

The report also included a suggested scale for rating audio-visual materials with respect to the emphasis on the sponsor's special interest. The following scale would be

very valuable in grading material under consideration for use in a teaching situation:

- "1. Materials dealing with general field of accepted educational value, without reference to any specific make or product, with a single, statement of sponsorship.
- 2. Materials in which the sponsor's interest is shown as an integral part of the material, without emphasis on specific brand or trade name.
- 3. Materials dealing with a product exclusive with one company, but with-out reference to trade name or slogans.
- 4. Material making direct reference, either pictorial or in test, to a specific product.
- 5. Materials making repeated reference to a specific product, to a point where the product is the focal point of the material.
- 6. Materials employing distortion of fact.
- 7. Materials with purposeful misdirection or conclusions.

In the above mentioned criteria repeated reference is made to "materials" rather than films. These same criteria can and should be used in determining the value of sponsored films or in selecting the sponsored film for the teaching situation.

This chapter has been concerned with a survey of the many and varied criteria which have been suggested for use in the selection of films. The following chapter will

deal with criteria mentioned in this chapter as used in the selection of classroom films.

Chapter IV

PROCEDURES IN SELECTING FILMS

Since it is necessary to have a systematic set of criteria to properly select an educational film that will evoke worthwhile changes in children - the teacher must go through certain steps in arriving at these criteria.

First of all a teacher must know why a certain film should be used. He must establish the need for the film, and know what is expected from its use. To put it academically, he should know what his teaching-learning problem is.

Suppose the unit of work is transportation. Is he having difficulty getting across to the children the interrelationship of transportation and trade? Does he want the film to motivate, to create interest, to review a number of ideas that he has already developed, or what? Monroe (112:92) cites "The American Council Study re-emphasized the importance of the teacher in the pattern of teaching with films. The teacher must keep in mind the relationship between knowledge of subject matter, development of student abilities, and procedures in the classroom when using films. The purposes should determine film selection,

grade placement of film, and teaching technique..."

The teacher needs to assess his point of view on how children learn. While he can get some general help from the experts on child psychology, on the learning process, and on individual differences in children, he still has to know his own children well before he can integrate film, before he place any film in his plan for teaching a unit.

Basic Steps In Selecting Films

The first step, therefore, in film selection is really self-evaluation. This is nothing but common sense. The teacher is always applying his individual yardstick to the selection of the materials he uses, and to the results he is securing with his pupils.

How does the teacher secure the films? He first consults the film catalogs published by all the large film libraries. In most cases when the film is not owned by the school district he consults the film catalog of the nearest source of the film. Perhaps there is a college or university in the state which has a rental film library. If this is not the case he may have to consult the catalog of one of the large film producing companies, for instance, Coronet Films Incorporated, or Encyclopedia Britanica Film Company, which have films for rental. The teacher must rely to a great extent upon the catalog description in the

initial selection of the film.

After the teacher has ordered and received the films the job of deciding which one he wants begins. How does he do this? He apply to the film he is previewing the same kind of critical yardstick which he has used in deciding that he wanted to use the film in the first place. This means applying his philosophy of education, his knowledge of children, his objectives for the unit of work; it means bringing to the selection of the film his total teaching experience. The teacher should formulate general-alizations from this experience into a systematic set of criteria for film selection.

When the teacher formulates a list of systematic criteria - criteria formulated by following through on the aformentioned process - they may need to be translated into a more easily used form. How this is done is up to the individual teacher. These criteria may take the form of a check-list, a rating scale, or several other types of devices. Devereux (5:40) recommends that the criteria be used in a check-list form "...which invites the participation of group judgement and is a mode of procedure which eliminates errors..."

What the teacher does in selecting films can be summarized in five basic steps. Following these steps is

essential if a film is to be properly selected:

- 1. The teacher should establish a need for the film.
- 2. The teacher should review general criteria for judging films.
- 3. The teacher should secure the films by consulting film catalogs and arranging for a preview showing.
- 4. The teacher should preview the film in the light of the need and guided by the criteria.

Who Should Select Films?

Three catagories usually come to mind in seeking to answer the question, "Who should select films?":

- 1. Audio-Visual Directors
- 2. Teachers
- 3. Selection Committees

In the sources surveyed in this study there was no mention of the Audio-Visual Director doing the selecting of classroom films as an individual. There was mention of him being consulted by teachers in the selection of films and that he should in all cases be a member of film selection committees.

There are varied opinions on whether or not the teacher should select films independently. Dameron, et al, (70:116) states "There are many differences in the accessibility of printed and audio-visual material and in the

procedure of selecting these materials. Three of the most obvious differences are in regard to convenience, time, and expense. In the case of printed materials, the teacher can go to the library and select them with relative ease and at no cost. A variety of printed materials is readily available, and easily accessible at all times. Conversely, to evaluate a motion picture the teacher must order the film, wait for its arrival, and pay a rental fee that averages \$1.50 per 10-minute reel. Then he must screen the film. Far too often, the teacher finds that the catalogs description was a wholly inadequate basis upon which to make an intelligent decision. However, it is then too late; the film must either be returned unused or shown despite its deficiencies. The latter alternative generally prevails, resulting in a waste of valuable class time. It is little wonder that the initial enthusiasm of many teacher wanes after several such disappointments. not possible for the teachers to preview all the films that may be of possible use in the teaching situation."

Dameron has a very good point in the above mentioned material, as far as he went in the treatment of it, but he does not mention what would happen if the teacher had at hand a systematic set of criteria which could be consulted while selecting a film from the catalog. As is

pointed out by Dameron it is often found that the catalog descriptions are found to be inadequate. Jensen (69:218) discusses this problem. He states that "...the need for more detailed and adequate descriptions of visual aids, especially films, is imperative in order to insure validity of use. The increasing number of films being made available to education increases this need. Those of us who are in administrative positions in the visual instruction field would do well to develop adequate standards for such descriptions in film catalogs as our part in making valid selection possible as well as probable." The author of this paper heartily agrees with Mr. Jensen on this point but the author would not leave the development of adequate standards for catalog descriptions of films to only the individuals in administrative positions in visual instruction but would also have the ultimate consumer of the film - the classroom teacher - have a large part to say in the development of these standards.

Although the catalog descriptions are in some cases found to be inadequate the writer believes that in the majority of cases they are sufficient to select a film, providing, of course, the teacher has within reach a systematic set of criteria which can be applied to the catalog description in the initial film selection process.

The majority of authors of the sources agree that in order to arrive at a valid selection of educational films, the film should be selected by a selection committee - The committee to be composed of a visual instruction specialist, a classroom teacher, and a subject matter area specialist. Stevenson (94:461) cites an example of how an appraisal or selection group should function. The appraisal group used in this example consisted of three people - an experienced high school teacher, a college instructor in the subject matter area of the film, and a representative of the visual instruction department of a college. According to Stevenson "...because the appraisal group tended to be more critical of the potential effectiveness of the film as a learning experience, it would seem that, until teachers are better trained in regard to the educational value and uses of films, it would be more effecient to have films judged by such a group."

As to how the selection group should function,
Stevenson (94:462) states "If a teacher is to select a
film wisely she needs detailed information sufficient to
help her decide on the purpose for which she will use it
and to know the kind of experience which the film provides.
She also needs to know the methods used to develop the
teaching points in order to secure variety. Obviously,

each teacher. Instead, one member of each appraisal group should write a report of each film, much as he might write a book review. The form of the report should be flexible to permit individual treatment of each film."

Stevenson recommends that because appraisal of films is time-consuming and adequate reviews are expensive to publish, a national co-operative film appraisal project is needed.

As is pointed out by some of the writers on film selection the teacher is often omitted when film selection is taking place. In most of these cases the film selection is done by the audio-visual specialist and education specialists with very little thought given to how the ultimate consumer of the film - the classroom teacher - would feel about the selection of a particular film. As Gray (58:104) states it "...Teachers, are conspicuously absent from these centers of inspiration."

What Printed Forms Are Recommended To Be Used In Film Selection?

The author definitely feels in order to have wise and valid selection of the classroom film it is necessary to arrive at a systematic set of criteria to be used in film selection and to compile these criteria in a workable form which is readily available. Criteria compiled in such a way are definitely less time consuming, they are much easier to use in such a form, hence they will be consulted and used more; and when the forms are printed in a proper size where they are easily filed, they can be used for reference when the time comes to use the film again in the future. By keeping a record of films selected the teacher - through a period of time - can build up a file of films which can at any time be consulted for a valid selection of a film for a particular study topic.

There have been many attempts to arrive at an easilyused printed form to be used in selecting films. A form
that would have all the necessary criteria included in it;
that would be easily understood by a person not having
definite knowledge of the good technical qualities required
of films; a form that would be easily filed; and a form
that would not be too time consuming to use. Gray (58:104)
points out "...the objectivity fetish characterizing
many film rating scales should be abandoned in favor of a
more simplified, subjective, and practical method of determining the worth of a given film..."

Dale's (3:506-7) treatment of this subject of a selection form is very pertinent. He states "Many elaborate evaluation cards or sheets have been developed for audio-

visual materials. There are literally hundreds of them.

The writer makes this suggestion to schools which wish to evaluate materials which are purchased or rented: Make the evaluation simple. You are interested in knowing whether the material relates to the purposes sought in the teaching processes. You wish to ascertain the truthfulness of the material. You wish to judge its quality, photographic or otherwise. You wish to determine its appropriateness for a particular group of students."

It is recommended by Dale (3:506-7) that the evaluation sheet in Figure I be used in film selection. He states "...It represents a form which has been changed and developed by practical use. It probably contains the "essentials" of a suitable evaluation form." This form has been developed by the Education Film Library Association:

Figure I

	EFLA EVALUA	rion
Film	Title:	Length: Reel(s)_Min_
Sub je	ect-Matter Field	Date Produced
	ucer: hase Sources:	
So	SiB&WColorSale Pr	riceRentalFree
Eval	uation Institution:	
Name	s and Titles of Evaluators:	
Synor	osis:	
I.	Write below the major purpocould be used. Rate probabl	oses for which the film Le value for each purpose.
	•	Low High
	1. 2.	1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5
	3.	
II.	Recommended level for above jh_sh_col_a_	purposes: Primary_ele
III.	Sound: Poor Fair Good Photography: Poor Fair	Excellent Good Excellent
IV.	Note special strengths or	weaknesses:
٧.	Your general estimate of the Poor Fair Good Ex	ne value of the film:

While the form in Figure I has been developed and changed by practical use it seems to the author to be quite lengthy, and does not include some of the factors which would be valuable information for the teacher to have for future reference. In contrast to the form in Figure I, the following form is recommended by Stewart (95:770) to be used in film selection:

Figure II

FILM APPRAISAL

ጥ <u>ተ</u> ተነ	le		Mo.	Day	Year
110	Te	(sound)		(silen	t)
Tea	cher	Subject			
	Grade Level of Class	es Fr. So.	Jr.	Sr.	
Oth	er subjects where the film	may be effec	tîve.		
	eral Appraisal	Good Fair Poor De triment	al	• • • • • •	() () ()
• • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • •
1.	How would you prefer to use a. At an introduction to to b. During the unit of world c. As a review of the unit	the unit	• • • • •	• • • • •	()
2.	Does the subject content of showings? () () yes no	f the film wa	arrant	two	
3•	Are there serious mistakes	in the film) (ss n	
	Will you probably use this teach the unit? () (yes no)			
• • •	Commen		• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •

The form in Figure II is much shorter than the EFLA form recommended by Dale and does have a more detailed treatment of subjects which would be of interest to the teacher when consulting this form sometime in the future. While the EFLA form mentions the production date of the film the author does not believe that this is as important to record as is the date the film was appraised for selection. A good point of the EFLA form is that it gives technical data about the film, i.e., as to whether it is a sound film, silent, black and white, color, etc., where the form recommended by Stewart does not. This information would be valuable to have when the form is consulted again. Both the forms give a general estimate of the film, using a rating scale of poor, fair, etc. which to the author is not as valuable a kind of information to have as is the written general description and appraisal of the film in the reviewers own words.

The following film selection form is recommended by the Bureau of Visual Instruction of the University of Wisconsin (30:27). This form is much more brief than the two previously mentioned forms:

Figure III

FILM EVALUATION FORM

Evaluator	School
Address	City
Title of Film_	Teacher's Guide: YesNo
Length in Minutes	Black and White Color
Where do you believe tribution:	this film will make its maximum con-
Grade Level	Unit of Work
Content: (Your brief	description of the film)
Photography: Excelle	nt_Good_Poor_Sound Track: nt_Good_Poor_

While the form in Figure III is very short and would be used more in film selection because it would take less time to fill out it does not cover some of the important features of the film. There is no space alloted for the date of preview; subject matter area covered in the film; nor does it give a detailed treatment of the technical factors - whether the film is sound, silent, etc. above mentioned form does allot space for the reviewer to write in his own words a brief description and appraisal of the film which the author believes to be more valuable than the method used in the EFLA form and in the form recommended by Stewart (95:769-74). Another important feature of the form in Figure III is the space alloted to indicate whether or not the film has a teacher's guide, which is another important feature left off of the forms in Figures I and II. Neither of the two forms in Figures II and III allot space for the source of the film. The EFLA form does mention the purchase source but does not mention where the film can be rented. This is another important piece of information which the teacher should have.

The form in Figure IV is a commercially produced form devised for film selection by W. A. Wittich and is published by the Educators Progress Service of Randolph, Wisconsin. This is an example of a very detailed and exact treatment

that such a form would be used very little by a teacher. It would take some time to fill out properly and includes many points which are not necessarily important for the teacher to have for wise selection of classroom films. The form is printed on a 5x8 card which could be easily filed, while the other forms mentioned are printed on note-book size paper and not as easy to file. This is one of the good features of this type of form.

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL INVENTORY, USE and EVALUATION SYSTEM

FILM

Reasons for Selection PURPOSE Evaluation, Insert for strong contrib 1. To supplement traditional media of instruction such as Demonstrations,	TITI	LE					Dates to be	used
Rental Cost Purchase Price Free USE DATA: Grade Subject Unit Vocabulary Level (Before Use) Reasons for Selection PURPOSE Evaluation, Insert for strong contrib 1. To supplement traditional media of instruction such as Demonstrations, Texts, Field Trips, Work Experience, Community Resources, etc. by: a. Motivating the introduction of a unit. b. Providing additional useful information during the unit. c. Summarizing at close of unit. 7. To teach specific skills. 3. To strengthen or modify desirable social attitudes. 4. To inspire desirable social living ideals. 5. To create incentives for student follow-up activities such as: a. Independent Reading. b. Art or Language expression. c. Project work or other creative effort. 6. To entertain or other (specify) APPRAISAL OF FORMAT: Excellent Good Poor RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE USI ORGADE AND UNIT OF STUDY DESIGNATION FOR FUTURE USI		-	(as apply) Col	or Time	Pages	Size	Copyright Da	ate
USE DATA: Grade Subject Unit Vocabulary Level (Before Use) Reasons for Selection PURPOSE Evaluation, Insert for strong contrib 1. To supplement traditional media of instruction such as Demonstrations, Texts, Field Trips, Work Experience, Community Resources, etc. by: a. Motivating the introduction of a unit. b. Providing additional useful information during the unit. c. Summarizing at close of unit. 2. To teach specific skills. 3. To strengthen or modify desirable social attitudes. 4. To inspire desirable social living ideals. 5. To create incentives for student follow-up activities such as: a. Independent Reading. b. Art or Language expression. c. Project work or other creative effort. 6. To entertain or other (specify) APPRAISAL OF FORMAT: Excellent Good Poor RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE US) Sound. Teacher's Guide or Manual Organization and continuity. MAY EE CONSIDERED FOR USE IN OTHER SUBJECT OR GRADE, (Please specify)			Purchas	e Price			Free	
(Before Use) Reasons for Selection PURPOSE Evaluation, Insert for strong contrib 1. To supplement traditional media of instruction such as Demonstrations, Texts, Field Trips, Work Experience, Community Resources, etc. by: a. Motivating the introduction of a unit. b. Providing additional useful information during the unit. c. Summarizing at close of unit. 7. To teach specific skills. 7. To strengthen or modify desirable social attitudes. 4. To inspire desirable social living ideals. 5. To create incentives for student follow-up activities such as: a. Independent Reading. b. Art or Language expression. c. Project work or other creative effort. 6. To entertain or other (specify) APPRAISAL OF FORMAT: Excellent Good Poor RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE US) Sound. Teacher's Guide or Manual Organization and continuity. MAY EE CONSIDERED FOR USE IN CTHER SUBJECT OR GRADE, (Please specify)	USE				Voc	abulary Le		
Reasons for Selection PURPOSE Evaluation, Insert for strong contrib 1. To supplement traditional media of instruction such as Demonstrations,	0013					,		(After Use)
Texts, Field Trips, Work Experience, Community Resources, etc. by: a. Motivating the introduction of a unit. b. Providing additional useful information during the unit. c. Summarizing at close of unit. 2. To teach specific skills. 3. To strengthen or modify desirable social attitudes. 4. To inspire desirable social living ideals. 5. To create incentives for student follow-up activities such as: a. Independent Reading. b. Art or Language expression. c. Project work or other creative effort. 6. To entertain or other (specify) APPRAISAL OF FORMAT: Excellent Good Poor RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE USING Sound. Teacher's Guide or Manual. Organization and continuity. MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR USE IN CTHER SUBJECT OR GRADE, (Please specify)		,		j	PURPOSE EV	valuation,	Insert for strong	•
C. Project work or other creative effort. 6. To entertain or other (specify) APPRAISAL OF FORMAT: Excellent Good Poor RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE USD Photography		Texts a. b. c. 2. To te 3. To s: 4. To in 5. To c.	s, Field Trips, Motivating the Providing addi Summarizing at each specific s trengthen or mo aspire desirabl reate incentive Independent Re	Work Experied introduction tional useful close of under the close of under the close of the clos	ence, Commun of a unith information	on during	the unit	
APPRAISAL OF FORMAT: Excellent Good Poor RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE USING Photography								
APPRAISAL OF FORMAT: Excellent Good Poor RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE USING Photography					cive ellor.	• • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
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Sound	APP.							
Teacher's Guide or Manual Organization and continuity MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR USE IN OTHER SUBJECT OR GRADE, (Please specify)		Sound		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •				
Organization and continuity MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR USE IN OTHER SUBJECT OR GRADE, (Please specify)		Teacheris Gui	ide or Manual					<u> </u>
MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR USE IN OTHER SUBJECT OR GRADE, (Please specify)						TOME	0114	
		Organiza cion	and continuity	• •		····		
CONTENT: Paste or copy catalog description on reverse side of card								
Teacher Copyright 1948 - W. A. Witt. Revised 1951						Cor	• •	

The examples of film selection forms cited here are just a sample of the many different types used for the selection of classroom films. In order to keep from repetition the author cited these forms as a sample rather than put into the paper a number of forms which are somewhat alike. Corey (41:325), Larson (72:240), and Stewart (95:773) to mention a few of the many, recommend forms which they feel would do this important job of film selection better.

In the forms cited it will be noted that they differ in many ways and that no two forms are exactly alike.

This chapter has attempted to answer the following practical and fundamental questions, which for any individual faced with the problem of how to go about selecting a classroom film, is a wise and systematic manner:

- 1. What steps should be followed in selecting a film?
- 2. Who should select films?
- 3. What printed forms will aid film selection?

Chapter V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this paper has been to justify and describe a systematic approach to the appraisal and selection of classroom films, in the light of the current literature on the problem - the formulation of a set of criteria which can be used in film selection, and the compiling of these criteria into a form which can be used conveniently by the classroom teacher.

To obtain data for this study the author surveyed audic-visual books, pamphlets, and professional periodicals in the library of Central Washington College of Education. Over one-hundred different sources were surveyed for material. This material was recorded on forms developed by the author. It was then analyzed in terms of three basic working hypotheses. In writing the preceding chapters the material was summarized to answer these questions:

- 1. Why is film selection important to film utilization?
- 2. What are the necessary criteria for film selection?
- 3. How are the criteria used in film selection?
- It is the purpose of this chapter to present conclusions

from information gathered which will have useful implications for teachers who attempt to select films for class-

Conclusions Of The Study

Conclusions drawn from the material are presented as basic generalizations about film selection as follows:

- 1. Films have the power to push an audience to uncritical conclusions and if selected unwisely will adversely affect the teaching-learning process.
- 2. A teacher who is clear as to the purposes for which the film is being used is likely to use the film more effectively.
- 3. Better utilization of films will grow out of more careful selection on the part of the teacher.
- 4. A film may be expected to accomplish something above and beyond what would be possible in the use of traditional materials.
- 5. In-service training programs can improve teacher competence in film selection.
- 6. Film catalogs do not give detailed enough descriptions for the teacher to select a suitable film for a particular teaching situation.
- 7. Audio-visual administrators are in a position to help develop adequate standards for film catalog descriptions.
- 8. Producers of educational motion pictures can make use of surveys to obtain teachers' expressions regarding areas that need motion picture expression.
- 9. A set of common standards or criteria upon

which to base the selection of classroom films is desirable.

- 10. The total teaching experience of each teacher will influence his formulation of criteria necessary for film selection.
- 11. Film selection committees can make more valid selection of films than individual teachers.
- 12. A film rating scale or form will save time, effort, and expense in selecting films.

Implications And Recommendations

The generalizations drawn from this study have implications for action. Following are recommendations based on these ideas:

- 1. The teacher should establish clear purposes for which a film is to be used if he is to use the film more effectively, and to prevent situations which will adversely affect the teaching situation.
- 2. Schools should incorporate in their inservice training programs attention to teacher formulation of criteria for film selection in order that teachers may select films wisely and use them more effectively.
- 3. Audio-visual administrators should develop cooperatively a systematic set of standards which could be used as a guide in the writing of descriptions of films for film catalogs so that teachers will have a greater degree of success in the initial selecting process.
- 4. Schools should set up film selection committees for the selection of class-room films, rather than relying upon the individual teacher to handle it alone.

- 5. Film selection committees should be composed of at least three people: a classroom teacher; a subject matter specialist; and an audio-visual specialist.
- 6. The film selection process should be guided by a systematic set of criteria.
- 7. Compile film selection criteria in a form or rating scale which will save time, effort, and expense in the actual selection of the classroom film.

Through the process of analyzing the data gathered in this study the author compiled specific film selection criteria, which are recommended for use in the selection of classroom films. These criteria are as follows:

- 1. Does the film provide for experiences not possible in the use of other instructional materials?
- 2. Is the rental or purchase price of the film in line with its educational worth?
- 3. Is the length of the film suited for the interest span for the particular group for which it will be used?
- 4. Is the subject matter in the film treated in a truthful way?
- 5. Does the film relate to the teaching purpose sought?
- 6. Is the technical quality of the film of such a nature as to detract from its educational worth?
- 7. Is there a teacher's guide with the film to aid in use?
- 8. Do you intend to use the film?
- 9. Does it contain "sponsor propaganda" which

deters from its educational worth?

10. What is the:

- a. Title
- b. Selection date
- c. Length
- d. Rental price and source
- e. Purchase price and source

As stated in previously mentioned recommendations, criteria should be compiled in a form or rating scale that will save time, effort and expense in the actual selection of classroom films. A recommended form is presented in Figure V. This form was developed from the list of criteria recommended by the writer.

The following simple steps are recommended to be used in filling out the form in Figure V:

- Subject of film is entered in top-left hand corner for filing purposes or each card can be numbered for the same purpose in the right hand corner.
- 2. Fill in the title of film, selection date, length of film and answer yes or no to whether or not it has a teacher's guide with it.
- 3. Check the grade level of the film following the below mentioned definitions:
 - a. P primary
 - b. I intermediate
 - c. J junior high

- d. S senior high
- e. C college
- 4. Fill in the rental and purchase price along with the sources of each for further reference.
- 5. Check the rest of the headings as to whether or not the film has the qualities outlined.
- 6. Fill in the summary and comment area for future reference. The back of the card can be used for this if there is not room enough on the front.

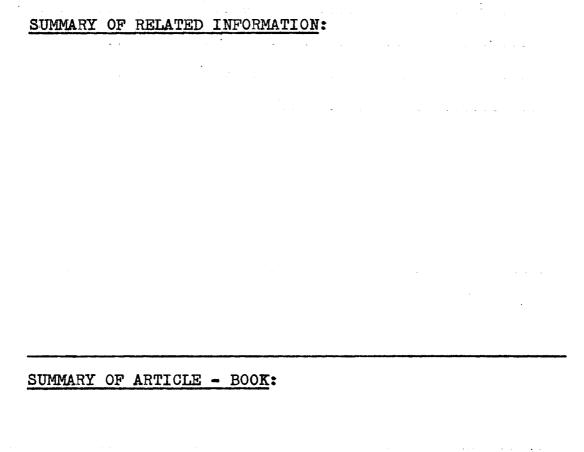
SUBJECT	Film Selection Card			CARD	#
TITE		SELECTIO	N DATE_		
LENGTHTEACHER'S	GUIDE: Yes No Grade	Level:	PI_	J S	c
Rental Price	Source				laring with the second
Purchase Price	Source				
Subject matter is presented Relates to teaching purpose Technical qualities prevent	in truthful ways soughts educational use			yes() yes() yes() yes()	() no ()
Do you intend to use the fi	lm	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	() yes	() no
	Summary and Comments				
				(ov	rer)

Films have not as yet reached the point in education where they are considered on an equal basis with textbooks as having the same teaching-learning possibilities. The writer believes that the primary reason that this situation exists is the fact that teachers do not know how to apply the same critical yardstick used in textbook selection to the selection of the classroom film. It is the conviction of the author, that when teachers have at their fingertips the "know how" of film selection, films will take their rightful place, beside textbooks, in education.

THE END

APPENDIX

AUTHOR:				TITLE:		NO.
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CRITERIA	USED 1	FOR	APPRAISAL:			
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