

Vast quantities of information are stored up in the Research Dept. This report includes a description of the kind of material we have on file, our sources of information, and suggestions for improved use of research facilities by the field.

1. To give you an idea of the information we have filed away and ready for use, we have attached a list of the topics included in
 - a. the general file
 - b. the large Mississippi file
 - c. the Mississippi news clip file

TAKE A LOOK AT THESE LISTS. YOU'LL BE SURPRISED TO FIND ALL THE THINGS YOU NEVER SUSPECTED WE HAD. (SO WERE WE !)

Our information comes from the following sources: the NY Times, the Washington Post; Miss: Jackson Clarion-Ledger and Daily News; Greenwood Commonwealth; Greenville Delta Democrat-Times, Hattiesburg American, Memphis Commercial Appeal; Ark: Ark. Gazette, Pine Bluff Commercial; Ala: Birmingham News, Montgomery Advertiser, Selma Times-Journal; Ga: Atlanta Constitution and Journal; Albany herald. Burrelle's clipping service sends us articles from the major papers containing keywords such as FDP, SNCC, COFO, etc.

We also receive a considerable range of weeklies and other periodicals: Nations, New Republic, etc. And we receive the Congressional Record, Congressional Quarterly, and are on the mailing lists of dozens of government agencies and congressional committees. And we receive the major labor union publications.

The office also has a number of standard reference books: Who's Who in America, Who's Who in World Commerce and Industry, Moody's Manuals, Standard and Poor's Registry, Martindale & Hubble's Lawyers' Directory, as well as a complete set of census bureau publications for each Black Belt state. In addition, we have a number of political and economic reference books on each of the southern states, as well as a considerable number of US Government publications dealing with various conditions in each state.

2. Research can support field operations in several ways.

a. By supplying projects with specific information needed for specific programs. For example:

1. Freedom school people in Mississippi needed facts and figures for a curriculum in basic economics. We sent these so that they could incorporate them into the texts being written.

2. People going on speaking tours have asked for information they could put into their speeches. This could be either fact-figure type data, or historical background.

3. Sometimes field workers wish to explore areas for possible programs, and request us to do some initial fact finding. A worker in Miss., for instance, was curious about credit facilities for farmers in his area. We were able to supply information about particular credit agency in question, as well as suggest other possibilities. Regardless of the practical application of such information, this worker probably learned something useful about the workings of the banking system. At the very least, we were able to help him expand his view of a narrow problem.

4. John Love in Alabama asked for information on the laws and methods of forming a new political party in Alabama. The people in Philadelphia, Miss., who wanted to set up a laundromat, asked what sort of arrangements were available from appliance companies like Westinghouse, and if the Poverty Bill has a provision for loans to small businessmen (it does). When a shirt company in SW Ga did not hire Negroes, John Perdue asked for its policy on desegregation in other plants; when he learned that in other plants in the South it had recently desegregated, SNCC was able to bring about desegregation of the plant facilities in their area.

b. The information in our files can be used for a staff education program. The papers by Judy Walborn on the Court System and on Poverty are examples of such educational material compiled from the data we have on file.

3. Ways to get better use out of the research department:

First of all, of course, let us know any specific requests you may have. When you make a request for specific information, like "Does the Poverty Bill have provisions for loans to small businessmen?" please let us know what you want the information for. That way we may be able to supply you with other information useful to your project also.

Also, what kinds of ideas do you have about what the research dept. should be producing on its own? Do you want a periodic newsletter? Should it contain statistics? Political analysis? Current events?

Presently we answer a lot of requests for information from persons outside of SNCC, some of whom wish to help our efforts in one way or another. We also

serve as an information reservoir for our communications people. We can expand our usefulness to the staff by making it clear that these facilities are for you to use, as well as being available for you to request someone to find something out for you. Staff members are welcome to come into the Research office and make themselves familiar with the facilities, to use them for their projects, as well as asking ~~them~~ us to do research for them.

One idea which has been advanced for making research facilities more accessible to the field is to set up research offices in main offices in each state. A member of the department could go to a project area for several weeks, to help set up newspaper clipping files, help track down local sources of information (such as nearby schools and libraries), and in general assist the staff in collecting, organizing, and utilizing information. Please let us know if you want to come in and learn how to use the research facilities and/or if you want someone to come out and help you set up a research department in your project. (It should be pointed out that if people go out to the field, we will not be able to carry out our operations in Atlanta to the extent that they are now.)

The research department exists for your convenience. We welcome any and all suggestions and questions which will help us serve you better.

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