

In this day of war, your task as special librarians is one relating immediately and exactly to fighting that war to its inevitable successful conclusion. You are the guardians of our technical knowledge. Through you must work the chemists and the engineers, upon whom depends in large measure the ultimate success of our fighting forces.

You know what it means to work. You know what it means to keep long hours in the research libraries of the plants which are turning out the planes and guns and tanks upon which victory depends. It is your privilege instantly to give to the men who design these materials of war the information which they must have. A moment's delay on your part in supplying that vital material means a delay in winning the war.

So, too, by your special knowledge and through the quickness with which you work, you give to our business men and to our economists the data which they, too, need. You ask for no recognition. You work anonymously and unsung. But you are doing your job along with the army, the navy and the air forces on America's front line.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The White House
Washington, D. C.

July 17, 1942

(A letter addressed to Laura A. Woodward
as President of the Special Libraries Association)