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STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO  
85 SOUTH FRONT STREET  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

## Biennial Report

of the

# OHIO STATE LIBRARY

1935 - 1936

PAUL A. T. NOON  
State Librarian

STATE DOCUMENTS  
SHEAVED IN

### PROGRAM OF THE OHIO STATE LIBRARY

- State Aid for the public libraries of the state.
- Promotion of county library service.
- Advisory service to public libraries.
- Organizing service to public libraries.
- Encouragement of local governments to provide adequate funds for existing libraries.
- State wide publicity for library promotion.
- Library service to state institutions.
- Supplementary book service to schools, clubs and communities.
- Direct book service to individuals with inadequate or no local library service.
- A comprehensive survey of library conditions in Ohio.

REFERENCE

DOES NOT CIRCULATE



The past two years have been fruitful both in the constructive growth of the State Library and in the development of library service throughout Ohio. To read the statistics and comments on the work of the State Library for the last biennium is to gain a very clear picture of its interests and activities.

### THE OHIO STATE LIBRARY BOARD

By virtue of his appointment as Director of Education in August 1935, Mr. E. L. Bowsher became chairman of the State Library Board. In October 1935, Governor Martin L. Davey appointed Mrs. Nelle Dunlap of Hillsboro as a member of the board succeeding Rev. R. R. Fillbrand of Cincinnati. Other members are Mrs. Daisy P. Young of Dayton, Mr. Frank Hunter of Columbus and Mr. Benjamin Motter of Lima.

### TRAVELING LIBRARY DIVISION

Collections of books are available from the Traveling Library Division for periods of three to nine months. The demand for these collections was so great during 1936 that it was necessary, however reluctantly, to turn down requests for 101,000 books. Traveling Library collections were sent to granges, schools, P. T. A. groups, state institutions, social service organizations, C C C camps, emergency schools, public libraries, Boy Scout troops and summer camps during the past year. A check of the circulation of Traveling Library books when used by these groups revealed that each volume circulated on the average of eleven times. By this count the actual circulation from Traveling Division for the year 1936 would approximate three million volumes.

The statistics of the number of books shipped from the Traveling Library during the past four years follow:

1933	67,785	1935	192,476
1934	168,320	1936	261,943

### LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS

The daily requests for loans to individuals by mail order service have doubled since 1933. Citizens of Ohio living in communities having no libraries or in places

inadequately served by existing libraries make constant demands upon the State Library for books and reference material. These patrons receive twenty-four hour service on their requests. They pay a ten cent postage charge for each order. The total number of volumes loaned to individuals during the past four years is as follows:

1933	36,243	1935	68,843
1934	59,195	1936	72,947

### LIBRARY ORGANIZATION

The library organization division has completed an inclusive survey of library service in Ohio and has established sixty-nine county extension agencies in connection with the distribution of the one hundred thousand dollar State Aid fund granted by the legislature for 1935-1936. These sixty-nine libraries have developed county-wide library service by setting up branches and deposit stations, or by operating book wagons. Eleven counties in Ohio now have public libraries for the first time and only three counties remain without free book service.

### GENEALOGY AND REFERENCE

The State Library maintains one of the finest genealogy collections in the middle west and patrons from every state in the Union are in daily attendance at the library.

The Reference collection of the State Library also is outstanding and its use has taxed the seating capacity of our Reading Room.

Attendance records for the past four years follow:

1933	54,441	1935	70,764
1934	61,109	1936	81,933

### RADIO BROADCASTS

The State Librarian gave a series of broadcasts upon "Contemporary Writers" as a part of the weekly broadcasts of the Ohio School of the Air. Requests for books written by authors mentioned in these talks greatly increased the mail immediately after the programs.





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## STAFF

The State Library has been fortunate in having on its staff eight highly trained and competent librarians. Nine other staff members are taking correspondence courses in library science. It would have been impossible to have accomplished the work of the department with so small a staff had it not been for the added assistance of thirty W.P.A. workers and eighteen N.Y.A. students. These assistants have been trained sufficiently to work without constant supervision of the regular staff, who may now devote their time to the professional work of the library.

## CONCLUSION

The Ohio State Library is an important center of educational opportunity. In the field of Adult Education it is reaching out to make available the best books to all citizens of Ohio.

If the schools train the minds of the coming citizens, shall the libraries fail in their mission to provide the means for the exercise of those trained minds? Is not the library under obligation to continue this inheritance which is bestowed upon it by the public schools when their work is completed?

The Ohio State Library is used extensively and is appreciated by the citizens of this state as well as by the visitors who travel long distances to use it. The library aids members of the legislature to form opinions from unbiased information; it helps Club Women to outline programs; it is a boon to students as well as to general readers; it furnishes verification of historical fact to writers of Ohio histories and supplies material for novels depicting Ohio life. The State Library specializes in lending books to club women, speechmakers, scientists and nature lovers; and supplies educational and recreational reading to people in every walk of life.

The State Library has borne at least its proportional share of the economies effected in every state department since the economic depression. During the past three years it has been possible to expand enormously the service of the library, although the limited budget has curtailed many needed improvements both in the State Library and in the library field throughout the state. However, the foundations have held firm and reasonable provisions by the state for maintenance will guarantee the continued and increasing usefulness of the Ohio State Library.