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

OHIO STATE LIBRARY
DOCUMENT DEPARTMENT

MAR 3 1959

OHIO STATE LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT

1958

REFERENCE

State Office Building
Columbus 15, Ohio

February 18, 1959

The Honorable Michael V. DiSalle,
Governor of Ohio,

*Members of the Ohio State Library Board

Herewith is a report of activities and proceedings of the State Library for the calendar year 1958. In accordance with Section 149.01, Revised Code of Ohio, copies of the report have been filed in the offices of the Governor and the Secretary of State.

The compilation of statistics and information concerning the operation of public libraries in the state, required by Sec. 3375.02, is now in process and will be submitted as a separate part of this report later in the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Brahm
State Librarian

WB:NC

*Joseph Hurst, President, New Philadelphia
Mrs. Elsie Bennett Wilson, Vice-President, Medina
George W. Coen, Lancaster
E. E. Holt, Columbus
Miss Helen B. Robinson, Worthington

Ohio State Library
Annual Report of the Librarian

1958

Twentieth Century Absurdity

A man can go from one end of this country to the other and back without a dime in his pocket, yet he can secure all his worldly wants - food, clothing, shelter - by the mere possession of a credit card. Yet he cannot go out of the village in which he lives, cross a county line two miles away and get a book from the public library, even though he has a library card assigned to him by his community library. What's wrong with library organization that a man can be trusted for hundreds of dollars anywhere in the country but not for a two dollar book, purchased by the library for a dollar and forty cents! Why shouldn't any resident of Ohio be permitted to use any public library in Ohio?

This Year, Next Year, and the Year After...

More people, and how! The Census Bureau estimates that from 1955 to 1970, Ohio's population will increase by 3,313,000. This is almost half again as many residents as Ohio had at the time of the 1950 census.

Where will these people be? What will they be doing? What will they want? What does such an increase portend for library service by 1970?

Ohio's big cities will become bigger, small cities will become big cities. Twenty-five new cities were proclaimed after the 1950 census. More than 30 Ohio villages anticipate they will be cities after the 1960 census. There will be more marriages, which means more children, which means more teenagers, which means more college graduates, which means more educated people who will want more culture, which means more interest in books and libraries.

For libraries and for all units of government, it could mean that people will not let their lives and the art of living be slaves to the

artificial boundary lines of local government. It is doubtful that people are going to decide to live on one side of such a line in order to claim residence in the city of Cleveland, or on the other side because it will make them residents of Cleveland Heights; neither are they likely to buy a house in an unincorporated area on this side of a line merely because it will put them in Delaware County instead of Franklin County; nor on that side of a line because it will put them in Pennsylvania instead of Ohio. Will they not make such a decision on the basis of what is most convenient for them and what they personally prefer? They'll do their shopping, their church going, and take their recreational activities on the same basis, according to personal convenience and preference. They will cross city, township, county, and even state lines almost daily and without awareness that they are so doing. The line between city, suburb, small town, and farm will become less visible and have still less reason for existence.

By 1970, the vast majority of Ohioans may have little patience with artificial boundary lines that create problems in their daily lives instead of solving them, little patience with public officials who try to preserve such lines for the benefit of a few, instead of erasing them for the benefit of all.

What can librarians and trustees be doing in preparation for 1970? Shall we stay in our circled cities and suburbs, operating isolated libraries within them, while the customers, the patrons, the people are in and out of the circle at will? Or shall we get together, seeking on a grand scale a brand new approach to meet the gigantic increase in population now taking place here in Ohio? Some thirty years ago Ohio librarians planned well to meet the problems of library service by sponsoring the county library system. It was a big step forward but a second seven-league stride ahead appears necessary if libraries are to keep pace with this fast moving world.

Librarians and trustees must decide their policy for the future now. What shall it be? Preservation of the status quo in order to keep the jobs of present employees secure, or to preserve for current library trustees a position of honor in the community? Continuation of expensive operation whether efficient or inefficient? Or a magnificent new library system, where city, county, township, school district, and state lines are not tariff barriers to free education?

The State Library - What Is It?

Business up 25 per cent over last year - 47 per cent over 1956!

In these times when the hard-pressed taxpayer rightly questions the cost of operating any tax-supported agency, it might be well to examine here the services the State Library provides, the cost of the services, and the great need for their continued existence.

It cost taxpayers of Ohio slightly more than a penny each to operate the library in 1958. What do they get for the penny? All kinds of books on all kinds of subjects. Information, education, children's books, books on Ohio, rare books, genealogies and government publications. The library has a collection of 900,000 books. It occupies more space in the State Office Building ($3\frac{1}{2}$ floors) than any other single state agency.

The State Library is a service organization designed to provide modern library service to all Ohio residents. It serves you directly if you come to Columbus or if you write. Last year 75,000 people used the library in person, another 15,851 wrote in for service, and still another 12,489 phoned in their requests.

The library also serves you indirectly by making its facilities available to your local public library. It is a library's library working to give the finest library service possible. Local libraries borrowed 76,564 books in 1958 from the Traveling Library Department. These books

were recirculated by the local libraries on an average of 20 times. Another 17,301 books were borrowed by mail for short term periods. Thus a minimum of 1,600,000 books were circulated by the State Library, books which local libraries would not have been able to provide otherwise. This is just one way in which the state helps local libraries to extend and improve their services.

The State Library helps to establish new public and school libraries in areas where needed and gives librarians, trustees, and other public officials information and advice to assist them in maintaining and developing their libraries. When trouble arises locally between local library officials and budget commissions; between library employees and trustees; when trouble arises over organization or consolidation of libraries, over budget appeals, over the application of library laws; when legislators and other state officials seek information on library matters, censorship of books, legislative changes - all turn to the State Library for advice and guidance. Realizing this the General Assembly over the years has assigned to the State Library the responsibility for promoting and supervising the development of library service throughout the State. As a result the library is the focal point of statewide library service.

Since 1935 the State Library has issued annually a complete financial and statistical report (Directory of Ohio Libraries) on all the public libraries of the state showing for each library the cost of operation, income, expenditures, holdings of the library and use made of it. This is required by law and is the only official source of such information available in the state.

As explained more fully later in this report the State Library is now operating large bookmobiles in certain regions of the state. This is a new service of the library begun in 1958. The State Library is reimbursed by the local libraries in the region served for the major cost of the service.

The library maintains a list of adult non-fiction books in some 50 of Ohio's largest public libraries. This list or Union Catalog contains several million cards. By reference to this file it is possible to locate most any adult non-fiction book and even to tell inquirers the nearest libraries owning the title.

To provide these services requires know-how. The State Library maintains a staff of professionally trained librarians to head its various departments and serve as consultants to local libraries. Graduates of accredited colleges of library science, these people are dedicated to giving the taxpayer full return on his investment, to giving the state a full measure of worth for their hire, and to serving humanity whatever its library needs may be.

State Board Policy Geared to 1970

It is gratifying to report that the State Library Board in its use of federal funds (Library Services Act) appropriated for demonstration purposes has established a policy and developed programs which seek to break down the barrier of local government boundary lines. Ohio's complete plan for the use of federal funds in 1958 has already been issued but some of the significant accomplishments are worthy of brief description.

Regional Library Service Begun

A significant step across county lines was taken and a new experimental pattern of library service was established in 1958 when the State Library began operating regional libraries in cooperation with local libraries in the regions. The first regional library was located in Napoleon from which a bookmobile operates in Fulton and Henry counties. The State Library furnished the bookmobile through use of federal funds and administers the service with most of the cost of operation being provided by the libraries of Napoleon and Delta. A second bookmobile is on order and will operate

out of the same regional headquarters serving areas in Defiance County beginning some time in 1959. Another regional library unit was established to serve Adams and Brown counties in southern Ohio. The headquarters is located at Winchester in Adams County. Here too the bookmobile was provided by the State Library from federal funds and the operation cost is being borne by the four libraries of Manchester, Georgetown, Ripley, and Peebles, together with the amount of state aid that is allotted to the two counties.

The Napoleon regional library began service in September. Circulation for the first three and a half months was 17,867. The Winchester regional library began October 22, 1958. Circulation for the two month period was 9,321.

Consolidation Attempted

In another effort to erase boundary lines, the State Library Board approved a grant of \$15,000 from Library Services Act funds to any county where the libraries of that county would coordinate or consolidate their libraries into one system. Considerable interest in this grant was shown by library officials of Preble County where nine independent library systems exist. After a considerable number of consulting visits to these libraries and meetings with local librarians and trustees, six libraries voted to consolidate but three libraries opposed the plan. We consider it remarkable when librarians, trustees, and citizens of six communities are willing to give up their independence for future improvement. However since three libraries did oppose the plan, it could not be put into effect. An alternative plan has been presented and is now under consideration.

More Bookmobiles

Through the use of Library Services Act funds grants of \$12,500 each for the purchase of bookmobiles were awarded to four counties during the calendar year of 1959. Ashtabula, Holmes, Logan, and Ottawa counties received the grants. The bookmobile for Logan County is now under construction while the other three are in operation.

Model Library

A Model Rural Life Library has been established in the small rural community of Nashville as a branch of the Holmes County Library. Financed by a small grant of Library Services Act funds, \$1,000, the library was set up as a pilot library for all rural areas of the state. It has attracted considerable attention throughout the country.

Centralized Purchasing and Processing Project

In 1957-58 the State Library Board granted to the Steubenville Board of Library Trustees \$3,900 to release its librarian for a sufficient amount of time to plan the organization of a centralized cataloging project among the libraries of eastern Ohio. As a result, a group of libraries in eastern Ohio presented to the State Library Board a plan for a large centralized purchasing and cataloging project involving some fourteen libraries in that part of the state. The State Library Board awarded \$35,000 from Library Services Act funds for advance operating expenses and purchase of equipment for the project. Once in operation it is expected to be self-supporting, and the funds advanced by the State Library Board are to be paid back over a period of eight years. Headquarters for the project will be located in Barnesville, Ohio. Mrs. Mary Eckford, former Lima Library staff member just returned from U. S. Army library service, has been appointed administrator of the service center. Processing and cataloging cost to each of the participating libraries is estimated at 75¢ per volume. The project will be the property of the libraries involved, operating as a non-incorporated body. Executive Board officers are: David Griffith, Steubenville, Chairman; Mrs. Lillian Hinds, New Philadelphia, Secretary; James Pickering, Zanesville, Treasurer. Libraries participating are: Steubenville, Cambridge, Martins Ferry, Wellsville, Barnesville, New Lexington, Zanesville, Millersburg, Dover, New Philadelphia, Coshocton. The project will be open to other libraries.

More Books for Rural Areas

About 27,000 books with the major portion bought with Library Services Act funds were added to the collection during the year. This is approximately three times the number normally acquired by the State Library, thereby making the benefits of federal funds available to more libraries more quickly than could be done in any other way. Needless to say these books are immediately taken, almost before they are ready, by eager librarians for their many bookmobiles and rural branches. Even with the increased number of books, there are not enough to meet the demand created by 71 bookmobiles.

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Court Decision Hampers Libraries and Schools

For many years boards of education and library boards of the state have been working together in providing public and school library service. This has been done under a law which allows the two agencies to contract with each other and share the cost. In a surprise decision in 1958 the Supreme Court ruled that in the making of such contracts the school must pay all of the expense if it is able to do so. Ohio's Supreme Court has always been very careful, when interpreting the law, not to "legislate". However we think in this instance the court has legislated. When a law very clearly says that two people may contract with each other, an interpretation that one party and one party only must pay the expenses if able, would seem to be legislation.

Finances

The financial outlook for the State Library is bleak. Operating at starvation level, the library even dipped below this in the first half of 1958 when reductions ordered by the Finance Department were put into effect. As an example of what is meant by "starvation level" the library's book budget has remained the same (\$20,000) for the past eight years, although

the cost of books, which is the chief reason for the library's existence, has certainly gone up during that period. Worse yet, cutbacks reduced this amount to \$16,000.

An equally vexing problem is that of staff salaries. It is well known that state agencies, salary-wise, cannot compete with private industry but it is not so well known that the State Library, in its bid for qualified employees, cannot even compete with local public and school libraries here in Franklin County. For example, the high school librarian of Central High School across the river from the State Office Building receives a higher salary per year than do department heads of the State Library, although the former works only nine months, while the latter twelve months. The State Library cannot even compete with small suburban libraries like Bexley, Grandview Heights, and Worthington. The differential becomes still greater in competition with public libraries in industrial areas of the state. Worse yet, the library cannot compete with the salaries paid by its sister state agencies, the state-supported University Libraries.

Honors

The State Librarian was invited by the Health and Welfare Federation of Allegheny County to examine and consult with them regarding the operation and organization of the Homestead, Pennsylvania, Public Library, operated by the United States Steel Corporation.

The librarian has also been asked to serve as a consultant to the trustees of the Mellott Library Fund, Bellaire, Ohio. The fund was left for the purpose of constructing a library building in Bellaire. The building is now in the planning stage.

The librarian was elected Vice-President and President-Elect of the American Association of State Libraries.

State Library Board

The appreciation of the librarian and the entire staff of the library goes to the members of the State Library Board. They carry the final responsibility for the administration of the library. They come long distances to attend board meetings. They establish the policies of the library which by their very nature often bring criticism. They serve without pay. In short theirs is a thankless job, so this report affords us an opportunity to say to them publicly, "Thanks".

TOTAL State Office Buildings	78,713	108,675	135,495	24.6	14.3
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Each book is sent to local libraries for a year and is circulated by the local library on an average of 25 times during that year. Thus State Library books have an estimated circulation exceeding 1.5 million for 1958 but officially each book is recorded as circulated only once during the year.

State - from Regional Bookmobile	9,321	(2 months only)
Walter Library	17,267	(14 months only)
TOTAL (all State library units)	77,713	108,675

Receipts for Information and Research

Reference Room	7,351	6,754	8,406	11.8	19.5
Microfilm	222	1,010	1,415	13.3	15.5
TOTAL	7,573	7,764	9,821		

Books added to library	3,740	15,143	26,596
Government publications received	13,267	11,515	13,176

Ohio State Library
Statistical Supplement

				% Increase over	
	1956	1957	1958	1957	1956
Books issued in person	34,111	36,699	41,633	13.4	21.9
" " by mail	11,546	12,894	17,301	34.1	49.8
Loaned to local libraries)	46,556	59,082	76,564	29.5	64.4
Circulated by local libraries)	(931,120)*	(1,181,640)*	(1,531,280)*	_____	_____
TOTAL (State Office Building)	92,213	108,675	135,498	24.6	46.9

*Each book is sent to local libraries for a year and re-circulated by the local library on an average of 20 times during that year. Thus State Library books have an estimated circulation exceeding 1.5 million for 1958 but officially each book is recorded as circulated only once during the year.

Adams-Brown Regional Bookmobile	-----	-----	9,324 (2 months only)
Fulton-Henry " "	-----	-----	17,867 (3½ months only)
TOTAL (all State Library units)	92,213	108,675	162,689

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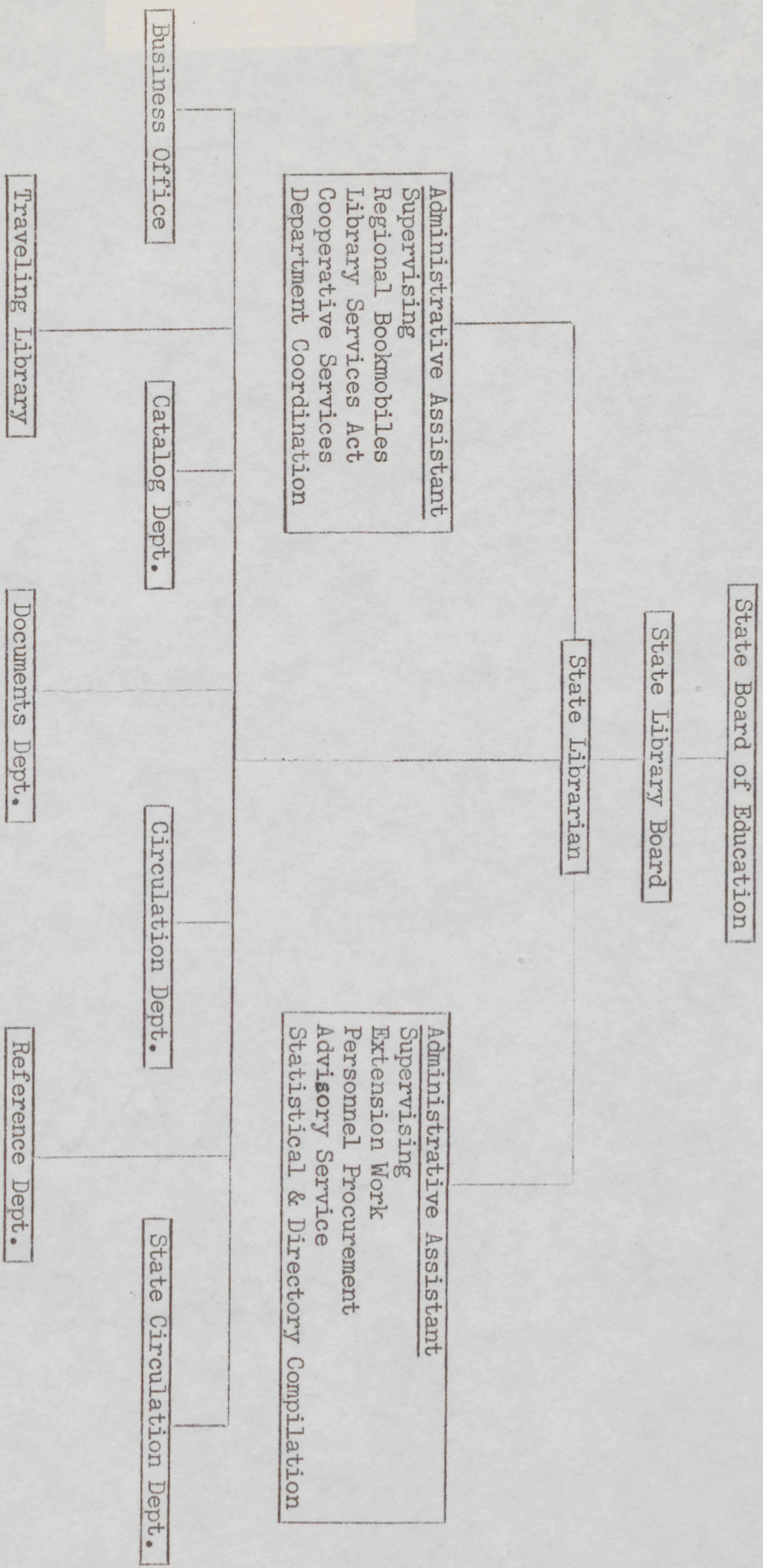
Requests for Information and Research:

Reference Room	6,851	6,754	8,906	31.8	29.9
Documents	<u>996</u>	<u>1,010</u>	<u>1,448</u>	43.3	45.5
TOTAL	7,847	7,764	10,354		

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Books added to Library	9,504	15,443	26,996
Government publications received	12,267	11,515	13,726

Organization Chart - State Library



February 18, 1959