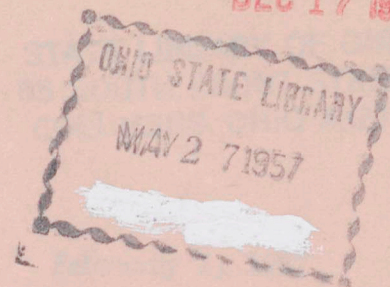


OL 1.1: 956

Ohio State Library

DEC 17 1957



---

OHIO STATE LIBRARY

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

ANNUAL REPORT

1956

---

**REFERENCE**

7



Ohio State Library

Annual Report of the Librarian

1956

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

February 1, 1957

To: The Honorable C. William O'Neill,  
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 1956. 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*

Walter Brahm  
State Librarian

WB:NC



Ohio State Library

Annual Report of the Librarian

1956

"...Libraries constitute in a very real sense the communal memory of mankind. They are charged with maintaining the organized record of human experience. Having access to this record, mankind can progress. Lacking it, each generation would be condemned to endless repetition of the experiments of its ancestors."

---Verner Clapp, Council on Library Resources

Reading in the Atomic Age

The use of Ohio libraries in 1956 will exceed all previous years when final records are completed.

The first half of the twentieth century saw the beginning of a highly scientific, atomic age which has led many to assume that people no longer will read books, no longer have the time or the inclination to read, and that the use of libraries is rapidly declining. Nothing could be more contrary to what actually is happening. From the turn of the century every new scientific invention was considered the death knell of reading and libraries. Back in 1896 the bicycle was considered to have an effect upon the amount of reading and the use of libraries. As reported by the Norwalk, Ohio, Reflector-Herald Newspaper, Frank Stoddard at that time wrote a letter to his publisher to this effect:

"The bicycle seems to be here to stay and it will surely ruin the reading of books. We publishers and authors will have to put a tax on bicycles to protect ourselves."

Following the bicycle came another rival in the form of the automobile. By 1923 the automobile was becoming such an important part of American life that the Library Journal at that time reported:



"As a barrier to the reading of books we are thoroughly familiar with the influence of the automobile. It was not so long ago that we were startled by an announcement to the effect that there was one motor car to every twenty persons in the United States. In 1923 the figures are nearly doubled - about one car to every eleven persons - this in spite of the growth of population. The effect of this increase in recreational opportunity cannot fail to be felt by public libraries."

However the automobile was a piker as far as its anticipated effect upon reading was concerned when compared with that of the movies. The same Library Journal referred to above was frank in expressing its deep concern on this matter:

"Then there is the moving picture, the recreational agency which helped to wipe out the saloon and won many friends thereby. For many years the inoffensive public library has had a chance to understand just how the saloon felt about the movie as a competitor and there appears to be no definite sign of an abatement in the effect of the moving picture program on the reading habits of our urban population. We are informed that in New York City a half million of people attend movies daily and throughout the country more than fifteen million face the silver screen every day. Such an influence cuts deeply into the ranks of the army of the stay-at-homes, the shock troops of every public library's clientele."

One would think the bicycle, the automobile, and the movies were sufficient evil, but librarians of that era had still more to worry about and were **not** reticent in expressing their fears:

"And now we have become aware of the presence of another competitor for the attention and the time of Mr. and Mrs. Average Man and their children. It is the radio. According to one estimate there are today more than seven million wireless instruments in the United States, most of whose operators are listening in on programs broadcast from some five hundred stations every afternoon and evening."



"Like the automobile, the radio is far-reaching in its influence. The whole family comes under its spell. There are thousands of individuals who appear to be quite bewitched by this instrument and its mysterious power. Many a 'tired business man' who at the office or on the golf course has the patience of a New York subway guard will sit breathlessly through the thrilling adventures of Peter Rabbit, those exciting weather reports, an exhilarating discussion of the styles for the winter of 1924, a snappy lecture on the influence of Walt Whitman on vers libre, and a Chopin program, and then after the family has retired he will stay up getting stations until after midnight, reporting at the breakfast table that he got Moosejaw, Painted Post or some other broadcaster of note."

Anyone remember those days?

And now on the scene has come the arch enemy of all time, television. At the inception of this new device about 1950, there was conviction in the minds of many librarians, and the average public, that such an instrument would really put the finishing touches on reading and public library service. But after six years of television in America, facts prove just the opposite. Libraries of Ohio reported the greatest circulation in their history in the year 1955 and while reports for 1956 are not yet in, indications are it will exceed that of 1955.

One book publisher has estimated that a book to be successful needs a sale of approximately \$20,000 which involves roughly one-ten thousandth per cent of the population. Any radio or television program which appealed to this small a group would be a dismal flop.

The scientific inventions of the past have encouraged the use of reading and libraries and it is safe to assume that future inventions will continue to make people dependent upon reading. Books and libraries are here to stay. The more complicated life becomes the more we will need and use them.

\* \* \* \* \*



Books in demand at the Ohio State Library in 1956 very clearly show the stimulating effect of TV and movies upon reading and public library use. Requests for material about Wyatt Earp were so frequent that the library's material on this man was in constant circulation and a long waiting list for such books built up. There is no question that the popular TV program was the producer of this demand. Earlier in the year when Arthur Godfrey on his TV program recommended the book, "Arthritis and Common Sense", an immediate run on the book started. Movies had much the same effect, creating a demand for several older books which had been made into movies during the year. Outstanding examples were, "Giant" by Ferber, "Anna and the King of Siam" by Landon, "Man in the Grey Flannel Suit" by Wilson, "Auntie Mame" by Tanner, and Han's "Many Splendored Thing".

As always, supernatural events and stories continue to interest everybody. The bandleader in this long parade of titles was "Bridey Murphy". Close behind came "Many Mansions" by Germinara, and "There is a River" by Sugrue, along with "You Will Survive After Death" by Eddy. Flying saucer books, which belong in this group until proved otherwise, continued in demand as much as ever.

That man is more concerned with himself than any other thing is proved by the popularity of such books as, "How to Live 365 Days a Year" by Schindler, "Achieving Happiness" by Hildebrand, "Magic Power of Your Mind" by Germain, and "Body, Mind and Sugar" by Abrahamson.

In the field of religion, Burroughs' book, "The Dead Sea Scrolls" started an avalanche of requests for information on the subject. The book has been in demand ever since it was issued and the library's other books on the Dead Sea scrolls became very popular.



Among fiction titles, several novels of the previous year continue their popularity. "Marjorie Morningstar", "Something of Value" and "Andersonville" led this group while popular new titles of the year included "Imperial Lady", "Don't Go Near the Water", "Thing of Beauty", "Peyton Place", and "Last Hurrah".

\* \* \* \* \*

Straws in the wind? Three significant trends in the use of the library developed in 1956.

First, the number of magazines circulated at the desk increased 45%. In trying to determine the cause of such an increase there is a possibility the increased cost of magazines has led some people to drop their subscriptions and so turn to the library for them. Only an opinion, however - no facts to back it up.

Second is the increase in the information use of the library. Nearly 8000 reference or research questions were received. Such questions require considerable time and the services of skilled professional people. The number of these requests coming in by mail increased 46% which means that in addition to finding the information it must be answered in written form.

Third is the increase in the number of documents or government publications received by the State Library. More than 12,000 state and federal publications were received in 1956. Accounting for this is the fact the library is doing an excellent job of acquiring such publications and government agencies are issuing more of them.

#### Federal Aid

Federal aid for rural library service in Ohio became a reality late in 1956 with passage by the 84th Congress of the Library Services Act



(Public Law 597). The act set up a procedure for distributing a maximum of \$7,500,000 annually for five years to the states for the extension of public library service to rural areas without such services or with inadequate services.

Because the bill was passed so late in the session Congress appropriated an amount which would provide only \$40,000 to each state for the first fiscal year ending June 30, 1957. To receive such Federal aid the State Library administrative agency must submit a plan for the use of the money and must match it with state and local funds in a proportion of approximately \$1.25 for every \$1.00 of Federal money.

Early in the year the State Library and a committee of the Ohio Library Association developed a tentative plan for expending the funds. In October the State Emergency Board appropriated \$5,280 to the State Library's budget to prepare a plan for submission to the U. S. Office of Education and for employing the initial personnel to administer the act in Ohio. The State Library Board at its meeting in September adopted the tentative plans and at its November meeting authorized the submission of the formal plans. The latter were officially submitted November 28. Additional information was requested by the U. S. Office of Education including certification by the Attorney General that the State Library Board had legal authority to administer the act, to receive the funds, and to supervise the administration of the project locally. Such certification was given by the Attorney General and this latest information filed in Washington December 28, 1956. The effective date of Ohio's plan was set for January 1, 1957 pending approval of the plan by the U. S. Office of Education.



The program of Federal aid can be a substantial help in providing rural library service in Ohio because the intangibles or classified property tax which supports library service in Ohio is not a very productive tax in most rural counties. However the state is required to do its share before Federal aid in sufficient amounts can become available. It will have to provide additional funds to the State Library to secure the personnel needed to supervise the project and the necessary funds to match Federal grants.

#### State Library and Archives Building

Little progress can be reported in the efforts of the Joint Committee of the Ohio Historical Society and the State Library Board to secure funds for a new State Library-Archives Building. In 1956 an application was filed by the committee for \$5,000,000 for such a building from the \$150,000,000 state building bond issue approved by the voters in November 1955. However the request was not acted upon by state officials. The present Governor's Mansion on East Broad Street was discussed as a possible site for the new building but here again no official action has been taken.

The need for a new building was further illustrated by the lack of adequate space and the inefficient arrangement of present space. The library is faced with book losses because of the arrangement of present quarters making it impossible to guard against theft or carelessness. We know of a number of valuable titles in our genealogy collection which disappeared. In addition there are many titles from our stacks which we believe are no longer there. The latter results from the fact that the public has access to the stacks without the staff knowing about it because the public elevators in the building open into the stacks. An inventory to determine exact losses is needed but the present limited staff makes this impossible.



With the inception of the Library Services Act, additional office space is needed for personnel and shelf space for the new books which will be received. We are forced to go into the sub-basement of the State Office Building, 13 floors below the present library offices, where an old catch-all storage room is being converted.

#### Legal Organization of State Library Board

Effective January 3, 1956 the State Library Board began functioning as a separate agency of state government. This resulted from legislation passed by the 101st General Assembly in 1955 when it determined the functions and duties of the new State Board of Education. The Attorney General, in an opinion issued March 12, 1956, (Opinion No. 6359), ruled that the State Library was no longer a division of the Department of Education.

In anticipation of requirements in the new law the Library Board at its December 1955 meeting elected Joseph E. Hurst, New Philadelphia, President, and Mrs. Elsie Bennett Wilson, Medina, Vice-President. The terms of such officers extend to June, 1957.

A vacancy on the board was created with the inception of the new law which discontinued the Superintendent of Public Instruction as an ex-officio member and chairman of the board. The State Board of Education which was made the appointive authority for all library board vacancies did not make an appointment to the board to fill this vacancy in 1956, it being the intention of the officers of the State Board of Education to wait until a new Superintendent of Public Instruction was selected and available for membership on the library board.

The result of such legislative changes organizes the State Library on exactly the same pattern as most local public libraries, with their library boards appointed by their respective boards of education.



### Public Libraries and the Intangibles Tax

The current method of financing public libraries from the intangibles (classified property) tax which the Ohio Municipal League sought to change in the 1955 legislative session was under study throughout 1956 by a special committee of the Legislative Service Commission. At hearings before the Commission the State Librarian presented a brief on the history and operation of the intangibles tax law (Libraries vs. Municipalities). At the present writing the Commission has not yet issued a report of its study.

### New Solution for Old Problems

The State Librarian recommended to local library officials throughout the state that they create some type of organization to more adequately cope with the many problems they are now facing and will continue to face, and to secure the financing necessary to successfully meet these problems. Legislative changes, the continuing struggle for local tax funds, the tremendous growth in population in residential areas of the state, the consolidation of school districts, the annexation of new areas by villages and cities are creating so many difficulties, financial and otherwise, that if public libraries in Ohio are to cope successfully with these problems which affect their very existence they must work together and be prepared. Acting on the recommendation the Ohio Library Association and the Ohio Library Trustees Association formed a Joint Public Relations Committee and established institutional dues in the Trustees Association to finance the work of the committee.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

Extensive research surveys were made and reports written for libraries in Tuscarawas and Wood Counties. A special study was made of the North Baltimore, Ohio public library and the Meadville, Pennsylvania public library.



The State Librarian served as president of the National Association of State Libraries in 1955-56 and as a member of the American Library Association's Committee on Library Legislation and its Committee on State Legislative Action. The librarian also served as a building consultant for new library buildings in Sidney and Ironton which are expected to be under construction early in 1957.

#### Staff

With the passage of the Library Services Act, an administrative office was set up in the State Library. Miss Ruth Hess, formerly head of the city circulation department, was placed in charge of the office and Mrs. Fe Pace added as a clerical and secretarial employee. Mrs. Margaret Keller replaced Miss Hess as head of the circulation department. Mrs. Keller is a graduate librarian who has had extensive experience in the Cleveland Public Library and in New Jersey county extension work. She has been away from library work for a number of years, raising a family, but, with her husband's recent illness and her family growing up, she is returning to library work. We are most fortunate to secure her. Mrs. Phyllis Hamner, assistant in the reference and state circulation departments, is leaving early in 1957 to become assistant in the Ironton, Ohio, public library. She is being replaced by Miss Rina Helen Matthiessen, a recent graduate of Ohio State University but without library school education or library experience.

I am extremely proud of the staff that maintains Ohio's State Library. Person for person I know of no other library staff in the state which provides the volume of service despite the headaches and frustrations which go with being a state employee. It cannot be stated too strongly here that the salaries paid State Library employees are not at all realistic. Consequently the various staff members find themselves in the unique position



of receiving calls for assistance and advice on library problems from local librarians who are receiving more salary than the State Library staff which is helping them solve their problems. Whether the state can continue to retain the library's excellent staff for another year without substantial increases is doubtful.

#### Library School Visits

Continuing a practice begun in 1954, the State Librarian and the Library Consultant visited 10 library schools, interviewed students for various positions, talked to classes about Ohio's library system and why Ohio is a good library state in which to work. Such visits have brought a number of librarians into the state and helped to ease the tremendous personnel shortage which exists. How great this shortage is can be illustrated by pointing out that, if all the graduates of all the library schools in the United States in 1956 had taken positions in Ohio, they still would not have filled existing vacancies. Because of the value of such trips to local librarians and trustees, the Ohio Library Association and the Ohio Library Trustees Association pay the travel expenses for them.

#### American Heritage Program

The American Library Association continued its grant to Ohio for the development of American Heritage discussion groups in local libraries for a third year but on a smaller scale. \$3500 was given and groups were organized by libraries in the following communities: Akron (3 groups), Bryan, Cambridge, Chillicothe, Cincinnati (2), Cleveland, Dayton (2), Delaware, Fremont, Marietta (2), Nelsonville, North Canton, Pemberville, Tipp City (2), Urbana.



Appreciation

May I say thanks to the members of the State Library Board. Their fine spirit of cooperation, helpfulness and encouragement is deeply appreciated by the entire staff. Their job calls for no pay and precious little honor. However, the very fact that there is a State Library Board, that its members faithfully take time from their regular jobs to come some distance to attend board meetings, and the knowledge that you are there when we need you, makes the library the kind of service agency that it is.

Walter Brahm  
State Librarian



Statistical Supplement

	1955	1956
Books issued at desk	33,692	34,111
" " by mail	10,526	11,546
Loaned to local libraries	<u>45,639</u>	<u>46,556</u> (931,120)*
Total	89,857	92,213

\*Each book is sent to local libraries for a year and recirculated by the local library on an average of 20 times during that year. These State Library books have an estimated circulation near one million but officially each book is recorded as circulated only once during the year.

\* \* \* \* \*

Reference questions		
Reference Room	5,577	6,851
Documents	<u>770</u>	<u>996</u>
Total	6,347**	7,847

\*\*incomplete for July and August

\* \* \* \* \*

Books added to library	10,409	9,504
Government publications received	7,206	12,267

\* \* \* \* \*



Appropriation

	Fiscal year ending in	
	1956	1957
Personal Service		
A-1 Salaries	\$ 66,648	\$ 69,504
A-2 Wages	7,000	5,280*
		7,000
Maintenance		
Supplies		
C-4 Office	1,500	1,500
C-4a Postage	1,000	1,000
Equipment		
E-1 Office	4,460	--
E-8a New Books	20,000	20,000
Contract and Open Order Service		
F-1a Repairs	200	200
F-5 Express	100	100
F-6 Travel	1,700	1,700
F-7 Communication	1,100	1,100
F-8 Printing & Binding	4,000	4,500
F-9 Other	150	150
Subsidy		
H-8 Library Aid	160,000	160,000
Rotary (Anticipated Federal funds)	--	40,000
Total	267,858	312,034

\*Appropriation by Emergency Board Oct. 1, 1956.