

Establishing and Maintaining a Local History Collection

Foreword

The information in this issue seeks to guide public librarians in the development of local history collections as integral parts of their libraries. The issue was compiled during the 1986-1988 biennium by members of the Public Library Section's Genealogy/Local History Committee of the North Carolina Library Association. The committee was assisted by Alice R. Cotten of the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Cathy J. Morris, then president of the Society of North Carolina Archivists.

Although local collections in public libraries normally contain both historical and genealogical materials, they will be discussed here as local history collections. A good local history collection should include print and non-print materials pertaining to the people and history of the geographical area for which the library is responsible. These should be supplemented with a basic collection of historical and genealogical works that

will aid patrons in placing the history of their communities or families in the context of North Carolina's past.

In leading the reader toward the goal of building a local history collection and making its resources available to the public, this guide begins with a discussion of collection development and continues with components on technical services, the library environment, staffing, programming, and marketing. The appendix contains bibliographies and addresses of used and rare book dealers, genealogical publishers, professional organizations, and vendors of archival-quality supplies.

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