

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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Historical Context

This is a historical document published in November 1942, during World War II. The journal reflects the perspectives, terminology, and social context of that era. Readers should be aware that some language and references may not align with contemporary standards and sensibilities. This document is preserved in its original form as an important record of library services and professional concerns during wartime America.

Cover Quote

"One of the first acts of the Japanese in the Philippines was to destroy an American library. The policy of the Nazis and the Fascists toward libraries, librarians, writers of books and readers of books has long been familiar to us. The Japanese by their act of barbarism adopted the Nazi policy for themselves.

"But they did more than that. They brought directly home to Americans the menace of this war to American civilization, American culture and American books—as well as those who use American books, produce American books and care for American books. Most of us have realized for a long time that we Americans were not immune. The fact is now made apparent to all of us."

—Elmer Davis to American Librarians

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Editorial Note

As NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES nears the end of its first year of publication, we pause to review and evaluate its growth. "This bulletin's purpose", as set forth in the original policy, "is to report on conditions as they exist in the field of librarianship and related fields in North Carolina; to report on progress made within various groups; to record recommendations, important decisions, etc." Under the capable leadership of the former editors—Sidney Holmes, Mary D. Grant and Sarah Bowling—NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES has grown into a state library bulletin to which the members look forward.

Some means of contact between librarians is vitally needed today when wartime problems have made cooperation not only desirable but imperative. With the cancellation of the annual conference of the American Library Association, and the biennial conference of the Southeastern Library Association a state bulletin is more essential than ever.

We, the new editors, plan no radical changes in your publication. We welcome your suggestions, your letters, and any news of the activities in your library.

The editorial office of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES was moved to Charlotte with the election of Mr. Galvin as President of the North Carolina Library Association. Because of travel difficulties the new editors were appointed from the Charlotte territory. We are

indebted to the former editors, and we, the new editors, hope that we will be able to maintain the high standards already established.

STATE AND FEDERAL AID

By Hoyt R. Galvin

Our experience with State Aid to Public Libraries as provided by the North Carolina Legislature for the biennium of 1941-43 has proven beyond doubt to have been a stimulating fund. Although only \$100,000 annually was provided by the 1941 Legislature when \$300,000 had been requested, we have seen substantial improvement in the state wide public library picture. Seventy-six of the 100 counties shared in the State Aid Funds in 1941-42 and it is confidently expected that additional counties will participate in 1942-43. The principal difficulty has been that the State Aid, as allotted on the basis of \$900.00 per county, has not made possible the establishment of minimum standards of library service in the counties of North Carolina.

For the biennium 1943-45, the Library Commission has requested an increase in the State Aid funds for public libraries. The amount requested is \$211,098 annually. The plan for allocating this amount of money is that each county would receive \$1200 annually with an additional five cents per capita for counties with more than 24,000 population. If this budget request is adopted, it will allow county libraries of the State to improve their standards. If we are to secure this increase in the appropriation, the librarians and friends of libraries of North Carolina must be active. Letters should be sent to the members of the Advisory Budget Commission, as well as to the members of the General Assembly which convenes in January, 1943. Don't stop with letters. Talk with these men personally.

Another possible source of assistance to school libraries is being considered in Congress. The Thomas-Hill Bill (S-1313) would, if enacted by Congress, provide Federal Aid to states for all types of expenses in public elementary and secondary schools. North Carolina's share of the Federal Funds would be \$20,443,500.00 annually if this legislation is enacted. A portion of this amount could and should be used to improve the school libraries of the State.

Again, as in the case of State Aid for public libraries, we must be active. Write your Congressmen and Senators. Publicize the importance of S-1313. Organize meetings to discuss the bill and cooperate with the North Carolina Education Association in its effort to secure the enactment of this Federal Aid Bill.

A BRIEF SURVEY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

By Nancy Gray, Librarian, Wilson County Library, Wilson, N.C.

Based on 1941-1942 statistical report of the North Carolina Library Commission

Many of the most important public library services cannot be measured statistically. Nevertheless, a survey can give a summary for North Carolina of the expenditures, book stock and acquisitions for the year 1941-42, showing the inadequacies as well as the growths. Librarians can look at the summary with pride, as they do their individual library reports and say, "It's not the best, but it's improving."

Of the 100 counties in the state, 77 have county library service, including two regional libraries of three counties each. These library systems serve the people in every section of the county by (1) a main library in the central or largest community in each county, (2) 33 county-owned and 10 city-owned bookmobiles, (3) 74 branch libraries with permanent collections, 19 of which are negro branches, and (4) 1,993 book stations in rural communities and schools.

The present trend is a shifting from the independent city library system to the county library system. In 1940-1941, North Carolina had 87 independent city libraries and only 28 county library units with as much as \$1,000 appropriated by the county commissioners; in 1941-1942, there were only 21 independent city libraries and 77 county library units with at least \$1,000 appropriation from county and state. During 1942-1943 additional county systems probably will be organized. Eight counties still have no public library within their borders, and 533,250 people still have no public library service.

Book Stock

A more adequate book collection is one of the greatest needs of the public libraries of North Carolina. Serving a population of 3,238,373 with 986,945 volumes, North Carolina libraries have .27 volumes per capita; the standards for public libraries for the American Library Association require a minimum of 1.5 volumes per capita. No public library in North Carolina has attained this minimum, but the acquisition of books for 1941-1942 shows growth.

TABLE I: Book Stock and Acquisitions (1941-1942)

Number of books in public libraries, June 30, 1942:

- County libraries: 822,139
- City libraries: 164,806

- **Total: 986,945**

Number of books added in 1941-1942:

- County libraries: 138,624
- City libraries: 17,343
- **Total: 155,967**

Financial Support

If public libraries cannot point with pride to their book stock, they can feel some satisfaction in the increase in appropriation. The State Aid Fund, in which 76 counties shared, was one of the chief means of increase. The county governments appropriated \$39,995.05 more in 1941-1942 than in 1940-1941; the city governments increased appropriations \$6,167.43. A total increase of \$143,582.08 was reported from city, county and state funds.

TABLE II: Incomes of Public Libraries

- Local funds: \$172,921.73
- County funds: \$180,992.08
- State funds: \$96,424.60
- **Total income for Public Libraries: \$450,000.62**

The increase in appropriations has enabled public libraries to improve their services by adding 155,967 new books, purchasing 12 new bookmobiles, lengthening library hours, extending Negro service, organizing county systems, and awakening the interest of the general public.

Use of Books

The circulation of books is a library service that can be measured statistically. With only 986,946 volumes the public libraries of North Carolina served 3,038,373 people, an average circulation of 1.6 volumes per capita or a total circulation of 5,841,885.

TABLE III: Comparison of North Carolina Public Libraries with American Library Association Standards

	N.C.	A.L.A.
Minimum volumes per capita	.27	1.5

N.C. A.L.A.

Minimum circulation per capita 1.6 5

Minimum annual income per capita .12 \$1.00

(National average annual income) .42

Conclusion

State-wide publicity of growth and achievements to awaken the interest of the public in library service has been an important part of the program of individual libraries and of the North Carolina Library Commission. Publicity can be measured only by its results and that has been shown by an additional increase of local funds for 1942-1943. To improve and extend public library service, appropriations must be increased.

Editorial Note on Surveys

Surveys of the college, university, public school, and public libraries included in NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES have revealed information of interest and importance. A comparative study of this type is one effective method of measuring and evaluating library services. The surveys conducted by members of the North Carolina Library Association have been informative and challenging to librarians all over the state. It is with this in mind that the editors have proposed a survey of special libraries of the state. Mrs. John S. Monahan, Librarian of the Charlotte Medical Library, has expressed interest in such a survey. She will welcome letters giving information about the various special libraries in the state. This study, because of the variety of special libraries, will be more of a report than a comparative survey.

WAR AND NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

"In the present war... librarians... carry a responsibility such as they have never carried in our history... they are combatants from this time on", stated Elmer Davis in his message to American librarians.

That librarians of North Carolina have recognized the necessity of converting the library to war conditions is evident from reports received from the libraries of the State. Here we have included a brief resume of the effect war has had on the various types of libraries, and what each library has done to meet the changing demands.

COLLEGE: Davidson College

Chalmers C. Davidson, Librarian

War has no doubt had less effect on the curriculum and the library collection of the Davidson College Library than on the other libraries of the State because of the R.O.T.C. Department. The sudden change to military-mindedness that has been necessary in so many institutions was effected here years ago.

However, the reading interests and outlooks of the student body have changed, radically. To meet this need the Library has purchased numerous popular books on the war and post-war planning, as well as a special collection of government publications on the different branches of service.

Special purchases for particular groups preparing for some branch of service (as the former V-7 men) have been necessary constantly.

Every effort has been made to gear an already "military-minded" Institution to war needs.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES: Charlotte Medical Library

Mrs. John S. Monahan, Librarian

As the only medical library in this section, the Charlotte Medical Library has branched out to serve the medical units of nearby army camps. The need for such service is indeed a vital one, and even desperate at times—as evidenced by a recent long distance call received from a medical unit quite some distance away for some material needed immediately. After several local telephone calls, the necessary information was on its way by special plane.

The first major change in the service of the Library here took place with the beginning of Selective Service. The local Medical Board gives the Library the number of draftees to be examined on a certain date, and requests that we notify the various doctors when they are to examine draftees.

The interests and work of borrowers has been only one among many changes in the Medical Library; in recent months we have established branches in all the hospitals of the city.

COUNTY: Davidson County Public Library

Mrs. Louise Justice Sink, Librarian

War is leaving its mark not only on every individual but on all institutions as well. The county public library does not escape. The effects of war on county libraries may be enumerated briefly:

The distribution of books is affected. By the ruling of the Office of Defense Transportation, bookmobile mileage must be reduced 25%, even though library administrators are desirous of equaling at least the service of last year. As bookmobile mileage is affected, so is individual travel in to the main library or branch libraries. It is necessary that library administrators plan bookmobile operation even more carefully to take care of the situation. As the war continues books and magazines become more important and must be made available to rural residents as well as to urban readers—"books are weapons".

Naturally, the type of reading has been affected by war. People read now specifically for information, for relaxation of war tenseness, and for spiritual strength. War information centers are vital parts of every library, with technical material, government regulations, pamphlets, etc., made available for the public. Book collections must be developed to meet the changing demands of county library borrowers.

The volume of reading has been and continues to be affected by war. During the first several months the average person was too tense to leave radio broadcasts or to lose himself in books, and circulation in all libraries was affected. Soon, however, adults and children (to whom the same tenseness was transferred) began in typical American fashion to readjust themselves, and again they turned to books. Volume of reading has been affected, also, by the loss of population or, conversely, by the influx of population to defense jobs or to the armed forces, with either a decrease or an increase in library circulation resulting. The loss or gain of population has also changed the demands made on county libraries.

The county library must make provision to meet these changes wrought by war. It must allow elasticity of rules and regulations. It must make books available in every section, to every person. Through war information centers, technical books, and its general book collection county libraries must keep streamlined to meet changes and new demands.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES: Charlotte City Schools

Report by Marylee Sharpe, fourth grade teacher, Dilworth School; Jane Hinson, Librarian, Charlotte Technical High School; and Hallie Sykes Bacelli, Harding High School, from materials submitted by librarians and teachers

As a result of the curtailment of WPA activities, the elementary school libraries of Charlotte are now staffed by Civilian Defense Volunteer Workers, who see that the libraries are kept open and that books are available for the students. (For several years before the war, WPA

Workers were the elementary school librarians.) Reading interests since the war have been developing along the lines of travel and (especially background stories of countries mentioned in current events, magazines, newspapers, radio programs, movies and adult life), biography (modern heroes such as MacArthur), aviation, first aid (particularly among Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts), war games, army and navy insignia, and background information of the war.

The five junior and senior high school libraries are staffed by professional librarians. In order to attempt to meet the requests for war materials, each library has established a war information center, and although no school library in Mecklenburg County has received public funds for two years, the libraries are supplying needed background materials for class discussions relating to the war. The girls as well as the boys are military-minded and the demands are great for any material connected with the war.

Debate, symposium and open forum materials on Background of the War, Why We Are Fighting, Hemispheric Solidarity, "Good-Neighbor Policy", Post-War Planning, Racial Problems, and current governmental problems are in constant circulation.

The Senior High Schools have experienced changes in curriculum registrations, as students elect more of the "Essentials" of education, (reading, writing, and arithmetic, social sciences, and science.) There is a new emphasis on guidance material—social, civic, health, recreational, and vocational. War problems in chemistry (synthetic rubber, chemical warfare), and mathematics (the use of trigonometry to fire guns, distances and speed problems of arithmetic translated into war terminology, and Navy entrance review examination questions), are very popular. The study of Spanish and the history of Latin America is receiving emphasis.

There are decided interests in first aid, home nursing, Consumer education, nutrition, and good health among the girls; aviation mechanics, Civil Air Patrol, Cadet Corps, and military planning are of most interest to the boys. English teachers are emphasizing the appreciation of good literature through the reading of the classics; history teachers are demanding more materials for the background of the war, problems of the war, post-war planning, and the democratic ideals.

Bulletin boards and magazines are noticed more carefully by the students. Students are quick to recognize the need for the most recent material possible and are requesting more pamphlet and magazine materials rather than book materials. (There has been no noticeable decline in book circulation, however.) Students seem more willing (and even eager) to read for information and for recreation.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT OF THE CHARLOTTE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary McNeely, Librarian

With the increasing difficulty of transportation, we expected a sharp drop in our circulation. This has not happened. As a matter of fact, we have more borrowers and a larger circulation than we have had heretofore at this time of year. However, there is a change in the type of books requested, a change growing directly out of our present war situation.

Those of us who work with young people are convinced of the truth of Emily Post's assertion that "Children are People". In many adult minds the word "children" means a group of small boys and girls chiefly interested in childish activities. Actually the boys and girls of the present are vitally interested in the war—in the actual fighting, in the mechanics of modern warfare, in the nations involved, and in the outstanding personalities headlined in the news. In the Young People's Department of the Charlotte Public Library the demand for books about the army, the navy, the marines, the air corps, the leaders, the fighting men, the locale of the battles and fighting nations, has grown to such an extent we cannot meet it entirely. Even a first grader will grow absorbed in any book with pictures about the war.

We also recognize that there is another type of demand growing out of the present war, which is much more important and which we are trying to develop and meet adequately. I am referring to the demand for books which will teach boys and girls the meaning of our way of life, show them why we are fighting, and what we hope to accomplish by fighting. We believe that it is of primary importance that the developing youth of today should understand and appreciate his democratic heritage. Therefore, we are stressing American history, both factual and fictional, American biographies and American geography. We also believe that it is vital that boys and girls should have some knowledge and understanding of other countries, both allied and enemy. An ideal of world fellowship can never be attained unless we develop an understanding and a tolerant universal mind. After all, it is the boys and girls of today who will make the post-war world. Therefore, in addition to supplying all of the material we can find on the mechanics of the war, we are encouraging the increasing demand for more American historical books and more books about other countries and peoples. We think that the increasing request for this type of reading matter speaks well for the intelligent awareness of the youth of today.

NORTH CAROLINA NEWS

Miss Evelyn Parks, who has been Librarian of the Stanly County Library in Albemarle, has been appointed Librarian of the Pack Memorial Library in Asheville, beginning work November 1, 1942. She will be replaced by Miss Evelyn Peeler, former Librarian of the Children's Department of the Greensboro Public Library.

Miss Doris Abbott, Head of the Circulation Department of the Charlotte Public Library, will become Librarian of Elizabeth City Public Library which serves Pasquotank and Camden Counties.

Miss Mary Scott Gurley, University of North Carolina School of Library Science, 1942, is Librarian at the Onslow County Library, Richlands, North Carolina.

Miss Evelyn Levine has resigned as First Assistant in the Cataloging Department of the Charlotte Public Library to accept a position in the Savannah Public Library.

Mrs. Jessie Bell Holliday established a trust fund for a library building for Clinton and Sampson Counties to be known as the J. C. Holliday Library in memory of her husband.

Congratulations! Mrs. Ruby B. Campbell, Librarian of Randolph County Public Library, reports a unanimous N.C.L.A. membership of the Randolph County Library Board. We wonder how many library boards measure up to the 100 per cent mark. Why not send in your report?

Miss Elizabeth Carroll become on October 1, 1942, Supervisor of County Library Service in Bertie, Chowan, Gates, and Washington Counties. Miss Carroll comes to North Carolina from Kentucky where she was Supervisor of the Kentucky WPA library project.

Camp Butner, Durham, North Carolina—Miss Mildred Young of Lexington, North Carolina, Misses Anne Strowd and Robbie Goodloe of Durham, have been appointed camp librarians at Camp Butner.

At a hearing of the State Advisory Budget Commission on October 7, 1942, Hoyt R. Galvin, Director of the Charlotte Public Library, and Miss Carrie Broughton, Chairman of the N. C. Library Commission Board, appeared with Miss Beal to request funds for State Aid for Public Libraries for the next biennium, July 1, 1943-June 30, 1945. The outstanding need in all sections is for more books, technical and general, to satisfy increasing demands.

Miss Mary Parham, who was Librarian of North Wilkesboro High School, is now Assistant Librarian of the Rockingham County Public Library. She succeeds Miss Elaine von Oesen, who is now Librarian of the Walker County Library, La Fayette, Georgia.

LIBRARIANS IN THE ARMED FORCES

Dr. Susan Grey Akers, Director, reports that there are thirteen North Carolina Library School Alumnae serving as librarians in United States Army, Navy, or Marine Libraries. Dr. Akers pointed out that men are not serving as librarians in the armed forces.

- **Mary Cutlip**, class of 1938, of Charlotte, North Carolina. Junior Librarian, Naval Air Base Library, Miami, Florida.
- **Mildred Davis**, class of 1936. Assistant, Periodical Department, University of North Carolina, 1938-1942. Librarian, Camp Pickett, Virginia.
- **Mary Delamar**, class of 1933, of Raleigh, North Carolina. Assistant Librarian, Worth Elliott Carnegie Library, Hickory, North Carolina, 1938-1942. Librarian, Officers' School Library, Quartermaster School, Camp Lee, Virginia.
- **Charlesanna Fox**, class of 1939, of Asheboro, North Carolina. Appointed as Librarian, Marine Barracks, New River, North Carolina (temporarily in Office of Director of Libraries, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.)
- **Sara Louise Hanlin**, class of 1934. Junior Librarian, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.
- **Sudie Kennon**, class of 1940. Librarian, Chapel Hill, North Carolina High School, 1938-1940. Camp Librarian, Fort Eustis, Virginia; Camp Lee, Virginia, 1941-1942. Librarian, Special Service School, Fort Meade, Maryland.
- **Winifred Lion**, class of 1941. Post Librarian, Maxwell Field, Alabama.
- **Nettie Taylor**, class of 1941. Librarian, Camp Library, Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania.
- **Margaret Thornton**, class of 1941. Librarian, Research Department, Technical Library, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland.
- **Mildred Vick**, class of 1940. Librarian, Camp Lee, Virginia.
- **Ethel Walker**, class of 1939. Librarian, Hillsboro, North Carolina High School, 1937-1941. Librarian, Field Artillery Replacement Center Service Club, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
- **Charlotte Wester**, class of 1939. Librarian, Reidsville, North Carolina High School, 1939-1940. Children's Librarian, Rock Hill, South Carolina, Public Library, 1941-1942. Librarian, Marine Corps Schools Library, Quantico, Virginia.

- **Mildred Young**, class of 1939. Librarian, Lexington, North Carolina High School, 1939-1942. Librarian, Camp Butner, North Carolina.
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GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

With the wealth of new materials dealing with war activities and post-war planning that librarians must read, it is inevitable that some articles will be overlooked. Of particular interest to all of us are:

"Between two wars in the British Museum Library" by Arundell J. K. Esdaile and "The Bibliothèque Nationale during the last decade" by Jose Meyer, both in *Library Quarterly*, October, 1942.

"Bombing of the Books" by W. C. Berwick Sayers in *Library Journal*, October 1, 1942 is a thrilling article on how Britain's libraries have continued to serve civilians and the armed forces in face of difficulties. It is a real challenge to American librarians.

"This is our War" by Fern Long, the first of the series America on the war, was issued as the second part of the *A.L.A. Bulletin*, October, 1942. It is perhaps the best summary of books and pamphlets that are a real contribution to the war enterprise.

"Converting the library to war conditions" by Ruth Rutzen is an eleven-page article in the *A.L.A. Bulletin*, October, 1942 which offers practical ideas to libraries of limited resources on how to convert those materials to use under war conditions. Though all libraries have war information available, this article presents criteria for measuring the accomplishments of an individual library.

"Libraries and the War"—Watch for this section in the bi-weekly publication, *Education for Victory*, for discussions of important booklists, bulletins, and other useful state and local publications. It is an excellent clearinghouse for library war publications.

School Librarians: "School libraries and the war" by Homer W. Anderson in *A.L.A. Bulletin*, August, 1942 is worthy of a second reading.

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