

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY

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On the threshold of a new era, the North Carolina State Library now has its responsibilities spelled out for the first time. This achievement is an outgrowth of the Governor's Study Commission appointed in 1953. The Commission devoted one section of its study to the cultural and educational agencies in North Carolina's state government organization. The Institute of Government, Chapel Hill, was employed to do the research for the Commission.

Included with the cultural and educational study were the five library services at the state level: The State Library, the Library Commission, the Department of Archives and History, the Supreme Court Library, and the School Library Adviser in the Department of Public Instruction. In an effort to foster more efficiency and to improve services, several combinations of service were considered but under the existing physical and organizational structures the only currently feasible change in the library area was recommended to the General Assembly of 1955.

The Study Commission Chairman introduced in this legislative session a bill to merge the former State Library and the Library Commission, already housed in the Library Building, into a single administrative unit with specified areas of service and with a governing board of eight. The resulting act provided that six members of the board be appointed by the Governor and two serve *ex officio*: the librarian of the University of North Carolina and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The new board was sworn in on July 1, 1955, and had one year to govern the two separate agencies and to make plans for the merger which became effective on July 1, 1956.

Prior to that date, an organizational service chart had been developed, personnel needs appraised, additional funds secured from the Contingency and Emergency Fund for personnel, retirements acknowledged and new personnel employed. With the exception of Miss Carrie Broughton, State Librarian, and Miss Mary Yates, Cataloger, in the State Library, both of whom retired July 1, 1956, the other members of the two staffs continued in the reorganized North Carolina State Library. In addition to replacements, three new positions were filled. A staff of twenty-two, including janitor-messengers and pages, is involved in merging the two agencies and establishing the new services.

The North Carolina State Library is organized as the focal point of state-wide library service with two basic functions: (1) providing library service to all state officials and employees of the many state agencies and to the people of the entire state through a network of public libraries; (2) aiding, promoting, and encouraging library development throughout North Carolina.

The present State Library resources consist of the holdings of both former agencies. These resources are being integrated into one working collection with general reference on first floor, genealogical reference on second floor, and the other materials in the stack areas. The State Library collects and organizes printed and filmed materials about

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North Carolina and its people; the Department of Archives and History maintains manuscript and other primary source materials.

The State Library newspaper collection is one of the most comprehensive in this region, and currently fifteen papers are being received on film. The early papers used frequently in historical research are being put on film as rapidly as budgets permit.

Both census reports and newspapers on film are housed on the second floor where users have ready access to micro-readers. A service started by the old State Library, and being continued, is the indexing of the *Raleigh News and Observer*.

The main reference and the general book collections are selected to meet the needs of state employees in their line of work, the needs of citizens who live in the six counties without library service, and to supplement the limited book collections of the public libraries of the state. College and special libraries may borrow from this collection also.

To facilitate the location of materials in the State Library and in other state agencies, a union card catalog is being established. In addition to the materials currently housed in the Library Building, this catalog will include the holdings of each state agency and other significant holdings throughout the state. At present special subject collections in fourteen public libraries are listed in the union catalog.

The project of merging the two book collections and the two card catalogs of the former libraries is underway. Many variations in classification and cataloging make it a slow and tedious process. Differences must be reconciled and more analytics must be included before a truly useful card catalog can be established.

The State Library does not propose to have all needed resources within its collection, but it anticipates being able to locate materials through a comprehensive union catalog and marked indexes to facilitate a better interlibrary loan program. For several years the Library Commission has served as a clearing house for interlibrary loans among public libraries. Now with greater resources and more adequate catalogs, this loan service can be improved and expanded. The State Library accepts a definite responsibility to provide library materials not available through a citizen's local library.

Informational films in the area of adult interests are made available through the public libraries as a result of a cooperative project. The State Library, public libraries of the state, and the Bureau of Audio-Visual Education, Extension Division, University of North Carolina, maintain the Public Library Adult Film Project. These films are available to the thirty-three participating libraries on a monthly block booked basis, but a large collection is available for spot booking through any public library of the state. Maintenance of the collection and distribution is done by the Bureau of Audio-Visual Education, which also distributes a handbook and supplements listing all films and schedules and giving other pertinent information.

Prior to the merger, the State Library was a depository on a limited basis for Federal Documents. A selected Federal Document collection is being continued and a complete collection of state publications is being sought. In the act establishing the new agency, authority is given to requisition up to five copies of all publications issued by every state department. Four copies are requested: two for the Library of Congress and two for State Library use. One will be available for circulation and one will remain in the library at all times. Formerly the University of North Carolina Library sent copies of state publications to the Library of Congress and issued a checklist of state agency

publications. Henceforth, the State Library will supply the Library of Congress the required two copies and will collaborate with the University of North Carolina Library in publishing a checklist.

The administration of State Aid and Federal Aid for library service is a responsibility of the State Library.

Consultant services are provided for public libraries, State institutions, such as, hospitals and prisons, and college libraries when requested.

The work of the reorganized State Library is carried on by an administrative staff and three divisions. Each division has primary responsibilities, but the services of each are interlocked so that they function as a team. The divisions are General Services, Extension Services, and Technical Services.

The General Services Division is responsible for the selection and use of books and other informational materials. Reference services and materials are available at the Library Building and by mail. The division serves as a clearing house for interlibrary loans between libraries within and without the state. Materials are lent to libraries and to qualified individuals for one month with a two week renewal privilege on request. When specific need is identified, collections of books are available to public libraries for three or six months. Materials are sent prepaid to borrowers in the state; borrowers pay return charges.

The Extension Service Division extends service beyond the walls of the State Library. The division is staffed by librarians who serve as consultants to North Carolina libraries and to communities which wish to establish libraries. Visits are made to all areas, where assistance is given on all phases of library service such as book selection; bookmobile service; building plans; special programs for children, young people and adults; film services; tax votes and budgets.

Among the main responsibilities of the Technical Services Division are the acquisition of books, periodicals, newspapers, State and Federal Documents, and other materials; the classification, cataloging and processing of materials for use in the library and through interlibrary loan. The division compiles and issues bibliographies on specific subjects or special collections as requested by librarians, state agencies, state organizations and other groups.

The State Library staff works with committees and sections of the North Carolina Library Association and other organizations in planning and sponsoring cooperative activities, workshops, and institutes to improve library services. Annually, it collects, compiles and issues statistics of North Carolina libraries: public, college and university, and special. A narrative report is issued biennially. Monthly publications include a newsletter, an acquisitions list of nonfiction, and a book suggestion list for small public libraries.

The State Librarian serves on the North Carolina Public Library Certification Board as designated by the General Statutes, and all records and correspondence for Board activities are housed in the State Library.

The State Library is also a member of the Library Section of the Governor's Research Triangle with Duke University, State College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This cooperative project will enable the units involved to collectively acquire better resources and enlarge the research facilities available throughout the state.

Another service maintained by the State Library is a clearing house for library placement. Candidates for professional and subprofessional library positions are given information about current vacancies and employers are supplied information about prospective candidates. It is a referral service, and information about a librarian received from the State Library does not constitute a recommendation.

The North Carolina State Library is a public service agency for the people of the State. It cooperates with other cultural and educational agencies and organizations in helping provide more adequate library service to North Carolinians and welcomes opportunities and suggestions for improving services.

TRUSTEE ACTIVITIES

Tom Alexander was recently appointed to the Haywood County Library Board.

A. L. Brandon is the new chairman of the Thomas Hackney Braswell Memorial Library in Rocky Mount. Other new members of the board are: Julian B. Fenner, O. L. Barringer, Jr.; The Rev. Charles B. McLaughlin, William Shaw, Frank S. Spruill, Mrs. Dillon Rose, Mrs. Travis Davenport, Mrs. L. S. Kornegay and Mrs. W. L. Draper.

Mrs. Fred N. Bryan is a new trustee of the Kinston Public Library.

Mrs. Harry Gurganus is the new secretary of the board of trustees, George H. and Laura E. Brown Library, Washington, North Carolina.

Robert N. Hadley has been elected chairman of the Dunn Library Commission.

New trustees of the Pittsboro Public Library are: Mrs. E. B. Hatch, Mrs. J. W. Blake, and Mrs. T. W. McBane

New trustees of the Goldston Public Library are: Mrs. Frank Hayes, Mrs. H. G. Phillips, and Mrs. Ollie Garner.

Mrs. W. H. Hazard, of Haw River, is a new trustee of the May Memorial Library, Burlington.

Robert B. Morgan has been appointed to the board of trustees of the Harnett County Library.

New appointees to the board of the Olivia Raney Library, Raleigh, are Catherine Paschal and Donald S. Kimrey.