

Retrospection: The First Hundred Years of North Carolina's Libraries ~1961-1975~

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This sixth in a series of articles about North Carolina's libraries begins in 1961. Lawmakers on the national, state, and local levels had realized the importance of libraries, and funds were readily available to support a boom in library development during the next decade.

Two types of libraries emerged in the 1960s as important partners in the expansion of North Carolina's libraries. The number of special libraries grew from 37 in 1960 to 96 in 1966, but these institutions were more closely aligned with similar libraries within their own industries, health care facilities, or churches. They related more to members of the Special Libraries Association than with public, school, and university/college libraries.¹ In 1963, the General Assembly created the Department of Community Colleges under the State Board of Education to include 20 successful industrial education centers and one technical institute. Within seven years there were libraries in 50 institutions that aligned with other community college libraries in the state.²

A development that emerged in Ohio during this time has made the largest single impact in the history of libraries. OCLC (The Ohio College Library Center) and its regional networks such as SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network) have drawn all types of libraries together. Institutions worldwide depend on OCLC and its multi-million record database, WorldCat, to the point that many operations come to a standstill when there are network communications problems.

Public Libraries

The 1967 Legislative Commission to Study Library Support was charged to study the history of public library funding, to identify possible sources for additional support, and to recommend a support structure to the 1969 General Assembly. Chairman David Stick's vision was for all levels of government—federal, state, and local—to share proportionately in supporting public libraries.³

The Library Services and Construction Act (1964) had great significance for North Carolina public libraries. Only four percent of public libraries had been built after 1940, so the prospect of grants for construction and renovation were welcome. This program stimulated local support for libraries and helped to meet the growing demand for public library services.⁴ After several years of increased funding, the number of new library buildings declined during 1968-1970, reflecting the significant cuts in LSCA funds for library construction.

The following statistics show growth in public libraries supported by increased funding on the national, state, and local levels.

Public Library Statistics

	1959-1960	1974-1975
Population	4,391,655	5,082,059
Volumes	3,679,531	7,018,500
Bookmobiles	106 (94 counties)	73 (89 counties)
Current Income	3,363,771.98	18,479,006
Per Capita Income	.74	3.64 ⁵

The increased funding also resulted in a large number of new buildings during 1960-1975.

1962-1964

New Buildings

Asheboro	Forest City
Greensboro	Greenville
Oxford	Red Springs
Roanoke Rapids	

New Branch Libraries

Charlotte	King
Sharon Community, Mecklenburg County	Mint Hill

Remodeled Buildings

Clinton	Draper
Halifax	Maysville
Newland	Raleigh
Swannonoa	Wallace

Enlarged and Renovated Quarters

Kings Mountain	Raeford
Waxhaw	Welcome

New Spaces Added

Concord	Henderson
Reidsville	Southern Pines
Thomasville ⁶	

1964-1966

New Buildings

Northwest Branch, Charlotte
MacMillan, Red Springs
Richard H. Thornton, Oxford
Greensboro Public

* Professor Emerita, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

Randolph Public, Asheboro
 Mooneyham Public, Forest City
 Given Memorial, Pinehurst
 Reynolda Manor Branch, Winston-Salem
 *Southeast Branch, Greensboro
 *Gunn Memorial, Yanceyville
 *Davie County Public, Mocksville
 *Montgomery County, Troy
 *Union County Public, Monroe
 *Shepard-Pruden Memorial, Edenton
 *Liberty Public, Liberty
 *Pender County, Burgaw⁷

*Constructed with LSCA assistance

1966-1968

New Buildings

Black Mountain Public
 Dare County, Manteo
 Dunn Public
 Henderson County, Hendersonville
 Hertford County, Winton
 Moore County, Carthage
 Person County, Roxboro
 Polk County, Columbus
 Robeson County, Lumberton
 Siler City Public
 Southport-Brunswick County, Southport

Additions

McDowell County, Marion
 Sheppard Memorial, Greenville

Renovations

Elbert Ivey Memorial, Hickory⁸

1968-1970

New Buildings

Spruce Pine
 Marianna Black, Bryson City
 Northampton County, Jackson
 Jackson County, Sylva
 Benjamin Branch, Greensboro
 Yadkin County, Yadkinville
 Alexander County, Taylorsville
 Carteret County, Beaufort

Additions

Washington County, Plymouth⁹

1969

The Archives and History State Library Building was dedicated May 15.¹⁰

1974

The new Bordeaux Branch of the Cumberland Public Library was dedicated November 24.¹¹

School Libraries

A 25-year study conducted in the 1960s showed tremendous growth in North Carolina's school libraries. Collections, which were mainly books and some periodicals in 1940, had grown to include newspapers, maps, globes, pamphlets, pictures, films, filmstrips, slides, records, and transparencies by the mid 1960s. All statistics grew exponentially and the demand for library personnel

exceeded the supply. Federal legislation along with state funding supported growth in collections and staff. Federal programs included Titles I, II, III, and V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (1965), Title III of the National Defense Education Act (1958, extended in 1964), and the Vocational Education Act (1963). By the late 1960s, all junior and senior high schools and 95 percent of elementary schools had libraries. New construction provided adequate space for the evolving collections, but many continued to be housed in older buildings.

School Library Collections, Circulations, Personnel, and Expenditures

	1939-1940	1960-1961	1967-1968
Library books owned	2,163,183	6,765,372	12,208,527
Volumes per pupil	2.5	6.02	10.27
Volumes added		665,496	1,357,131
Total circulations	8,257,486	26,763,986	47,004,042
Circulations per pupil	12.24	23.82	38.71
Personnel	103	558	1,755
Pupils per librarian		2,041	694
Expenditures	\$268,530.00	\$2,598,539.58	\$7,629,926.00
Average per pupil	.40	2.31	6.32 ¹²

University and College Libraries

With the growing demand for services, rising costs, and spiraling enrollments in colleges and universities, Jerrold Orne, director of the North Carolina Board of Higher Education, presented the need for statewide cooperation among libraries. By the mid-1960s, relationships between libraries were being studied with the goals of setting limits for development of college and university libraries according to the size of their institution and encouraging cooperation between libraries rather than duplicating some services and collections.¹³

The following summaries show the phenomenal growth of university and college libraries between 1960 and 1975.

University and 4-Year College Libraries (38)

	1959-1960	1974-1975
Full-time Staff	418	1,270.3
Enrollment	59,665	141,021
Books	4,564,056	11,341,918
Salaries	\$1,740,629.85	\$11,341,999.00
Books, etc.	\$1,141,457.78	\$ 8,365,083.00
Binding	\$ 116,607.72	\$ 598,891.00

Two-Year College Libraries (23)

	1959-1960	1974-1975
Full-time Staff	39	161.7
Enrollment	8,781	53,144
Books	267,503	837.470
Salaries	\$ 135,201.76	\$ 1,521,005.00
Books, etc.	\$ 61,581.76	\$ 948,297.00
Binding	\$ 4,872.99	\$ 3,292 ¹⁴

Before 1969, each of the public colleges and universities allocated money for libraries depending on the library's favor on campus. This changed with the formation in 1969 of the Advisory Committee of Librarians, which named subcommittees to prepare recommendations for the Board of Higher Education. The Board had previously requested and received an additional \$4 million from the 1969 General Assembly to address some deficiencies in libraries. The effectiveness of this organization of librarians is reflected in the 174 percent increase in expenditures of the 16 UNC System libraries from 1967-1968 (\$5,956,223) to 1974-1975 (\$16,334,882).¹⁵

Many of North Carolina's university and college libraries moved into new or renovated buildings during the 1960s and 1970s.

1964

The **Warren Wilson College** Library moved into a new building in June.



Main entrance to the Warren Wilson College Library ¹⁶

The **Asheville-Biltmore College** (now UNCA) library moved into its new building, named in honor of D. Hiden Ramsey, in the summer.¹⁷

1967

Methodist College dedicated the Geraldine Tyson Davis Memorial Library in November. Mrs. Davis' \$100,000 gift made possible early construction of the building.¹⁸

Pembroke State College opened the new Mary H. Livermore Library in September; it was built with State and Federal matching funds.¹⁹

Eight libraries in N.C. receiving grants from the Association of College and Research Libraries for the purchase of library materials and for some consultants' fees included **Atlantic Christian, Belmont Abbey, Catawba, Elon, Greensboro, High Point, Johnson C. Smith, and Meredith** colleges.²⁰

The James Addison Jones Library at **Brevard College** was dedicated in the spring; total cost of the building and equipment was \$517,000.²¹

A new wing of the Carl A. Rudisill Library at **Lenoir Rhyne College** was dedicated on October 22. Funding included

major gifts from the Carl A. Rudisill Foundation and the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation. The library addition culminated twelve years of building construction on campus.²²

The James B. Duke Memorial Library opened in September at **Johnson C. Smith University**.²³

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson participated in the dedication of the new wing of Hunter Library at **Western Carolina University** on March 14, 1967.²⁴

1969-1970

Duke University added its millionth volume in April 1969. The second library addition was dedicated in April 1970 and the entire facility was named the William R. Perkins Library.²⁵

1973

The **Kittrell College** library was lost to fire.²⁶

1974

The Corriher-Linn-Black Library at **Catawba College** marked the addition of its 100,000th volume on May 3.²⁷

Davidson College dedicated the new \$4.2 million, E.H. Little Library September 27.²⁸

Gaston College received \$500,000 from Federal Vocational Education Act funds for a new learning resource center.²⁹

The **Duke University** Marine Laboratory opened the I.E. Gray Library Auditorium Building, which includes the Pearse Memorial Library, in May.³⁰

The \$1.25 million John R. Dover Memorial Library at **Gardner-Webb** was dedicated on October 19.³¹

1975

The new 90,000-square-foot addition to J.Y. Joyner Library at **East Carolina University** was occupied in March. Renovations began in September on the original part of the library.³²

Conclusion

During the 1970s, online searching began to emerge as a vital part of library services. This new feature changed public services, collection development, and facility design in libraries. During the next 15 years, the development of a dependence on OCLC and its features did more to draw public and technical services staff together than any other single development in the history of libraries. Coordination of statewide school media programs was an important development during the late 1970s that gave school library personnel guidance in developing their fast-growing collections.

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