

Library building in 1948 with more generous accommodations for research, especially for rare books and manuscripts, (4) addition of the millionth volume in 1950-51, (5) long-range planning in the late 1950's, (6) appointment of a Board of Visitors for the library in 1964, and (7) naming the General Library in 1966 for the late Judge William R. Perkins, a long-time associate of James B. Duke and author of the Duke Endowment. A Committee on Systems Applications to Library Procedures was appointed this year, and study of implications of data processing for the library has begun.

During the last 27 years the Duke University Library—along with almost all other research libraries—has developed conspicuously and has undergone substantial changes in character. From the vantage point of 1967 it appears certain that even greater changes are in prospect for the next quarter century.

## DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN N. C.

by

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Twenty-five years ago, when the first issue of *North Carolina Libraries* was published, the depression was ending and Pearl Harbor had mobilized the nation for World War II. Public libraries had been used by many to upgrade their skills or occupy idle hours. There were 39 town libraries, 74 county libraries, and six counties were in two regional library systems. A quarter century later there were 30 municipal libraries, 54 county libraries, and 45 counties were in 15 regional library systems.

Organizationally, the outstanding feature of public library development has been the growth of regional libraries. The B H M Regional Library serving Beaufort, Hyde, and Martin Counties in the East has grown from 15,873 volumes and an income of \$10,198.33 in 1941-42 to 95,472 volumes and receipts of \$66,670.06 in 1965-66. In the West, the Nantahala Regional Library serving Cherokee, Clay, and Graham Counties increased from 10,250 volumes and \$15,303.41 to 62,629 volumes and \$42,026.84 during the same period. In 1966, four regions served over 100,000 people and four others over 75,000. Per capita income for all 15 regions ranged from 60¢ to \$1.67. The average per capita income for all public libraries in 1966 was \$1.31.

Currently the public library standards debate is over whether a good public library system should have at least 100,000 volumes or 100,000 adult nonfiction titles. Twenty-five years ago only one public library in the State had over 75,000 volumes and two others had more than 50,000. (Pack Memorial, Asheville, 76,899; Charlotte Public, 67,732; Greensboro Public, 50,149) By June 1966, 31 libraries owned more than 50,000 volumes, 18 of them owned over 75,000 volumes, seven of them had over 100,000, three over 200,000, and one over 400,000.<sup>2</sup>

The circulation of printed materials by public libraries has doubled since 1941. The circulation total of annual reports rose from 6,856,556 in 1940-41 to 14,765,321 in 1965-66. Actually, the peak circulation of 15,149,212 occurred in 1962-63. Since then, there has been a slight decrease in number of books checked out of libraries. No figures are available to show the great increase in use within the library of ever-improving reference resources. As physical facilities became more adequate and made the acquisition and use

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<sup>2</sup>Mecklenburg, 426,030; Greensboro, 234,635; Forsyth, 204,861; Durham, 159,327; Gaston, 145,600; Asheville, 125,092 and the Neuse Region, 120,459.

of periodicals and other current and reference sources possible, new devices for measuring in-library use were needed.

The need for personnel for public libraries, both professional and clerical, has not been diminished in the past quarter century. At no time have North Carolina public library standards of one staff member per 3,000 people been approached. In 1942, certification requirements for public librarians were "one year's professional training for libraries serving more than 15,000 population, 12 semester hours for the 6-15,000 population group and 6 semester hours for places with less than 6,000 people." A report by Mary Peacock Douglas in the June, 1942 issue of *North Carolina Libraries* stated that there were 37 full-time professional librarians with a "B.L.S. degree" employed in 29 public libraries. In 1966, the State Librarian estimated in his *Biennial Report* that there were 181 professional librarians in the public libraries of the state and about 30 vacant professional positions.

In 1941, most of the older and larger libraries in the state were still in monumental Carnegie buildings constructed 25 or more years prior to that date. At least eleven public library buildings were constructed with the help of WPA, and three similarly financed community buildings provided library quarters. Since then, some new libraries were built each year until 1965, when Congress appropriated construction funds under the expanded Library Services and Construction Act. In North Carolina, since 1965, 29 new libraries and several major additions had been built or were under construction with Federal aid.

North Carolina's public libraries had more books, more personnel, and better physical facilities in 1966 than in 1941, though they were still below standards for minimum good public library service.

Most studies of public library users have shown the greatest adult use to be by students of all ages from high school through college. Of the users not in school, those with the highest educational attainment were in the majority. In North Carolina, the public libraries have given the best possible service to those who have come in to get it. New programs and publicity were designed primarily for the educated groups which were the library's normal clientele. During the past five years, in line with a national trend, efforts have been made to reach the undereducated person. Community colleges, technical institutes, and industrial education centers have cooperated with public libraries to identify for the newly literate the public library as a source of continuing education. A new awareness of the different needs and attitudes of people in the lower economic and educational segment of the community is beginning to affect service patterns.

The most significant improvements in the public library services of the state were made through the cooperative activities of the growing corps of professional public librarians. Beginning with an historic workshop held in Lexington May 17-19, 1950, the Public Libraries Section of N.C.L.A. mobilized itself into a year-round working organization dedicated to cooperatively seeking services which public libraries could not provide separately. Working with the Library Commission staff (which became the State Library staff in 1956), public librarians continued to sponsor workshops for both professional and clerical staffs and to issue publications such as the *Personnel Manual*, *Outline for a Staff Manual*, and *Trustees Guidebook*.

The Interlibrary Loan Program was established in 1951 after cooperative planning the preceding year. Beginning with seven public libraries which served at least 75,000 people and had local interest in subjects needed throughout the State, the Library Commission allocated State Aid funds to assist in the purchase of materials to be lent state-

wide. In 1966, there were 17 special subject collections in fields ranging from art to textiles.

In 1952, the North Carolina Adult Film Project began as a cooperative effort of public libraries, the Library Commission, and the University of North Carolina's Bureau of Audio-Visual Education. In 1966, the 1,367 films owned by the Project were shown to 11,351 groups totaling 310,724 viewers. The addition of a full-time audio-visual consultant to the State Library staff stimulated knowledge and use of non-book materials throughout the state.

As a result of cooperative planning by both public librarians and the State Library staff, the State Library opened a Processing Center in 1959. In 1966, the Center served 53 libraries, processed 106,617 volumes. In order to continue and expand operations, the Center must automate its procedures.

Cooperation among public libraries has made their limited resources go further than any could have gone alone. Recent Federal legislation will encourage increased interlibrary cooperation.

Most of the deficiencies of public library services, with the exception of that of professional librarians, can be remedied by adequate financing. Traditionally, the principal support of the public library has been local. State aid to public libraries has supplemented local funds in North Carolina since 1941. Library Services Act funds were added in 1957. The libraries averaged in 1966 about one-third of the amount of current operating income which would be required for good public library service. The 1967 General Assembly enacted legislation to establish a legislative commission to study public library financing. This commission should start with the report of the Governor's Commission made in 1965 and recommend the best division of financial responsibility between local, state, and Federal governments and legislation to facilitate adequate support.

To conclude, public libraries have improved in many ways in the past 25 years; however, progress must be accelerated rapidly in the immediate future.

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"A wise man, like a good refiner, can gather gold out of the drossiest volume." — John Milton, *Areopagitica*.

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"A book may be as great a thing as a battle."

—Benjamin Disraeli  
*Memoir of Isaac D'Israeli*

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"Everybody likes and respects self-made men. It is a great deal better to be made in that way than not to be made at all." — Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

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"The foolishhest book is a kind of leaky boat on a sea of wisdom; some of the wisdom w'll get in anyhow." — Oliver Wendell Holmes, *Poet at the Breakfast Table*.

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"Books give not wisdom where was none before, But where some is, there rading makes it more." — Sir John Harrington, *Epigrams*.

## STATISTICS OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

1941-1966

No. of Public Libraries	1940-41	1945-56	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66
	134		260	266	317	332
<i>Support (Income)</i>						
Municipal Government	\$ 166,759.30	\$ 253,524.67	\$ 461,394.49	\$ 755,604.34	\$1,165,933.31	\$1,486,528.59
County Government	140,997.03	311,409.21	560,985.48	918,662.40	1,564,831.90	2,880,057.84
State Aid	none	167,190.00	335,027.00	390,000.00	424,272.00	621,250.00
Federal Aid	none	—	—	—	179,371.00	473,035.00
Other (gifts, fines, etc.).	no record	229,488.56	154,706.95	252,470.62	322,373.19	496,311.33
TOTAL		\$ 961,612.44	\$1,512,113.92	\$2,316,737.36	\$3,656,781.40	\$5,957,182.76
Per Capita	.10	.26	.37	.57	.80	1.31
<i>Expenditures</i>						
Personnel	no record	no record	802,192.46	1,285,414.60	1,998,956.06	3,469,101.47
Books and Materials	no record	no record	383,723.15	518,297.76	804,211.09	1,257,094.42
Other Operating	no record	no record	248,497.40	442,900.60	729,320.23	805,097.00
TOTAL			\$1,434,413.01	\$2,246,612.96	\$3,532,487.38	\$5,531,292.89
<i>Volumes</i>						
Total Added	1,090,301	1,454,939 no record	2,150,096 214,856	2,987,978 248,129	3,932,500 305,289	4,857,430 349,830
<i>Circulation</i>						
Total Bookmobile	6,856,556	6,148,933	9,665,406 4,654,328	10,416,462 no record	13,698,903 5,193,649	14,765,321 4,735,038

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

by

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North Carolina subscribes to the belief that good school library service is basic to good education. This was true in 1942 and many years before. In fact, as far back as 1858 the idea of school libraries was fostered through the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. It was in 1901, however, that the North Carolina General Assembly made its first appropriation for the purchase of books for free public school libraries in the amount of ten dollars whenever the patrons of a school and a county board of education each donated ten dollars. From this meager appropriation at the beginning of the twentieth century, North Carolina has consistently provided State funds for the maintenance of school library collections and has fostered, through the State Department of Public Instruction, the development of school libraries.

A 25-year study reveals that there has been a phenomenal growth in school libraries throughout the State. Through the years great educational leaders have influenced the development of school libraries in our state. People like Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, Miss Nora Beust, Dr. Louis Round Wilson, Mr. A. B. Combs, and Mrs. Mary Peacock Douglas all have had a part in school library development in North Carolina. Today Dr. Charles F. Carroll, state superintendent of public instruction, and a host of other educational leaders are making their contributions.

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## PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES: 1941-66

<i>Number of Library Books</i>				
	Total Volumes	Volumes Per Pupil	Volumes Added	
1940-1941	2,238,456	3.09	272,086	
1965-1966	10,407,829	8.64	1,432,879	
<i>Personnel</i>				
	Librarians	Average Pupils Per Librarian	Library Supervisors	Percent Adm. Employing Supervisor
1940-1941	95	9,150	NR	NR
1966-1967	1,718	689	90	54%
<i>Expenditures</i>				
	All library materials (including audiovisual) and supplies		Library Books	
	Total	Per Pupil	Total	Per Pupil
1940-1941	\$ 310,636	\$0.43	\$ 260,260	\$0.36
*1965-1967	6,518,174	5.41	4,295,000	3.56

\*Does not reflect approximately \$2 million Federal funds committed for books and audiovisual materials ordered before June 30, 1966.