
A BRIEF SURVEY OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES

By Helen Monahan, Librarian

Charlotte Medical Library

(In this short survey of special libraries in this State, it was decided not to include any library that did not have at least a part-time librarian. The type and scope of each library being so different, comparisons would be difficult, so a brief summary of each library is given).

BUNCOMBE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

Mary Best—Librarian

Asheville, N. C.

Established in 1936, by Dr. Julian A. Moore and a small group of friends as the Asheville Medical Library, the Buncombe County Medical Society Library is a clinical library of 3,400 volumes and journals for practicing physicians. In 1941 the Medical Society assumed its support.

CHARLOTTE MEDICAL LIBRARY

Mrs. J. S. Monahan—Librarian
Charlotte, N. C.

Established in 1908 as a journal exchange under the leadership of Dr. William Allan, the Charlotte Medical Library was reorganized in 1931 with Dr. R. B. McKnight as directing librarian. It is a clinical library for practicing physicians, with branches for interns in three hospitals, Charlotte Memorial, Mercy, and Good Samaritan (Negro). It has a collection of 1,372 books and 6,176 bound journals. 155 current journals are received regularly (over half of which are gifts).

U. S. FOREST SERVICE APPALACHIAN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION LIBRARY

Josephine Laxton—Librarian
Asheville, N. C.

Established in 1921 as the Appalachian Experiment Station Library, it was made a field library of the Department of Agriculture in April 1942. It is a research library for workers in forestry with 8,000 volumes and pamphlets. Assistants were WPA and NYA workers.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED CHURCHES LIBRARY

Dr. T. H. Spence, Jr.—Librarian
Montreat, N. C.

This library, established in 1926 by Rev. S. M. Tenny at the direction of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, as part of the Historical Foundation (which includes the Museum and Archives), is a depository for the official records of the Presbyterian Church. It has 13,000 volumes; 10,000 volumes of periodicals, 10,000 minutes of church courts, 1,625 volumes of official records and 100 periodicals are currently received. It has a manuscript history of the church and woman's work in the church; and a collection of historical literature relative to the Presbyterian and Reformed bodies in Scotland, Ireland, England, and Wales, and the Continent, as well as of the United States and Canada. It has two staff members.

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Majorie Beal—Director
Raleigh, N. C.

The North Carolina Library Commission was established in 1909 by the State to develop extension of library service in the State. The growth of libraries in North Carolina is evidence of the excellent work being done. The Citizen's Library Movement and the bookmobile have attracted the most attention of its many activities. It has 55,463 volumes and eight staff members.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY

Carrie L. Broughton—Librarian
Raleigh, N. C.

This library was established in 1812 by the General Assembly as a general reference library. It has an original edition of the Audubon bird books, an excellent North Carolina Collection (including newspapers), and a genealogical division. It has 71,361 volumes, 6,511 bound newspapers, 6,878 bound magazines and two staff members.

NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT LIBRARY

Dillard S. Gardner—Librarian
Raleigh, N. C.

The State Law Library, established in 1812 by the General Assembly, became the Supreme Court Library in 1883. It has a comprehensive coverage of all legal and much semi-legal material for judges, lawyers, and officials. It has the best collection of North Carolina legal material in existence, a complete file of session laws of the State from 1715 to date, a complete set of the N. C. Supreme Court Reports (221 volumes), an extensive collection of the N. C. House and Senate Journals, the complete reports of the Supreme Court of the 48 States. It has a total of 39,694 volumes.

SONDLEY REFERENCE LIBRARY

Philenia A. Dickey—Librarian
Asheville, N. C.

Sondley Reference Library, established in 1932 as a gift of Dr. F. A. Sondley to the city of Asheville, was opened in 1935 as a general reference library with 31,375 volumes catalogued ready for use. Doctor Sondley assembled a very complete collection of literature and history of the Southeast (especially of North Carolina). The section on general literature (which is the largest) has many original editions and 500 classics, including practically all the known transla-

tions of Vergil and Homer. It has 32,518 volumes and two staff members.

REX HOSPITAL MEDICAL LIBRARY

Mrs. Zonabel Ogle—Librarian
Raleigh, N. C.

This library was established in 1927 by the trustees and staff of Rex Hospital and Fellows of the Raleigh Academy of Medicine. It has 1,000 volumes.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA SANATORIUM LIBRARY*

Frances King—Librarian
Black Mountain, N. C.

The hospital was established in 1937 and the library is for tuberculosis patients and members of the hospital staff. It has 1,736 volumes to serve 400 patients. In 1941 they circulated 32,318 volumes.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION FACILITY LIBRARY*

Otilia Goode—Librarian
Fayetteville, N. C.

This library for patients and members of the hospital staff was opened in January 1941. It has 1,422 volumes to serve 225 patients. The first year 4,858 volumes were circulated.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION FACILITY LIBRARY*

Della Shopleigh—Librarian
Oteen, N. C.

This hospital was established in 1920 for tuberculosis veterans. The library of 9,555 volumes serves the 800 patients and the hospital staff. During 1941, 40,202 volumes were circulated.

OTHERS

There are two law libraries, neither of which have librarians. The Charlotte Law Library, Charlotte, N. C., has 8,000 volumes and the Buncombe County Law Library, Asheville, N. C., has 5,000 volumes.

Doctor Hamilton of the State Laboratory of Hygiene says that they have about 5,000 books which they hope to convert into a library by employing a competent librarian.

There are no bank libraries. Several banks reported that they tried to have a library, but found it best under the present circumstances to return to department libraries.

The Moravians hope to develop the work of Dr. Adelaide Fries into a church library.

REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. Ford S. Worthy and Elizabeth House,
Librarian BHM Regional Library

Regional library service in our state is a new venture. It is the outgrowth of many years of endeavor made possible by State Aid for public libraries. Without a regional organization, there would be a rural population of over fifty thousand in Eastern Carolina lacking public library service.

When State Aid became effective, Beaufort, Hyde, and Martin Counties had a limited amount of public library service. In each of six small towns there was a library organized by clubs and operated by WPA clerks. The book collections received small donations from clubs and individuals. There was no definite appropriation except in Hyde County where each library received \$100 per annum. No exchange of books was made. One library, the Washington Public, received an appropriation from the city and non-residents were allowed to borrow books by depositing a stated fee at the time of registration. No rural library service was provided at any point in the section.

It is true, however, that WPA bookmobile demonstrations had been held in each county for six months. Such service had been received with much enthusiasm and anticipation of like service on a permanent basis. Library-minded citizens were eager for some means of expanding the library program. The public had already indicated its desire by splendid response to the use of the WPA owned and operated bookmobile.

State Aid for Public Library Service was granted with an allowance of \$900 per county provided each county made an adequate appropriation and met other qualifications. In this section it was impossible for each county to qualify individually. The contract system was therefore suggested by the Library Commission. Citizens of Beaufort, Hyde, and Martin Counties began to work on plans for a regional organization, the result of which is the Beaufort, Hyde, and Martin Regional Library Association, better known as the B H M Regional Library.

Through such a contract system each county now has county-wide library service. All funds are pooled and the service is distributed according to population and need. All library activities in the region are under

* Information obtained from the report of the North Carolina Library Commission for 1941.

the supervision of one trained librarian. A bookmobile, shared by the counties, serves each community in turn. Even though books are purchased in accordance with the local county appropriation and thus marked, there is a free exchange. Borrowers have access to any book in the region. A system for filling requests makes it possible for a patron to get the desired book long before it might normally come his way. This service has also meant that books, once only deadwood on the small library shelves, are now in use again. New titles from the bookmobile are substituted in their places. When the demand is great enough duplicate copies of titles are purchased for the counties.

The governing board consists of three representatives from each county, selected by the commissioners to serve terms of two, four, and six years. This board meets once a month to review the work of the preceding period and to discuss matters relative to further development of the regional service.

Another advantage of the regional library plan is found in the maintenance of headquarters. Only one office is necessary. In this case the Washington Public Library serves as headquarters. All equipment is owned by the Region. Books are ordered and processed in this office and distributed to the counties as needed.

Since the B H M Regional Library began to function 3,800 new books have been accessioned. This figure includes those purchased with the bonus from State Aid. The bonus was a total of \$1,298.35 per county rather than the promised \$900.

The present bookmobile schedule calls for ninety-six public stops, four deposit stations, six branches, and thirty-two schools. In the beginning the Library Commission and WPA made large book loans. The WPA collection has been withdrawn, but most of the books from the Library Commission are still being used.

Since September 1941, the date on which active service began, 2,443 new borrowers have been registered and the circulation per month has trebled.

With the exception of the regional librarian, all personnel has been paid by WPA. Nine people from that payroll have filled jobs as clerks, drivers, and office helpers. Minor mending has been done by the clerks, but all regular mending and repairing has been done by the WPA mending projects.

WPA cooperation, for which we are grateful, has meant much to the development of this regional system. When this Federal program is discontinued many adjustments will be required in budgets and in appropriations in order that rural library service may continue.

Advantages of a regional plan were also recognized in Western Carolina where Cherokee, Clay, and Graham Counties came together to form the Nantahala Region. This Region operated along lines similar to those of the B H M Region. It cannot, however, be considered a typical region because of its TVA relationship.

Regardless of location, it is gratifying to know that people will walk through ice and snow to meet the bookmobile. In one county, borrowers from one section of the route walked to the next corner beyond the canal bridge in order that they might not have to go a whole month without something to read.

The invalid in his chair, the clubwoman, the school teacher, the man interested in world affairs, the boy who wants to know how to do simple machine work, the girl who wants advice on a vocation, the children and the casual readers meet the bookmobile enthusiastically. In face of the present world situation, more and more people are turning to books for inspiration, information, and recreation.

