

# NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

VOL. III

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## KNOW YOUR LIBRARY PATTERN

### *Conclusions*

By ERNESTINE GRAFTON

The word KNOW in our survey title might be reflected upon as the key to public library planning, service, governmental agency organization, size of unit, financial support, buildings, book collections, and staff. All the post-war standards, all the A.L.A. or N.C.L.A. standards must of necessity be ineffective until the citizen becomes aware that this so-called *public* library is for *him* and not the indefinite *they*. The college and public school libraries reach their patrons without the necessity of convincing them of the library's service, since their very existence is limited to the boundaries of the specific organization.

If we assume that the public library can be made "known" to everyone within the governmental area sponsoring that library, what efforts are we in North Carolina making to bring this about? The editorial staff of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES in collaboration with several of its professional advisers has set up the following subjects in the tables as measuring rods. Since the implications of these measures are discussed elsewhere in this survey, it will be the purpose of this part to tabulate the data from the returns of 92 out of the 109 North Carolina public libraries for your individual library inventory and comparative study. Are you one of the 54, out of the 92 libraries reporting, who have discussed long time plans with your library board or trustees?

TABLE I  
PLANS FOR POST-WAR LIBRARIES

	Bookmobile Service	Increased Book Collections	Additional Trained Librarians	Regional Planning	New Buildings or Additions	Plans Discussed by Board
Number of libraries	50	22	47	22	43	54

In the meantime is your library contacting your people through other means than opening its doors at regular hours each morning?

# NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

Is your library one of the 28 libraries in Table II who are planning reading for the children's summer reading period? Thirty-five libraries do not have the height of shelving convenient for children.

TABLE II  
JUVENILE CONTACTS

Number of libraries	Separate Children's Room	Low Shelving	Summer Certificate Reading
	39	57	28

Some outside adult contacts were reported in each library but not all libraries reported diversified contacts. The public library in its use of the word public has spread its walls to the last person in the last corner of the community. Table III might be prefaced with the statement that only two libraries formally addressed themselves to that last corner of their communities—labor groups.

TABLE III  
ADULT CONTACTS THROUGH LIBRARIANS' TALKS AND CLUB PROGRAM PLANNING

Clubs	Number of Libraries
Woman's Club .....	48
Home Demonstration .....	20
Rotarian .....	16
Lions .....	9
Boy Scouts .....	9
Kiwanis .....	7
A. A. A. ....	3
4-H .....	5
Church groups .....	29
Labor meetings .....	2
P. T. A. ....	31
Woman's Club Program Planning .....	17
Distributed books for Home Demonstration achievement reading .....	41

As KNOW and PUBLICITY are considered synonymous in public relation fields, we conclude the public library picture with the reported activities of

the 92 libraries. If a library left publicity questions unanswered, we naturally assumed that no planned publicity was enacted in those libraries.

TABLE IV  
PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES

Activities	Number of Libraries
Library in central location .....	57
Telephone in library .....	41
Sign legible from street .....	73
Hours on outside of building .....	43
Newspaper articles .....	30
Newspaper columns .....	20
Up-town display windows .....	24
Winter lectures .....	3
Club meeting room schedule .....	5
Radio .....	10
Films .....	5

The KNOW YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY PATTERN survey may be summarized in the question, "If we are not *actively* aware, are we *aware*?"

## PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE

*Reviewed by* ROSEANNE HUDSON  
*Woman's College Library, U. N. C.*

Librarians are, quite properly, deeply concerned with the probable role of the library in the post-war era. Realization that the library should be an effective force in community life necessitates planning to meet the obligations which will be imposed by such a position. As usual, the American Library Association offers assistance. *Library Planning* (A.L.A., \$1.50) by Louis R. Wilson summarizes the planning done by the A.L.A. and its affiliates and suggests areas for further development. There are sections dealing with planning in all types of libraries and in all phases of library service. Some of the suggestions could be undertaken by the larger libraries only, others by the library with only one professional staff member. There is an

underlying emphasis on the necessity for a reconsideration of aims and objectives with perhaps a re-direction of efforts. Many of us are wondering where the library is going. Dr. Wilson's pamphlet shows us how we may help to determine and guide its course.

It becomes increasingly evident that one of the most perplexing of the many post-war problems will be that of employment. Coming to the aid of the librarian who is faced with the question of how the library can best contribute to the solution of this problem is another recent publication of the American Library Association, *Today's Handbook for Librarians* by Mary A. Sweeney. Miss Sweeney, Director of Occupational Guidance Service at the St. Paul Public Library, has compiled a manual of information relative to the many agencies which are helping to solve the employment problems of returning veterans. She does not suggest that the librarian should assume full responsibility for the social and economic readjustment of her community, but she does indicate the ways in which an enterprising librarian can most effectively cooperate with those local agencies which are charged with that responsibility. By supplementing the material in this pamphlet with local information, the librarian can be prepared to take an active part in the solution of her town's employment problems. Nor are these problems of the future. Already men are being discharged from the services and others are being released from war industries. Now is the time when the data in Miss Sweeney's *Handbook* should be made available to those who must fit these two groups into the local economic pattern.

The length of this column in the last issue made necessary the mere mention of a book which seems worthy of more detailed attention. Margaret

Hutchins' *Introduction to Reference Work* (A.L.A., \$3.50) is a thorough analysis of the fundamentals of good reference service. Dealing with such basic problems as the selection and organization of reference materials and the administration of reference service, Miss Hutchins' book is full of valuable suggestions, both for the novice and for the experienced reference librarian. What might have been a rather dull account of the theory and practice of reference service is enlivened by the well-chosen examples of inquiries and inquirers. While the beginner may be more concerned with where the answer was found, the older hand will find pleasure in observing, "Sounds just like Mrs. Blank." And for the reference librarian who chooses to venture into the realm of professional self-analysis and evaluation, the book may well serve as a personal yard stick. Constantly recurring throughout is Miss Hutchins' keen awareness of the pleasure of reference work—a feeling which will be shared by all who have experienced the exhilaration that comes from assisting a patron to locate a half-forgotten quotation, to capture an elusive bit of information, or to enter intelligently into a new field of study.

When publisher turns author, the result is likely to be interesting to most of us in the book world. Such is the case in the publication of *The Bowker Lectures on Book Publishing* (George Grady press, \$2.50). The four lectures comprising the volume give an insight into the history, the problems, and the accomplishments of book publishers in America from the era of the ornate "gift book" to the modern paper-covered reprint. In view of the close relationship which exists between publishing and library service, the *Bowker Lectures* are recommended to reveal something of the other side of the picture.

# NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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With this December issue of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES we are concluding the *Know Your Public Library* survey. Certain detailed discussions such as Negro library services were purposely shortened as this material was presented in the May, 1944 number of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES.

Both positive and negative North Carolina library situations have been pictured. Aside from the positive factor of growing service over a four-year period of state-aid to public libraries, a working cooperation between all types of institutions was revealed. In a pub-

lic library pattern below the A.L.A. standard of one dollar per capita such cooperation between agencies has appreciably increased library coverage.

On the negative side a need for still greater cooperation between various agencies has been pointed out as well as a need for the actual forming of larger units of service. Speeded up reading needs in these rapidly changing times and the impetus of state-aid to public libraries might rightly transfer a false sense of small unit loyalty to an appreciation of effective larger service units.

In this first state-wide survey of North Carolina library service we offer the instrument not only for measuring our present condition but for planning future North Carolina library service. It might be interesting to check this "future library service" with a multiple-year-growth study.—E. G.

Dr. Harry Miller Lydenberg, Director, A.L.A. International Relations Office, spent two days in Chapel Hill in November, talking informally to the University library staff, the library school faculty and students, and other interested groups.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY SURVEY

By MARJORIE BEAL

*North Carolina Library Commission*

Ninety-two public libraries returned the questionnaires entitled KNOW YOUR NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARY PATTERN which were sent out in June, 1944. The answers have presented some interesting, some discouraging, and much encouraging material. Of the ninety-two libraries, sixty-nine were county and eighteen local public libraries. Thirteen county and six local public libraries which did not return the questionnaire are not included. Only four separate reports were received from Negro public libraries

though several of the white libraries included figures of Negro library service.

### *Buildings*

Four public libraries are housed in buildings built previous to 1800 and thus are helping to preserve these landmarks and to continue their historical significance. The earliest building used as a library is the Cupola House at Edenton which was built in 1722. The Carnegie Library buildings which have served well their purpose are thirty and forty years old and have long been outgrown. A majority of the public libraries have need of new lighting and heating systems. Eighty-five of the ninety-two libraries reporting state that shelving space will not take care of the next five years' growth at the present rate of additions to the book collections. Eighteen of the public libraries report that the library sign is not legible from the street. This would appear to be a simple matter to rectify with a little time and thought, and a sign bespeaks a wide-awake service. Only half of the libraries have telephones.

Since 1930, eleven new public library buildings have been opened and three buildings remodeled for public library use exclusively. Public library rooms have been provided in twenty-five communities, in the county court house, the city hall, a community building, a county annex, the Junior Order building as in Lexington, or a remodeled railway station as in Beaufort. The most recently remodeled library building was opened in the summer of 1944, the George H. and Laura E. Brown Library of Washington.

New library buildings, as part of the post-war planning, should be planned by a competent librarian and an architect working in collaboration. They should be centrally located; be functionally designed; be adequate for readers, books and working space; equipped with

modern lighting, heating and furnishing; and planned for a period of growth and expanded service. Some counties and cities are already collecting funds and library plans and discussing adequate service.

### *Personnel*

Fifty-two libraries employ librarians who are graduates of accredited library schools. More than half of the libraries employ as library assistants people who are college graduates.

Library trustees, appointed by city and county commissioners, represent many interests in the communities and are composed of teachers, school superintendents, ministers, women's club members, newspapermen, business men and labor groups.

Librarians have accepted invitations to talk to such civic groups as Boy Scouts, Home Demonstration clubs, church organizations, women's clubs, and to Rotarians, Lions, and Kiwanians.

Reading programs were carried out with women's clubs and Home Demonstration clubs. Twenty-eight public libraries carried out programs of summer reading for children.

### *Book Collections*

The public library has the responsibility of providing books which will contribute to an enlightened citizenry. To do this, the book collection must reflect the basic library objectives—education, information, recreation and research—and meet the needs of readers of all ages and of varied interests and educational background.

To make available the best literature the book collection based on the population to be served should be at least two books per capita. A minimum book collection for the smallest population is 6000 volumes. Of the ninety-two libraries reporting, no library has one book per capita. The largest per capita book collection is in Davidson County



which has four-fifths of a book per person. The smallest book collection has less than one-tenth of a book per person. The average for the state as a whole is one-third of a book per person.

State Aid for Public Libraries has been used mainly for the purchase of books. In 1943-44, 164,232 volumes were added to the public libraries but 47,976 books were worn out and withdrawn from use. One of the greatest needs for public library development is additional books to supply the changing and increasing number of readers.

#### *Extension of Service*

Thirty-eight of the ninety-two libraries reporting have bookmobile service which takes books on regular schedules to those people who live too far to use the central library easily. Branch libraries are those with permanent book collections, quarters for reading and for lending books during specified hours. All of these are in charge of a paid worker under the watchful eye of the county librarian. Ten libraries reported branches.

Fifty-seven libraries reported book stations. County library service to the small communities, cross-roads and neighborhoods is developed through library stations, or collections of books exchangeable with the central book collection. Bookmobiles facilitate such service and give the people an opportunity to select their books. Where bookmobiles are not available, books are sent out to branches and book stations.

Larger areas of service with larger book collections, more people to be

served and a larger taxing basis provide for service superior to that of small, single counties, each standing alone. Regional libraries of two or more counties can spend the book funds more economically by exchanging books between counties; by employing a supervising librarian who can work in all counties; and by using one or more bookmobiles to reach every section of the region. Thirteen North Carolina counties have formed five regions. Several of the smaller or poorer counties could well enter into such a plan with adjoining counties.

#### *Post-War Plans*

Fifty-four libraries report that plans for improved and extended library service for the post-war period have been worked out and discussed by the library board. Some libraries need new library buildings or enlarged space; some libraries need trained, experienced librarians who will be educators in the broadest sense; some libraries need trained library assistants; some need new bookmobiles and better service for the whole county; all need enlarged book collections; all libraries need increased financial support.

North Carolina public libraries expended 21 cents per capita for the year 1943-44. The national average of library income is 42 cents per capita—twice that of North Carolina.

Excellent progress has been made in public library service since State Aid was first voted in 1941, as shown by the table which compares 1940 with 1944.

#### NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS

POPULATION 3,571,623

	1940	1944
People without public library service .....	1,742,220=48%	411,174=11%
Income .....	\$328,344.31=.09c per capita	\$ 762,446=.21c per capita
Volumes .....	940,877=¼ bk. per capita	1,242,413=½ bk. per capita
Circulation .....	5,992,548=1.67 per capita	6,000,605=1.68 per capita
	27 counties with at least \$1,000	80 counties with local and state appropriations

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY SURVEY

By LUCILE CAVANAUGH

Peace College Library

In the latest report on *Statistics of North Carolina Public Libraries, July 1, 1943-June 30, 1944*, compiled by the North Carolina Library Commission, there are thirty-five colleges and universities for white youth and twelve for Negro. Library collections in these colleges range from 1,823 to 681,032 volumes and are administered by a library staff composed of from one full-time librarian in most instances to sixty-eight in the largest university.

In a survey made in May, 1944 by NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES, questionnaires were returned from thirty-four colleges. One, returned unsigned, was not considered in this report. It was found that the colleges were glad to serve their townspeople and alumni as well as their students and faculty. In only four instances was a charge made for the use of the library, the amount varying from ten cents per book to \$5.00 per year. In only two cases was service to the general public prohibited by the administration; this step was taken because of the limited college budget and depleted staff. In sixteen colleges the number on the staff was thought to be adequate to handle increased requests from the general public. Because of the lack of facilities and the demands of the student body, no reading room space could be set aside exclusively for the general public, but hospitality is gladly extended to any casual reader or research worker seeking help with a club paper or a more technical or specialized service. Nine of the larger colleges and universities of the state have publicized their willingness to serve the public.

Edwin Markham said, "In the wonderful reciprocities of being, we can never reach the higher levels until all

our fellows ascend with us. There is no true security for the individual except as he finds it in the security of all."

Thus college libraries are eager to extend their resources to any individual or library to the limit of their ability and to add their bit toward increasing the culture and uplifting the level of the intellectuality of the state.

TABLE INDICATING SERVICE GIVEN TO  
TOWNSPEOPLE AND ALUMNI

Service Coverage	North Carolina Geographical Area		
	East	Central	West
College libraries	8	20	6
No public libraries in same locality	3	5	2
Free public service	7	17	4
Charges for public service	\$1-5	\$2-1	\$1-0.10
Publicized public service	3	5	1
Use of collections by public restricted	2	7	2
Inter-library loans to public libraries increased since state-aid	1	4	0
Adequate staff to handle increased loans	2	11	3

## TAR HEEL LIBRARY NOTES

Mr. Guy R. Lyle, formerly Librarian, the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, is now Director of Libraries at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. To him goes much of the credit for getting this bulletin started and he has continued to make contributions to its pages.

Miss Rachel Lane is librarian of the new Textile Library at North Carolina State College.

Miss Adelaide L. Fries received the Mayflower Cup for her *The Road to Salem*. The award is made annually to the author of the best book by a resident North Carolinian published during the year.

The President of the Association attended the Council Meeting of the A.L.A. in Chicago as a representative of the Association and of the Division of Cataloging and Classification. She also attended a meeting of the Tennes-

see Valley Library Council in Gatlinburg, Tenn., called in October to discuss problems of moment to libraries in this region.

The State Legislative Council met in Raleigh on November 10th to decide on the items to be sponsored before the 1945 General Assembly. The President of the Association, Co-Chairmen of the Legislative Committee, and two members of the Association are members of this Council.

The President of the Association was invited to attend the State-wide Conference on Post-War Problems and Education in Raleigh on November 28th.

Every librarian hates censorship. His decision to add a book or periodical to the collection is not arbitrary but is based on the conviction that the book is of value and interest to his patrons. Once he has made his decision in accordance with that policy, he should not be overruled by persons who want to prevent others from reading what they themselves disapprove of. This type of interference in library operation is frequently accompanied by threats so serious as to force the librarian to accede to it.

The A.L.A.'s Committee on Intellectual Freedom has been empowered by the Executive Board and Council to compile a record of attempts, successful or not, to interfere with the library's provision of any book or periodical. To do this it must have the help of the libraries. We therefore ask that you report to us any incident in your community where someone or some group or organization attempted to interfere with the provision of a book or magazine. We'd like to know: Book or periodical affected; person or organization interfering; action taken or threatened by interfering group; action taken or contemplated by the library.

We shall not make this information public without your permission.

Please send all information to Leon Carnovsky, Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Illinois, the chairman of the Committee on Intellectual Freedom.

#### STATE AID FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Early in October 1944, the Budget Commission held a hearing on State Appropriations. The Commission is composed of the Chairmen of the Senate and House Appropriations and Finance Committees and two members appointed by the Governor.

*Senate:* Mr. H. P. Taylor, Anson; Mr. Thomas O'Berry, Wayne.

*House of Representatives:* Mr. F. E. Wallace, Lenoir; Mr. T. Clarence Stone, Rockingham.

*Appointed by the Governor:* Mr. J. H. Clark, Bladen; Mr. Thomas J. Pear-sall, Nash.

The request for State Aid for Public Libraries was based on the need for more books and for the extension of library service. The amount requested was \$225,000 for each year of the biennium 1945-47.

The Budget Commission after careful consideration recommends expenditures to the General Assembly. The joint appropriations committees study, discuss and hold hearings with heads of state institutions and departments. After strenuous sessions the appropriations committees present their findings for general vote.

Between now and the day of the final vote in the House and Senate, the Legislators must be aware of the library needs in their own communities and the scarcity of books to supply the readers.

Trustees, friends of libraries, and librarians are responsible for the knowledge and the action of their representatives. Will you write to yours?