

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

July 1, 1936 - June 30, 1938

STATE OF MAINE

Forty-fourth Report

OF THE

Librarian

OF THE

Maine State Library

FOR THE PERIOD

July 1, 1936 to June 30, 1938

TO THE

EIGHTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

1939



AUGUSTA, MAINE

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CONTENTS

	Page
General Summary	5
Outline of State Library Service	7
Correspondence Course	7
Apprentice Course	7
Legislative Reference Bureau	9
Clipping Bureau	10
Reference	11
Bibliographies	12
Vertical Files	12
Occupational Files	13
Vocational Guidance	13
Maine Maps	14
Maine Author Collection	15
Documents	15
Binding	16
Circulation	16
Localities Served	16
Circulation Record	17, 18
Accessions	19
Shipping and Express	19
Financial Statement	19
Bureau of Library Extension	22
Traveling Libraries	22
Summer Camp Libraries	23
Farm Bureau Project	23
Book Week	24
Talking Book Machines	25
Conclusion	26
Bookmobile	27
Traveling Library Circulation	28
Discarded Books	28
State Aid	28
New Stipend Libraries	34
Gifts and Bequests to Maine Libraries	34
New Library Buildings	34

Augusta, Maine, July 1, 1938

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the
State of Maine:*

In accordance with the law which requires the State Librarian to report biennially to the Legislature, on or before February first, I herewith submit my biennial report.

The State of Maine and the Maine State Library suffered an almost irreparable loss this year by the death of Dr. Henry E. Dunnack, who served as State Librarian for years with distinguished credit to himself and unmeasured value to the state. His high standards of character, fine literary knowledge, wise judgment, ability as a writer and speaker, sympathetic efforts to aid and assist in all educational movements, plus his constant courtesy and delightful companionship rendered him a most unusual and desirable public servant.

As members of the Legislature, and men and women of affairs, you are acquainted, doubtless, with the purpose of the Maine State Library, which is a constituent element of the Maine Department of Education, and under the supervision of the Commissioner of Education. The Maine State Library is the library of all the people of Maine, and endeavors to extend its services and its benefits to children and adults, to young and old. The services of the library are constricted only by the demands upon it. Through its various departments and wide circulation it reaches into thousands of homes, meeting requests for wholesome and instructive books, giving information and guiding reading along specialized lines, answering questions and assisting teachers and scholars in hundreds of our schools.

The Maine State Library has achieved an enviable reputation over the years as a department of proven usefulness and efficient service. We ask the co-operation and assistance of the Maine Legislature in maintaining and improving our service.

I am impelled to call attention to the lamentably crowded limitations of the library buildings in order that the legislators may have fair and full understanding of conditions. As you

are all aware, there has been agitation for many years for a new library building, and past legislators have made provisions for such construction, when it is possible to find the requisite funds. That the library is not now urging the erection of a commensurate library building, is not because of lack of necessity — rather because of realization that the state at the moment is not well able to finance such an expensive project, and of hopeful belief that when financial conditions have improved, a new library building will be the first of new construction undertaking.

The total appropriation for the Maine State Library was \$40,500 for the fiscal year ending with June 30, 1938, and the same amount for the fiscal year ending with June 30, 1939. In addition the library has the use of an estimated income of \$1,300. The library has not had the advantage enjoyed by some departments, of increased appropriations year by year. In 1929-30, its appropriation and revenue was in excess of \$53,000; in 1930-31, it was \$52,450; the following year it was \$51,950. In later years there have been gradual reductions.

For purposes of clear understanding, the Legislature should be informed that not all the appropriation made for the library is available for what might be termed the general purposes of the library: circulation, salaries and maintenance. By order of the Legislature, the State Library pays from its appropriation stipends to public libraries in the state, for the printing of the Maine Reports, for Vital Statistics, and a founding fund for libraries. Of the appropriation of \$40,500 set up for the library for the fiscal year 1938-39, the sum of \$11,520 will be devoted to the above purposes, leaving \$28,980 for the general operating expenses of the library, including the purchase of books.

The traveling libraries which are sent upon application to libraries, to schools, to granges, women's clubs and any group willing to assume the slight responsibility requested, continue to meet with approval. In the last biennium, the circulation of books through the traveling libraries has increased, as has the number of libraries circulated. The circulation attained from this source was 160,488 volumes, with non-fiction books for juveniles showing a very satisfactory advance.

There has been a gratifying progress of late in the distribution of talking book machines for the needy blind, a most worthy

Federal enterprise, the machines, furnished without cost, being dispatched from the library upon orders approved by the Department of Health and Welfare.

If the Legislature favors a slightly increased appropriation to the Maine State Library, I believe that the educational value of the department could be largely advanced at relatively small expense by the appointment of a traveling librarian to assist in the handling of school libraries, and by an extension of our traveling library service.

The following pages of this report show in more detail the activities of the library.

OUTLINE OF STATE LIBRARY SERVICE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. The Correspondence Course offered to workers in Maine libraries evidently has nothing to fear from the thirteenth year of its existence, since students are entering regularly and continuing the course as usual. It is essentially a course adapted to the individual librarian as related to the particular library in question and is therefore not conducted in any routine manner, and aims to enable the librarian to carry on the work in the most efficient way with the least amount of cumbersome detail, as well as to inspire her with a spirit of helpful service to the community in which she lives.

The course is open to anyone actually employed in one of our Maine libraries. Necessary books are supplied by the State Library and there is no cost for the course other than the postage incurred in returning books.

APPRENTICE COURSE. The Apprentice Course, in its sixteenth year, does not lack for promising applicants. Students of a classical education from a high school of good standing are accepted. There are always a sufficient number of these applicants so that we are able to keep our high standard of entrance requirements. We welcome young girls who are willing to devote a year to intensive training, under direct supervision in the following phases of library work: legislative and legal reference, research and general reference, government documents, cataloguing and classification, continuations, preparing books for

circulation, binding, listing traveling libraries, compiling bibliographies, becoming acquainted with the three types of vertical files maintained by the State Library, filing reports and periodicals, routine including sending, discharging, overdues, renewals, reserves—each of these items entailing absolute accuracy and dependability, so furnishing some of the most important discipline to the mind.

Emphasis is laid on the fact that this course is only a stepping stone to the whole field of librarianship, and students are encouraged to continue their education and training in the profession. Three of our apprentices have graduated recently from Simmons College in the library school; another was accepted by Simmons College for entrance and assigned a scholarship requiring a high educational rating; another completed two years at Bates College; one left to enter Colby College and still another is on her way through the University of Maine.

Not to recite a complete list of positions acquired by graduates from the course, we have selected a majority indicating fairly the general trend. Two graduates are in charge of divisions in the Carpenter Memorial Library, Manchester, New Hampshire; one was accepted in the second grade of the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Public Library Training Course, and is now a member of the regular staff in that library, supplementing her education by studies at Columbia University Library School; one is in the government documents section of the Bridgeport (Conn.) Public Library, her special experience in that work here having fitted her for that position; another has progressed through the second grade of our own course to full membership on the staff, in charge of circulation, and recently, through promotion, to become Legislative Reference Librarian; another has recently been appointed librarian of one of our progressive Carnegie libraries.

The second grade of the course is not necessarily open to any one of a year's class, since we reserve the right not to appoint, considering only those of unusual ability, personality, background and special qualifications for the work, which is actually a temporary position on the staff of the State Library.

There are no apprentices wishing positions who are not occupied in some field, most of them in library work, and a few in

other lines until an opportunity occurs in the library profession. We do not guarantee to place our graduates, but we do endeavor to keep in mind the right person for the right place.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU. The duties and functions of the Legislative Reference Bureau are to maintain a special library on legislative, municipal and other public matters in general as well as those solely of interest in Maine. This special library is comprised largely of data on public questions of current interest to members of the Legislature, state and local officers, professional and civic organizations, schools and colleges, debating clubs and citizens of the state. The material in this collection consists of pamphlets; magazine articles; reprints of important laws of the several states and Federal government; reports of the various associations such as the National Tax Association, American Bar Association, and National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws; typewritten digests; newspaper clippings; reports of officers, boards and commissions of this and other states; the court reports and the laws of all the states and of Canada and England; reports of special investigations by the Federal, state and municipal governments and by professional and non-official societies and organizations.

The bureau keeps and files copies of all bills, resolutions, memorials, reports of committees, journals and other documents printed by the Maine Legislature; assists and co-operates with recess committees created by the Legislature or the Governor; maintains an exchange service with the legislative reference bureaus of other states; digests legislation on questions before the Legislature or which may be brought before the Legislature. The history of Maine legislation is quickly found from the Legislative Record, laws of Maine, bills of the various Maine Legislatures, and the Maine Reports on file at the library. An Index to the Private and Special Laws and Resolves of Maine is kept from 1820 to date.

When special legislative investigations are being conducted or when public questions of importance are under discussion, material, embodying facts, arguments, statistics and opinions on both sides, is accumulated, which is lent free of cost to any school, club, organization, library or resident of the state.

The research or reference service furnishes information on legislative and related subjects in response to specific requests, many of which involve detailed investigation. All requests are treated as confidential. The service is available not only during the legislative session, but also between sessions.

THE CLIPPING BUREAU. "Where can I find something about the manufacture of pearl essence from herring scales?" The information, and practically the only available information, is in a newspaper clipping book which is one of several volumes in the library clipping bureau.

"I would like some information about the Pownal State School." This request is answered by material contained in a newspaper clipping book on state institutions, and hard to find elsewhere.

A student desires to write a paper on the academies of the state, many of which are of ancient lineage and extended history. Materials for such a paper have been gathered together in two volumes of clippings and are available in convenient form; otherwise, the search would require much time and many separate sources.

A man from another state, writing a book on the steamboat history of the Maine coast, was delighted and somewhat amazed to find in the State Library a whole book on the subject, made up of newspaper clippings.

These are random instances of the way in which the newspaper clipping bureau assists and supplements the general reference department of the library. Clippings on a wide variety of subjects are made from all Maine daily and weekly papers, and filed by a special worker. These pertain to Maine business, industry, history, art, literature, antiques, places and edifices of importance; in short, everything so far as can be foreseen, about which patrons of the library may now or in future desire information.

When there is a demand, and a sufficient number of clippings on a subject have been accumulated, these are combined into a loose-leaf book. This form makes possible the addition of new material as it appears and thus the books may be kept up to date while retaining older material of permanent value.

During the eleven years since the clipping bureau was established, the number of these unique books has grown to more than eighty volumes. Each of these is constantly receiving additions and new books are being started. Loose clippings are available for library use and loan, as well as those in book form.

The clipping bureau also supplies current newspaper information for the legislative reference and other divisions of the library, and does clipping on request for other state departments.

A by-product of the daily newspaper reading necessary for this work is the establishment of an index of state-wide organizations. This is kept as a card file and is constantly revised for current names and addresses of officers, thus again supplying a fund of information which would be difficult or impossible to find elsewhere.

This is the key to the value of the newspaper clipping bureau: to supplement the regular reference sources on Maine material by providing information which is not otherwise available.

REFERENCE. There was a time when the public sought its library only "to get something to read." Used and enjoyed as a source of supply by the book-hungry public, patrons, except such of them as happened to be students, expected the fare provided to be more or less recreational reading—not necessarily all fiction, but books without any special connection with the practical side of living.

The public has learned that a library, besides circulating books on every subject, is a readily accessible source of general information. A library's success is measured by its usefulness, and it should welcome every chance to remind its public that it has usable books. Despite all a library can do to advertise its services, every librarian knows the surprise with which patrons fall on books on antiques, or cookery, or creating a job at home, exclaiming, "Why, I didn't know that the library had that kind of book!"

On the other hand, there is the patron whose faith in the library's ability to produce desired information on any and every subject is so firm that it is almost embarrassing. Reference service develops in the librarian a sort of detective instinct in locating material, but no one has as yet developed the sleight

of hand skill to produce offhand a book which has not yet been written, as we are not infrequently expected to do. Probably every reference librarian has a list of unwritten-book wants and can suggest subjects for books for which there is a waiting market. Before the booksellers, even before the magazine editors, a reference library becomes conscious that public interest is swinging in a certain direction. It might be said that one can tell by circulation figures when a subject is coming, when it has arrived, and when it is passing out of public interest.

One of the interesting features of the reference library is the variety and multiplicity of its tools. The service of the reference library is not dependent on the knowledge and memory of the staff. In addition to the catalogue, which is the foundation of all reference library service, highly specialized indexes, guides, annotated bibliographies, Who's Who's, yearbooks, encyclopedias and dictionaries on special subjects are provided to simplify library work and facilitate reference service in every field. That there are such tools and that they are available for general use, often occasions pleased surprise on the part of the average patron, whose experience with reference books includes only the dictionary, an encyclopedia, and, possibly, the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES. In addition to the printed guides to information which we have mentioned, there are tools which each library creates to meet its especial needs, such as reference files and bibliographies. Since the Maine State Library does not issue a printed catalogue, information about the resources of the library and the books available here for reference and for loan is circulated by means of bibliographies. These include (I) lists of recent additions to the library, (II) selected lists of books on special subjects, (III) mimeographed lists of books on miscellaneous subjects recommended for general reading, and (IV) lists of books, references and subjects of especial Maine interest, and are lent for one week.

VERTICAL FILES. Of particular use in supplying information on subjects about which there is little book or magazine material, are reference files, usually referred to as Vertical Files. Every library offering even a minimum reference service should main-

tain at least one such file. The Maine State Library has several, in which pamphlets, clippings, magazine articles, bibliographies, and pictures are carefully sorted and arranged, available for immediate use for reference or for loan. There are special files for general information, for legislative data, and for Maine items, historical, descriptive, economic and biographical.

OCCUPATIONAL FILE. Recently the library has commenced a file devoted entirely to occupational matters. This contains all sorts of information, arranged by occupations, and includes everything which might be useful or interesting to a person specializing in any occupation, whether as a hobby or a profession. This file supplements our large collection of catalogued material, books and pamphlets, on occupations and handicrafts.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE. In common with all public libraries, we note increasing dependence on the library as an agent in vocational guidance and adult education. Within the past few years we have widely increased our already extensive collection of technical books and books in the fields of useful and fine arts. It is rather amazing how much assistance a library can give to a person seeking to acquire, to hold, or to create a job; we have so much occupational material that answering vocational inquiries is one of the pleasantest parts of the reference library's work.

In addition to general manuals on vocational guidance and psychology, including the always popular psycho-inspirational books on how to lift yourself by your own boot-straps, and practical books on jobs in general, such as Pitkin's *New Careers for Youth*, Leuck's *Fields of Work for Women*, and Platt's *Book of Opportunities* (a dictionary of 3500 occupations), there are books on individual occupations ranging from very simple manuals to advanced technical works for readers of specialized knowledge.

The library also uses much pamphlet material on individual occupations, such as the *Career* leaflets of the U. S. Bureau of Education and the publications of the Institute for Research, now numbering about ninety titles. Each of these pamphlets is devoted to a single occupation, and briefly discusses the qual-

ities and skills requisite in that occupation, the possibilities of success in it, and gives suggestions for training courses and books to read or study. It sometimes happens that information is requested about an occupation on which we have no material, in which case the library makes it a point to acquire at once a book on that subject, if there is one worth acquiring.

MAINE MAPS. The library, always alert for items of especial value in Maine interest, has recently secured a small but well-chosen collection of early maps of the state, dating from the middle of the eighteenth to the middle of the nineteenth century. Comprising a cartographic record of nearly a century, the maps record not only the changes of boundaries, but also a slowly increasing geographic knowledge of Maine. We now have an excellent collection of maps of Maine, second to none in New England. Probably the most valuable section of the Maine map collection is the series contained in the official Northeastern Boundary documents and papers, used by the British and American commissioners at the time of the Northeastern Boundary Controversy which was settled by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty in 1842.

Several years ago, the Library of Congress obtained permission to have photostatic copies made of many Maine maps not at that time in the Library of Congress map collection. We are proud of our map collection, and we regret that at present much of it has to be buried treasure, so far as accessibility to the public is concerned, owing to our present lack of space. To a public which is increasingly visual minded, maps present history and geography in an especially attractive form, and we regret that our maps and much other interesting pictorial material cannot be viewed more conveniently.

Although we specialize in matters of Maine interest, and are generally recognized as authorities on the printed and documentary sources of information about the state, we do not limit our reference service to Maine and legislative subjects. It is our aim to supply the public with information about everything in which it is interested. We do not answer contest questions, do exhaustive genealogical research, or appraise books, antiques, or other articles; otherwise, there is no reference service which we are not willing to undertake to execute to the best of our ability.

MAINE AUTHOR COLLECTION. The Maine Author Collection is comprised of several hundred inscribed, presentation books; a vertical file, preserving reviews, newspaper clippings, biographical data, and pictures; and the volumes of correspondence with the authors.

It is continually enlarging, as more books, written by those born in or closely connected with this state, are published. Our literary roster includes many famous names, recipients of prizes and fellowships, and persons in varied professions.

Maine authors' subjects are as diverse as the writers: the results offer to students a veritable tapestry of topics, ranging from the absorbing history of a river to a novel pungent with native laconism, from the arresting beauty of poems to a scholarly treatise, from a narrative rich in Colonial history to a concise guidebook for stenographers. All bear evidence of thoroughness, ability and excellence.

During the past two years, the literary production of Maine has been increased by at least a hundred books, some of which are certain to endure in worth beyond the customary season or two enjoyed by most best sellers. It is a matter for pride and satisfaction that these representations of contemporary literature are awarded in the overcrowded space of the library a niche of appreciation and esteem.

Our state's contribution to current belles-lettres has often been underestimated, occasionally exaggerated, but future researchers on the subject will have as a vast source of authentic and valuable information the Maine Author Collection.

DOCUMENTS. The Maine State Library as the official exchange agent for the various publications printed by the state has received the following:

State department reports	6547
Bulletins of state departments	2161
Maps	300
Legislative Record, 1936, 1937, sp. sess. 1937	1050
Laws of Maine, 1937, sp. sess. 1937	1784
Maine Reports, Vol. 134	800
Maine Bar Association Report, Vol. 30	100

Total 12,442

BOOKS PURCHASED BY LEGISLATIVE ORDER

Winslow Vital Records 307

The above named books and pamphlets have been distributed in accordance with the law.

BINDING. During 1936-38, 211 books and 155 magazines have been bound or rebound. Forty-three Maine newspapers have been bound for the library's permanent file of the Maine papers. The library has continued to bind in book form the newspaper clipping books, permitting more convenient use. Two of these books now in constant use are *Maine Authors Appraise Maine*, and *Bangor, 1834-1934, Centennial of Incorporation*. *Sabin's Dictionary* from Vol. 20 to Vol. 29 has been bound to conform with the earlier volumes, making our set complete.

CIRCULATION.

July 1, 1936 - June 30, 1938

Number of volumes lent	64,172
Average daily circulation	107
Largest daily circulation (February 23, 1937) . .	245
Circulation of books in traveling libraries	160,488

LOCALITIES SERVED. During the year 1936-37 loans were made to patrons in 522 localities; and in the year 1937-38, to 492 localities. Ninety-three new places were served in 1937-38, making the total number of localities served in the biennial period, 615.

Loans were made to sixty places out of the state during this period. The following figures show the number of volumes of non-fiction books sent out from the State Library:

CIRCULATION RECORD 1936-37

July 1, 1936 - June 30, 1937	General Works	Philos- ophy	Reli- gion	Sociol- ogy	Lan- guage	Science	Useful Arts	Fine Arts	Litera- ture	History	Travel	Biog- raphy	Current Period- icals	Totals
July.....	117	77	26	423	20	150	276	170	235	156	88	159	383	2280
August.....	163	67	30	398	16	113	244	203	239	158	140	121	340	2232
September.....	167	57	34	379	11	83	264	188	231	138	96	146	323	2117
October.....	271	63	43	396	19	102	253	220	429	199	130	171	436	2732
November.....	295	86	55	359	13	110	276	219	395	189	131	179	337	2644
December.....	225	67	39	459	23	104	324	247	403	170	160	235	391	2847
January.....	434	81	64	468	13	115	398	324	522	218	158	248	442	3485
February.....	345	88	42	447	19	134	364	294	506	215	187	281	386	3308
March.....	369	91	53	609	14	176	392	319	597	241	187	299	452	3799
April.....	324	83	30	421	19	143	321	212	432	182	105	264	367	2903
May.....	269	101	30	317	5	59	238	196	278	121	89	193	333	2229
June.....	109	64	39	300	6	88	279	189	237	121	115	156	329	2032
Totals.....	3088	925	485	4976	178	1377	3629	2781	4504	2108	1586	2452	4519	32,608

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

CIRCULATION RECORD 1937-38

July 1, 1937 - June 30, 1938	General Works	Philos- ophy	Reli- gion	Sociol- ogy	Lan- guage	Science	Useful Arts	Fine Arts	Litera- ture	History	Travel	Biog- raphy	Current Period- icals	Totals
July.....	175	48	57	394	34	101	249	165	286	167	140	190	282	2288
August.....	135	57	30	389	8	112	207	247	254	158	88	142	291	2118
September.....	173	78	34	338	15	84	247	249	243	158	83	149	283	2134
October.....	224	72	34	333	18	96	269	249	338	148	115	180	310	2386
November.....	229	72	26	365	13	99	322	273	393	188	148	238	364	2730
December.....	244	86	42	312	16	124	294	227	304	190	122	251	361	2573
January.....	301	83	45	365	8	140	297	284	440	261	159	301	359	3043
February.....	335	84	61	445	17	146	316	268	463	280	187	282	351	3235
March.....	371	88	81	561	13	174	473	351	502	275	209	254	429	3781
April.....	248	91	54	486	9	156	338	248	360	202	170	212	426	3000
May.....	243	85	17	482	14	135	299	231	242	137	120	135	319	2459
June.....	137	53	26	297	17	117	199	206	217	86	89	133	240	1817
Totals.....	2815	897	507	4767	182	1484	3510	2998	4042	2252	1630	2467	4015	31,564

ACCESSIONS, JULY 1, 1936 - JUNE 30, 1938

	<i>Bound Vols.</i>	<i>Unbound</i>	<i>Total</i>
By purchase			
1936-37	1225	154	1379
1937-38	992	111	1103
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2217	265	2482
By exchange			
1936-37	431	1634	2065
1937-38	411	1570	1981
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	842	3204	4046
By gift			
1936-37	106	346	452
1937-38	101	357	458
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	207	703	910
From U. S. Gov't.			
1936-37	173	1323	1496
1937-38	142	1129	1271
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	315	2452	2767
Total accessions	3581	6624	10,205
Withdrawals, including department reports returned to other states			11,374

SHIPPING AND EXPRESS. During the fiscal years of 1936-38, the State Library sent and received 31,475 packages.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1936-37

Salaries and Clerk Hire

Appropriation.....	\$17,000.00
Transfer from Stipend.....	222.15
Expenditures.....	\$17,222.15
	<hr/>
	\$17,222.15
	<hr/>
	\$17,222.15

Maintenance

Appropriation	\$8,000.00	
Credit by postage and other refunds	374.84	
Transfer from Vital Statistics	219.275	
Expenditures	\$8,594.115	
		<hr/>
	\$8,594.115	\$8,594.115

Traveling Libraries

Appropriation	\$6,600.00	
Credit by refunds	406.80	
Expenditures	\$6,828.80	
Unexpended balance	178.00	
		<hr/>
	\$7,006.80	\$7,006.80

Stipend for Free Public Libraries

Appropriation	\$8,000.00	
Expenditures	\$7,591.72	
Transfer to Salaries	222.15	
Unexpended balance	186.13	
		<hr/>
	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00

Donations for Founding Free Public Libraries

Appropriation	\$200.00	
Expenditures	\$200.00	
		<hr/>
	\$200.00	\$200.00

Reports of Judicial Decisions

Appropriation	\$2,500.00	
Expenditures	\$2,420.00	
Unexpended balance	80.00	
		<hr/>
	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00

Publication of Ancient Vital Statistics

Appropriation.....		\$1,000.00
Expenditures.....	\$724.00	
Transfer to Maintenance.....	219.275	
Unexpended balance.....	56.725	
		<hr/>
	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1937-38

Salaries and Clerk Hire

Appropriation.....		\$17,218.00
Expenditures.....	\$17,007.34	
Unexpended balance.....	210.66	
		<hr/>
	\$17,218.00	\$17,218.00

Maintenance

Appropriation.....		\$7,731.00
Credit by postage and other refunds.....		197.39
Transfer from Traveling Libraries.....		235.52
Expenditures.....	\$8,163.91	
		<hr/>
	\$8,163.91	\$8,163.91

Traveling Libraries

Appropriation.....		\$5,331.00
Credit by refunds.....		207.47
Expenditures.....	\$4,990.35	
Transfer to Maintenance.....	235.52	
Unexpended balance.....	312.60	
		<hr/>
	\$5,538.47	\$5,538.47

Stipend for Free Public Libraries

Appropriation.....		\$7,900.00
Expenditures.....	\$7,820.48	
Unexpended balance.....	79.52	
		<hr/>
	\$7,900.00	\$7,900.00

Donations for Founding Free Public Libraries

Appropriation.....		\$200.00
Unexpended balance.....	\$200.00	
		<hr/>
	\$200.00	\$200.00

Reports of Judicial Decisions

Appropriation	\$2,420.00	
Unexpended balance	\$2,420.00	
		<hr/>
	\$2,420.00	\$2,420.00

Publication of Ancient Vital Statistics

Appropriation	\$1,000.00	
Expenditures	\$1,000.00	
		<hr/>
	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00

BUREAU OF LIBRARY EXTENSION. The Bureau of Library Extension is charged by law with promoting the establishment of public and free libraries, aiding in their organization, inspecting and supervising their operation. It serves as an information bureau on library subjects, and assists in suggestions relating to the incorporation of libraries. It operates a large system of traveling libraries to provide reading opportunities to libraries, rural schools, high schools, farm bureau groups, families and communities. It endeavors to aid the people of the entire state to provide new or better opportunities for reading and study.

Of the 515 municipalities in the state, 277 have public libraries and many of these libraries are unable to serve their communities adequately. There are 238 towns without libraries. These towns must necessarily depend on the State Library for their books. Thus the State Library must not only supplement the work of libraries in the small towns, but also continue to furnish the reading facilities to those towns without local library service.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES. During the past two years which this report covers, 1,472 traveling libraries have been circulated. Although a small gain over the previous report is evident, more books have been circulated with a noticeable increase in adult non-fiction, juvenile fiction, and juvenile non-fiction. What the state books mean to the people who receive them can be appreciated only by some of the personal comments or letters that tell a little of the story:

"We are returning, by parcel post, our extension library, and wish to express our satisfaction and thanks for its use at so low a price."

"The fifth and sixth grade pupils appreciate very much the books that you let us read. I have read 'The Little Lame Prince' and 'Little Sally Dutcher,' both of which I especially enjoyed. I think I like 'Little Sally Dutcher' the better because it told about the way early settlers in our country lived. Some of my classmates read all the books."

"I feel the books are in very good condition, as when I received them. This privilege is one of which I am most grateful and I shall continue passing on the plan to my friends."

"We plan to have another box later, and would like the very first of your lists. I hope to get down, but know your choice cannot be beaten, as this box proved. We loved them, and Mrs. — read them from soup to nuts! I nibbled here, and there, and everywhere, having a perfectly beautiful time."

SUMMER CAMP LIBRARIES. The summer camps continue to borrow sets of books which serve as book reservoirs, either for instruction on nature subjects or as a source for recreational reading. We have lent 107 libraries to camps, an increase of twenty-two over the previous report.

FARM BUREAU PROJECT. The Farm Bureau Project has continued to expand in the six years of its development. No other form of library service has seemed to reach better the very center of family life in rural communities than this method. One new library is compiled each year for each county, with the oldest group in the county using the new single set first and the remaining groups using the previous sets of books.

Following is an outline summary by county of the distribution of Farm Bureau Libraries for the last two years:

<i>County</i>	1936	1937
Androscoggin-Sagadahoc	7	10
Aroostook	5	8
Cumberland	8	9
Franklin	7	7
Hancock	5	6
Kennebec	11	8
Knox-Lincoln	11	7
Oxford	8	5
Penobscot	10	11
Piscataquis	9	5
Somerset	6	7
Waldo	11	11
Washington	10	8
York	5	7
	113	109

BOOK WEEK. A great many weeks have come and gone, but Book Week continues to flourish. Originally called Children's Book Week, the participation of more and more high schools in the observance from year to year prompted the omission of the first word in obeisance to the 'teen age group who are very conscious of being children no longer.

The wider vistas, the freedom and vitality in the writing of books for children today, grew out of the recognition that children are people, as varied in their interests and moods as grown-ups. Parents, teachers, and librarians now guide children's reading with a gentler hand, realizing that if reading is to be a lifelong joy and adventure, it must be as free and unrestricted as possible. As Anne Carroll Moore has stated, "Nothing short of continuous natural exposure to many books of different kinds and values, and abiding faith in the power of literature itself to transform taste and create new interests in the world of books, will make reading for fun a reality."

The Bureau of Library Extension has a special collection of standard and illustrated juvenile books which has been growing over a period of years and is used to great advantage during each Book Week in November and for exhibit purposes only. The collection includes many favorites of former years, books of fairy and folk tales which always have been loved by children. The great classics which are books for all times have by no means been neglected and are available in many attractive new editions. A mingling of the new with the old is the ideal combination, and if many books are accessible to children, the young readers may be counted upon to make their own discoveries, following new trails in the books which give them a factual and historical background for the process of growing up in the modern world, and finding, too, in the great books of the past the enchantment in which many generations of children before them have delighted.

During the last two year period, 2,224 books have been lent from the standard and illustrated juvenile collection. Thus the opportunity to find the individual books which will have the power to stir the child and lead him on to further adventures in reading has been an important objective.

TALKING BOOK MACHINES. The talking book is the latest adequately developed instrument in the field of reading for the blind. The talking book itself is so new that many a person who might benefit from it has not yet heard of it, or does not really understand what it is.

Actually the talking book is a phonograph which will play records of books read by expert professional readers. They are furnished by United States government funds, appropriated by Congress to the Library of Congress, which in turn allots a certain number of machines to a central agency in each state.

The talking book records are also provided by special government funds and are distributed on loan by the Library of Congress to the adult blind through its twenty-seven distributing libraries, located in various parts of the United States. The talking book records may be sent through the mails free of postage under the same conditions which apply to embossed books for the blind.

The Maine State Library, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Welfare, has been allotted sixty-four of the electric machines and thirty-five of the spring-driven or hand-wound type. The machines have arrived in four different shipments, the first one arriving in May, 1936. The Department of Health and Welfare has charge of recommending the names of applicants and the State Library serves as the distributing agent in placing the machines. Thirty-eight of the electric machines, and seven of the spring-driven have been placed.

Persons eligible to borrow talking book machines must be (a) in an economic situation which renders them unable, without undue sacrifice, to buy a talking book machine; (b) suffering from a defect of vision which makes it impossible or unsafe for them to read ordinary print books; (c) possessed of sufficient intelligence to enjoy reading; (d) likely to give the instrument and talking book records proper care.

The talking book records cannot be secured from the State Library but may be borrowed directly, free of charge, from Perkins Institution Library, Watertown, Massachusetts. This library, which serves New England, is one of the finest of the twenty-seven regional libraries.

It is our hope that all these machines may be placed before the end of the year, in order that more needy adult blind readers may derive an early benefit from their use.

CONCLUSION. In addition to the major projects which this report covers, both general and special correspondence has been carried on. Information, advice, assistance, and instruction on matters pertaining to library methods and administrative problems in several libraries have been given. Material has been prepared and arranged for special exhibits. A Round Table meeting has been conducted each spring. Book lists have been prepared as suggestions in answer to inquiries for special editions of children's books, books of reference, and books for purchase in a library. Thus, it is our objective to employ all suitable efforts to bring within the reach of the people of the state, and to awaken their desire for, increased opportunities and facilities for reading and study.

BOOKMOBILE. The Bookmobile which was presented to the State Library in 1931 by the Business and Professional Women's Clubs has had a rather varied existence.

The first year was experimental. Before the Bookmobile started its travels, advertising material was sent in advance to librarians and interested patrons in order that citizens would be prepared for its arrival, and be on hand to borrow books from the shelves or make requests for other material to be sent directly from the State Library.

Two workers visited libraries, towns and small villages, over definite routes for a period of approximately three months. They called at 434 towns, lent 5,010 books, received 101 applications for traveling libraries and 104 requests for traveling library lists, and covered 4,519 miles.

Since lack of funds made it impossible to carry on the work of the Bookmobile as was planned, the car was used occasionally to deliver traveling libraries to the summer camps, to visit a town for special library work, or to attend an exhibit sponsored by the State Library, until the fall of 1936, when it was sold.

If the project could have been maintained, a second itinerary would have been suggested, planning to concentrate on one or more counties rather than on the whole state. In this way more intensive work could have been accomplished and an endeavor made:

- (a) to place a traveling library with an individual or group in each town of the county;
- (b) to encourage the establishment of new public libraries;
- (c) to inaugurate the District System which encourages towns without libraries to aid in the support of a central library in that area and receive library service;
- (d) to gain new patrons for the State Library.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES DISTRIBUTED, 1936-38

	General	Juvenile	Children	High School	Nature	Special	Total
1936-37	285	313	126	55	16	4	799
1937-38	244	257	109	42	15	6	673
	Total						1,472

TRAVELING LIBRARIES DISTRIBUTED BY COUNTIES, 1936-38

Androscoggin 66	Knox 45	Somerset 90
Aroostook 169	Lincoln 98	Waldo 46
Cumberland 103	Oxford 105	Washington 96
Franklin 39	Penobscot 98	York 88
Hancock 88	Piscataquis 54	_____
Kennebec 267	Sagadahoc 20	Total 1,472

TRAVELING LIBRARY CIRCULATION RECORD

July 1, 1936 - June 30, 1938

Adult fiction	53,212
Adult non-fiction	15,338
Juvenile fiction	49,936
Juvenile non-fiction	42,002

Total 160,488

DISCARDED BOOKS. Each year several hundred books are discarded from the traveling libraries. Books which are not too badly worn or damaged are sent to state institutions. During the two year period 2,534 books have been distributed.

STATE AID. A stipend is paid annually to all towns which appropriate money from taxation funds for the support of a free public library, distributed as follows:

- To towns appropriating \$475 or less, 10%
- To towns appropriating \$475 to \$1,900, 7%
- To towns appropriating \$1,900 to \$5,000, 4%
- No city or town receives more than \$200

The following statistics are for 1937:

<i>City or Town</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Stipend</i>
4%:		
Auburn	\$8,000.00	\$200.00
Bangor	19,000.00	200.00
Lewiston	11,000.00	200.00
Portland	21,200.00	200.00
Waterville	7,000.00	200.00
Westbrook	5,000.00	200.00

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

29

<i>City or Town</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Stipend</i>
4%:		
Rockland	4,600.00	184.00
Biddeford	4,250.00	170.00
Rumford	4,250.00	170.00
Millinocket	3,000.00	120.00
Augusta	2,800.00	112.00
Gardiner	2,500.00	100.00
Brunswick	2,400.00	96.00
Houlton	2,250.00	90.00
Caribou	2,100.00	84.00
Camden	2,000.00	80.00
Dover-Foxcroft	2,000.00	80.00
Presque Isle	2,000.00	80.00
Sanford	2,000.00	80.00
7%:		
Dexter	1,890.00	132.30
Old Town	1,884.83	131.94
Ellsworth	1,800.00	126.00
Madison	1,700.00	119.00
Lincoln	1,650.00	115.50
Pittsfield	1,650.00	115.50
Fort Fairfield	1,633.80	114.37
Oakland	1,600.00	112.00
Bath	1,500.00	105.00
Calais	1,500.00	105.00
Fairfield	1,500.00	105.00
Farmington	1,500.00	105.00
Gorham	1,500.00	105.00
Livermore Falls	1,500.00	105.00
Skowhegan	1,500.00	105.00
York	1,250.00	87.50
Brewer	1,200.00	84.00
Norway	1,200.00	84.00
Rangeley	1,200.00	84.00
Springvale	1,200.00	84.00
Wilton	1,200.00	84.00
Winthrop	1,200.00	84.00
Yarmouth	1,200.00	84.00

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

<i>City or Town</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Stipend</i>
7%:		
Boothbay Harbor	1,100.00	77.00
Milo	1,000.00	70.00
Old Orchard Beach	1,000.00	70.00
Orono	1,000.00	70.00
Winslow	900.00	63.00
Freeport	700.00	49.00
Islesboro	700.00	49.00
Machias	700.00	49.00
Mexico	700.00	49.00
Thomaston	700.00	49.00
Castine	698.17	48.87
Guilford	675.00	47.25
Baileyville	600.00	42.00
Vinalhaven	600.00	42.00
Clinton	500.00	35.00
Greenville	500.00	35.00
Howland	500.00	35.00
Jay, North	500.00	35.00
Kennebunk	500.00	35.00
Kennebunkport	500.00	35.00
Mechanic Falls	500.00	35.00
Paris, South	500.00	35.00
Rockport	500.00	35.00
Squirrel Island	500.00	35.00
Washburn	500.00	35.00
10%:		
Jonesport	475.00	47.50
Bar Harbor	450.00	45.00
Anson, North	400.00	40.00
Bethel	400.00	40.00
Cumberland Center	400.00	40.00
Lisbon Falls	400.00	40.00
North Berwick	400.00	40.00

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

31

<i>City or Town</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Stipend</i>
10%:		
New Gloucester	383.00	38.30
Eliot	350.00	35.00
Monmouth	350.00	35.00
Searsport	350.00	25.00
Hartland	325.00	32.50
Bucksport	300.00	30.00
Damariscotta	300.00	30.00
Harrison	300.00	30.00
Newcastle (aids Damariscotta)	300.00	30.00
Newport	300.00	30.00
Phillips	300.00	30.00
Southwest Harbor	300.00	30.00
Waldoboro	300.00	30.00
Winterport	300.00	30.00
Buckfield	275.00	27.50
Oxford	275.00	27.50
Alfred	250.00	25.00
Cape Elizabeth	250.00	25.00
East Millinocket	250.00	25.00
Hallowell	250.00	25.00
Lisbon	250.00	25.00
Norridgewock	250.00	25.00
Brownville	200.00	20.00
East Machias	200.00	20.00
Limestone	200.00	20.00
Limington	200.00	20.00
Monmouth, North	200.00	20.00
Southwest Harbor (Manset)	200.00	20.00
Topsham	200.00	20.00
Wiscasset	200.00	20.00
Woodstock (Bryant Pond)	200.00	20.00
Andover	150.00	15.00
Bingham	150.00	15.00
Kennebunkport (Cape Porpoise)	150.00	15.00
North Haven	150.00	15.00
Sangerville	150.00	15.00

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

<i>City or Town</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Stipend</i>
10%:		
Weld	150.00	15.00
Orrington	125.00	12.50
Lebanon	110.00	11.00
New Sharon	103.50	10.35
Canaan	100.00	10.00
Charleston	100.00	10.00
Cornish	100.00	10.00
Dixfield	100.00	10.00
Eustis (Stratton)	100.00	10.00
Garland	100.00	10.00
Kingfield	100.00	10.00
Mattawamkeag	100.00	10.00
Randolph	100.00	10.00
Scarboro	100.00	10.00
Sebago, East	100.00	10.00
South Berwick	100.00	10.00
Tremont (Bernard)	100.00	10.00
Union	100.00	10.00
Vassalboro	100.00	10.00
Warren	100.00	10.00
Winter Harbor	100.00	10.00
Farmingdale (aids Gardiner)	91.00	9.10
Veazie (aids Bangor)	90.00	9.00
Mercer	85.00	8.50
Friendship	75.00	7.50
Gorham (aids South Windham)	75.00	7.50
Gorham, North	75.00	7.50
Jackman Plantation	75.00	7.50
Ripley	75.00	7.50
Pittston (aids Gardiner)	65.00	6.50
Bluehill (East)	50.00	5.00
Brownfield	50.00	5.00
Buxton (Bar Mills)	50.00	5.00

<i>City or Town</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Stipend</i>
10%:		
Buxton (West)	50.00	5.00
Carmel	50.00	5.00
Cherryfield	50.00	5.00
Corinna	50.00	5.00
Corinth (East)	50.00	5.00
Deer Isle	50.00	5.00
Harrison (Bolster's Mills)	50.00	5.00
Hollis Center	50.00	5.00
Hollis (aids West Buxton)	50.00	5.00
Lee	50.00	5.00
Monson	50.00	5.00
Moose River (aids Jackman)	50.00	5.00
Nobleboro (Damariscotta Mills)	50.00	5.00
Palmyra	50.00	5.00
Paris (West)	50.00	5.00
Parsonsfield (Kezar Falls)	50.00	5.00
Stetson	50.00	5.00
Upton	50.00	5.00
Washington	50.00	5.00
Windham Center	50.00	5.00
Windham (North)	50.00	5.00
Windham (South)	50.00	5.00
Glenburn (aids Bangor)	35.00	3.50
Hiram	35.00	3.50
Acton	25.00	2.50
Newcastle (aids Damariscotta Mills)	25.00	2.50
Kenduskeag	25.00	2.50
LaGrange	25.00	2.50
Moscow (aids Bingham)	25.00	2.50
Parkman	25.00	2.50
Parsonsfield	25.00	2.50
Porter	25.00	2.50
		<hr/>
		\$7,820.48

NEW STIPEND LIBRARIES. During the two year period with which this report is concerned, two towns have been added to the list of those appropriating funds for library purposes: East Machias and Veazie. The latter town appropriates money so that citizens may have the use of the Bangor Public Library.

GIFTS TO NEW LIBRARIES. In conformity with the law, the following libraries, during the past two years, have received books in value of these amounts: East Machias, \$25; Athens, \$100; Strong, \$100.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS TO MAINE LIBRARIES, 1936-38. Belfast, \$1,000, bequest from Emma Worden, and \$4,500 from a MacDonald fund; Lovell, \$250; Bluehill, \$2,250; China, \$435; South Bridgton, \$97; Fryeburg, \$500 from Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Mark; Woodstock, \$100 from Lena Felt Estate; Gorham, \$5,000 under the will of Lucia Emery; Farmington, \$1,000 from the F. W. Butler fund, \$1,000 from Charles J. Goodwin; Livermore Falls, \$100 from estate of Georgia Eustis; Thomaston, \$2,000 bequest from Cassandra Washburn, \$6,446.70 as a Memorial Library Building Fund—the principal to be kept for a future building and the income to be used for books and general expenses; Houlton, \$500 from the W. P. Mansur Fund; Kennebunkport, \$500 bequest; Scarborough, \$900 bequest; Machias, \$100 for the purchase of juvenile books; Guilford, \$1,000 bequest under the will of John Houston; Belfast, a gift of a new furnace boiler; Kennebunk, \$1,000 legacy from Walter L. Dane; Bethel, \$161.25 bequest from Mrs. O. M. Mansur; Bar Harbor, \$200 from Mrs. Walter Ladd; Wiscasset, \$3,000 for the restoration of the roof to its original lines; Southwest Harbor, \$140.11; Tremont, \$250; Bangor, a bequest from Mrs. Mary Ellison Curran, placed in the hands of the trustees to accumulate until the principal should be \$10,000—the interest then to be used for the purchase of non-circulating reference books; Waterville, \$50 from the Library and Music Department of the Waterville Woman's Club.

NEW LIBRARY BUILDINGS, 1936-38. New library buildings have been erected in the following towns: Bethel, Sanford, Norway and East Corinth.

Funds have been presented or plans are being made for new library buildings at Springvale, Newport, Dixfield, Stonington, Van Buren, Wayne, Limestone, Mars Hill, East Parsonsfield and China. Brewer is to have a library in a room in the new Municipal Building.

Library improvements have been made in the following towns:

Hallowell. A railroad accident near the library damaged the building, necessitating repairs, which have now been effected.

Waterford. Following a recent fire, the library has been rebuilt on a larger scale.

North Gorham. The library has completed a new non-fiction room.

Respectfully submitted,

OLIVER L. HALL,
Librarian.