

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

1950-51

(in three volumes)

VOLUME II

FIFTY-FIRST REPORT

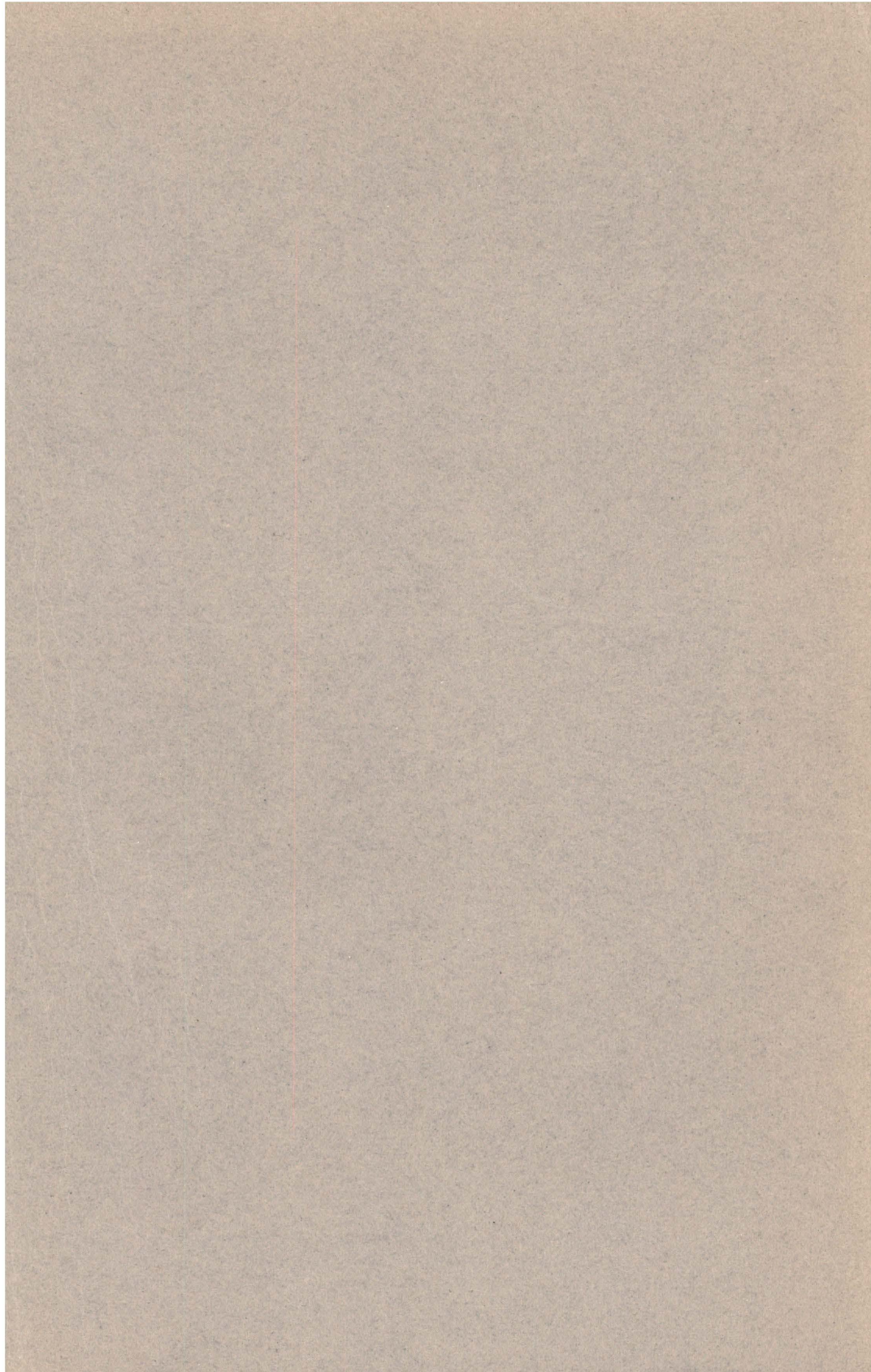
Maine State Library



July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1952

Augusta, Maine

1952



FIFTY-FIRST REPORT

Maine State Library



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

In accordance with the provisions of chapter 38, section 12, of the Revised Statutes, I submit the report of the Maine State Library for the period July 1, 1950, to June 30, 1952.

MARION B. STUBBS
Librarian

MAINE STATE LIBRARY REPORT

July 1, 1950 - June 30, 1952

State library agencies in all of the forty-eight states have authority, in varying degrees, to lend books, to do research, to give advice to local libraries and to develop and coordinate library activities throughout their states. Maine is no laggard in these fields, as is shown in this and previous reports. The fact that all library activities at state level in Maine are centered in one department is an important factor in bringing about an efficient state-wide library program. The best results cannot be realized, however, until there is an enlargement of working space for both patrons and staff.

When the State House was remodeled in 1911 the Commission on Enlargement, in that part of its report dealing with the Library, said "The main room is, of course, designed, when properly stacked, to be two stacks high, as before. The old stacks which are now in use are only sufficient to cover the floor one stack in height." At that time not all the books in the possession of the Library were placed in the new quarters. Some were left in airless, lightless nooks and crannies just below the dome, and years later were moved to similar bad quarters outside the capitol building.

Since 1917 there have been numerous attempts to remedy, by legislation, the obvious lack of space. The citizens of the state even approved a million dollar bond issue to finance several new buildings one of which was to be for the State Library. Notwithstanding laws, resolves, promises and propaganda, no new building has as yet been built nor has additional space of any kind been made available.

On the contrary, space has been taken away. During this biennium the Library was ordered by the Superintendent of Buildings, (later the order was confirmed by the Governor) to remove from the third floor of the storehouse all traveling libraries and to put them in a stable across the street. The office and personnel in charge of traveling library work are on the first floor of the so-called storehouse, so access to these boxes of books could be had heretofore without too much inconvenience because of elevator connections between the floors. Now the boxes must be carried to and fro across a public way as they

are constantly being mailed out and returned. During the past year 794 traveling libraries were lent, so 1588 trips to the stable were necessary—an average of about $6\frac{1}{3}$ each day. Each box weighs between 45 and 50 pounds. Comment on such an inefficient and hard way of doing business seems unnecessary.

Another very alarming inroad on library quarters is about to be made. By order of the Governor the Library has been ordered to move 45,000 books, with their steel stacks and supports, from the annex in the storehouse to the State Garage, so that Highway Department engineers “may be together in one place.” These books are not storage—they are constantly in use, and some of them are rare and valuable. Not only must detailed plans for reshelving be made by the Library before one book is moved, but also the process of moving itself must be supervised by Library staff members, who already are spending extra hours on their regular work.

The Librarian has been informed by the Highway Department that the contemplated use of the present Library annex is the result of recommendation made in a special survey of that department by a private firm. It would seem more sensible to make a survey of the overcrowded conditions of *all* departments with a view to making the best use possible of present facilities until such time as an addition to the State House can be built, and before excessively costly disruptions are made in current arrangements.

With a major move every two years or oftener, and the consequent months of making up arrears in work, and the fear of more moves to come, it is apparent that adherence to any consistent library program is impossible.

The State Library extends library opportunities to all the residents of Maine, by the following methods:

Single Book Loans. From a large collection shelved in the main room and in the annex, books are lent, one or more at a time, by mail, or over the desk. Some requests are for specified titles, but many are for information on a subject. No juvenile books and no fiction, except a few required for high school reading, are in this section of the library, so the circulation of 81,768 seems especially good. The mail borrowers during this biennium wrote from 481 different post offices in the state.

Traveling Libraries. These unit collections of twenty-five, sometimes fifty, volumes each, continue to be of great benefit to schools and

small communities. The circulation of 290,800 books is the largest since the establishment of traveling libraries in 1899. A breakdown into types is shown in the statistical tables of this report.

Deposit Stations. These are an experiment, and their continuance depends on the use made of them. Collections of books have been placed in towns where there are no public libraries, in charge of a person willing to act as librarian. Loans are made from these stations to anyone in the community. There are now 837 books deposited in the following five stations: Byron, Troy, Baring, Cooper, Vienna. Correspondence is being carried on with other towns and it is expected that more stations will soon be established.

The State Library has helped libraries and their staffs in the following ways:

Personal Visits. Assistance in problems of administration and technical processes is given, when requested, to public and school libraries. For this purpose visits have been made by Miss Marian Shaw, Extension Librarian, to Kennebunk Free Library; Patten Free Library, Bath; Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library; Washburn Memorial Library; Blue Point Public Library, Scarborough; Walker Memorial Library, Westbrook; Shaw Library, Greenville; Thompson Free Library, Dover-Foxcroft; North Haven Library; Community Library, Hancock; Northeast Harbor Library; Lincoln Academy Library, Newcastle; Mount Desert Library, Somesville; Louis B. Goodall Memorial Library, Sanford; Falmouth Public Library; Dinsmore Public Library, Palermo; Waterford Library Association; and by Miss Virginia Hill, Deputy Librarian, to the Waldoboro Public Library; Morse High School Library, Bath; Gardiner Public Library; Belgrade Farm Bureau Public Library; Rutherford Public Library, South Bristol; Bristol High School Library; Belgrade Lakes Public Library; Brownville Public Library; Fayette Grange Library (which was about to become a public library); Maria Clark Grammar School, Hallowell; and Peavey Memorial Library, Eastport.

Mail Requests. No count has been made of the answers given by mail to the requests from libraries for assistance in all phases of library work, but bulging folders in our files attest the accuracy of the estimate that there is at least one every day.

Financial Aid. Financial aid was given, in accordance with law, to cities and towns which appropriated and expended money toward

the maintenance of free public libraries. For the first year of the bien-nium, \$11,288.65 was granted to 197 municipalities, and for the second year, \$11,566.40 to 198. A thorough study of state aid for libraries should be made. Receipt of state aid should be contingent on the service rendered the community. The Maine Library Association will be asked to cooperate with the State Librarian in securing the establishment of standards which libraries should meet before state aid is given.

Correspondence Course. The correspondence course for public and school librarians has been continued. From July 1, 1950, to June 30, 1952, certificates, showing satisfactory completion of the course, were granted to:

School librarians: Mrs. Mary F. Butler, Lewiston High School; Hazel A. Champeon, N. H. Fay High School, Dexter; Mrs. Hilda Lincoln, Eliot High School; Sister St. Eva, Sacred Heart High School, Van Buren; Sister Mary Alacoque J., Saint Joseph's Academy, Portland; Sister Mary Leona E., Cathedral High School, Portland; Madelyn Ulmer, Lincoln Junior High School, Portland; Sister St. Irene, Sacred Heart High School, Van Buren; and Martha M. Ward, Jack Junior High School, Portland.

Librarians in public libraries: Elizabeth M. Champeon, Abbott Memorial Library, Dover-Foxcroft; Mrs. Anne Fay, and Mrs. Ann Humphrey, Louis B. Goodall Memorial Library, Sanford; Mary Haskell, Brewer Free Public Library; Mrs. Myron Heenie, Patten Free Library, Bath; Mrs. Freda Holman, Thomas Memorial Library, Cape Elizabeth; Mrs. Clayton Jenkins and Lois Weatherbee, Lincoln Memorial Library, Lincoln; Mrs. Jennie E. Johnson, Harrison Public Library; Mrs. Martha Rogers and Mrs. Phoebe Spearin, Old Town Public Library.

Seventeen persons are now enrolled.

The Maine Department of Education grants three credits to school librarians who complete this course.

Round Tables. Librarians and trustees appreciate the group meetings held each year in different parts of the state, as is evidenced by the attendance. The informality of the program leads to participation by almost all who are present. Meetings have been held as follows: May 17, 1951, at Mount Vernon, with twenty-eight present; May 24, 1951, at Westbrook, with thirty-three present; June 6, 1951, at North-east Harbor, with thirty-three present; June 13, 1951, at Lincoln, with

twenty-six present; May 15, 1952, at Camden, with forty-nine present; June 5, 1952, at Norway, with fifty-nine present; June 12, 1952, at Hartland, with twenty-five present.

Workshops. The first day of each annual session of the Maine Library Association has been a workshop conducted by the Maine State Library. In 1950 at Lakewood the subject was classification and the instructors were Miss Marian Shaw and Mrs. Ruth Wood of the State Library staff and Miss Iris Almy of the Portland Public Library. In 1951 at Rockland the subject was reference. The instructors were Miss Edith L. Hary and Miss Margaret A. Whalen of the State Library staff.

LAW AND LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

The activities of these sections of the Library are sufficiently distinctive to deserve separate mention.

Legislative Reference. Over half the membership of the 95th Legislature made personal use of library facilities and many sought information by correspondence prior to the session, or received library assistance through questions addressed to the Legislative Research Committee and other state and legislative officials. Every effort is being made to have the Library serve as the materials center for the Legislative Research Committee by accumulating needed publications for Committee studies and by making available in an orderly fashion reports, pamphlets, and papers received by the Committee and the Library. The cooperation between this office and the Legislative Research office has been constant and pleasant and we are most appreciative of the many courtesies of the Director, Mr. Slosberg, and his staff. Working with his office provides one of the best opportunities open to us for making our facilities better known to legislators.

During the session the usual day-to-day indexing of legislative documents was continued and information on the status of bills and resolves furnished to interested persons.

A very considerable amount of time is spent each year in supplying Maine information for legislative studies by other states and for the publications and inquiries of the Council of State Governments. Not only do these groups reciprocate such aid but it makes much comparative data available to us.

Law. With the retirement of our cataloger, Miss Jennie Cochrane, the cataloging of all legal materials has been assumed by the law libra-

rian, beginning January 1, 1952. In place of the entries formerly made for treatises in the accession books a combination shelf list-accession type card is used. For all legal continuations a new continuations-accession card file has been started based on that used in the Social Law Library in Boston. We are indebted to Howard L. Stebbins, its librarian, for his guidance in establishing this continuation record.

Notable accessions include Corbin on Contracts, the 3d edition of McQuillin on Municipal Corporations, Toulmin on the Anti-trust Laws of the United States, and the gift by the Attorney General of the Lawyers' edition of the United States Supreme Court Reports. Units of Shepard's Citations covering Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin were purchased. Additional files of legal periodicals were secured by subscription and by exchange for our Maine Reports, laws, and Proceedings of the Maine State Bar Association. The latter have been particularly valuable in securing desirable exchanges and are furnished to us without charge by the Bar Association. Special lists of legal accessions were prepared for the 1950 and 1951 summer meetings of the Bar Association and were widely distributed to members of the Bar.

The surplus stock of Maine Reports has been made available to lawyers on an exchange basis, the Library trading any volume in stock for any other volume of Maine Reports offered. This has enabled several lawyers to fill gaps in their sets and is an accommodation which will be continued.

Distribution of 98 volumes from surplus stock of old statute revisions and session laws was made to public officials and libraries. Sale of 66 more of these volumes was made to lawyers, with a net profit of \$144.38.

PERSONNEL

Miss Jennie M. Cochrane was employed first on December 1, 1906, as cataloger. On December 31, 1951, she retired. A personnel record card gives dates and figures, reflecting the progress of an employee, but it is the skeleton only, needing life-giving details.

An average year of cataloging means approximately 6,000 items handled, as either acquisitions or withdrawals. In her years of librarianship, Miss Cochrane probably cataloged 270,000 items. This figure represents not only a multitude of books, but also a great deal of care and practical perception, to make available this material in index form. It also represents a sympathy and understanding of the people who

have used their State Library, and the kind of information they are likely to request. It represents, above all, a steadfast devotion to serving intellectual and recreational needs, and the quiet, skillful purpose of opening the rewarding world of books and the resulting joy and satisfaction to an increasing number of patrons.

Miss Cochrane's knowledge and experience were valuable in many ways. Her technical library work was essential as a foundation for reference and research. Her introduction of beginners and apprentices to the intricacies of cataloging was an important part of her duties. Staff and patrons relied upon her comprehensive acquaintance with the Library's resources. Genealogists were particularly grateful for her suggestions and information on town and family histories.

The retirement of a capable, faithful public servant always brings the problem of replacement and a sense of loss. The position of cataloger is not one to be filled casually, and it is doubtful whether forty-five years of loyal service can ever be really replaced.

Mary I. Whitcomb became cataloger on December 3, 1951, and resigned because of illness January 11, 1952. The position has not yet been filled.

Mrs. Ruth W. Wood, Classifier, resigned on May 15, 1951, to join her husband who is on military service in England. This position is filled for the summer only by Miss Mary Jean Montgomery of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Miss Marian Brown, Library Assistant, resigned November 13, 1950, to be married to William C. Casperson of Paterson, New Jersey. Eleanore Beane, formerly of the Lithgow Public Library and Reading Room, Augusta, was employed in her place December 4, 1950.

Miss Priscilla Foster, Library Assistant, resigned February 9, 1951, to be married to Sgt. Leslie Crowley. Mrs. Alice F. Hunt of East Winthrop succeeded her on February 12, 1951.

Miss Janice P. Butterfield, Library Assistant, resigned September 14, 1951, in order to take a graduate course in Simmons School of Library Science. Mrs. Priscilla S. Hornberger succeeded her on September 17, 1951.

Mary F. Whalen, Library Assistant, resigned September 1, 1950, for further study.

Helen K. Gorham was added to the staff February 18, 1952, as clerk-stenographer II. This is a new position.

LIBRARIAN AND STAFF

June 30, 1952

Marion B. Stubbs, *Librarian*
Virginia Hill, *Deputy Librarian*
Vacancy, *Cataloger*
Mary Jean Montgomery, *Classifier* (Temporary)
Marian Shaw, *Extension Librarian*
Margaret A. Whalen, *Research Librarian*
Edith L. Hary, *Law and Legislative Reference Librarian*
Florence A. Bessey, *Documents Librarian*
Alice G. Nute, *Distribution and Sales Librarian*
Hilda McLeod Jacob, *Library Secretary*
Clara T. Bean, *Library Assistant*
Hazel C. Millett, *Library Assistant*
Parker J. Smith, *Library Assistant*
Eleanore Beane, *Library Assistant*
Alice F. Hunt, *Library Assistant*
Priscilla S. Hornberger, *Library Assistant*
Helen K. Gorham, *Clerk-Stenographer*

Other Staff Members

July 1, 1950 - June 30, 1952

Jennie M. Cochrane, *Cataloger*, Retired
Mary I. Whitcomb, *Cataloger*, Resigned
Ruth W. Wood, *Classifier*, Resigned
Marian Brown, *Library Assistant*, Resigned
Priscilla A. Foster, *Library Assistant*, Resigned
Janice P. Butterfield, *Library Assistant*, Resigned
Mary F. Whalen, *Library Assistant*, Resigned
Parker J. Smith, Jr., *Temporary Assistant*
Jean Howe, *Apprentice*, completed course.

STATISTICS

Accessions

By purchase	
1950-51 for main library	1726
1951-52 for main library	2006
1950-52 for traveling libraries	2967
1950-52 for picture collection	167
1950-52 for exhibit collection	6
1950-52 for reading courses	300
By gift	
1950-51	224
1951-52	232
On exchange	
1950-51	479
1951-52	360
From U. S. Govt.	
1950-51	1068
1951-52	1239
Maine state, county and town reports	
1950-51	1106
1951-52	1143
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Total	13,023

Withdrawals

From main library	
1950-51	839
1951-52	906
From traveling libraries	2636

Circulation

	1950-51	1951-52	Total
Single book loans	41,855	39,855	81,710
Traveling libraries	133,600	157,200	290,800
Illustrated juveniles			250
Deposit Station collections			837
			<hr/>
			373,597

The total book circulation was 16,899 over the previous biennium.

Details of single book circulation are as follows:

	1950-51	1951-52	Total
General works	1017	1019	
Philosophy	788	809	
Religion	573	552	
Social Science	4582	3994	
Language	242	229	
Science	1604	1688	
Useful Arts	4053	4236	
Fine Arts	4245	4337	
Literature	2398	2309	
History	6705	5824	
Travel	2557	2168	
Biography	6309	5199	
Current Periodicals	4350	4395	
Law and Legislative Reference . .	2490	3096	
	41,913	39,855	81,768
Table Circulation		9,119	

Details of traveling library circulation are as follows:

Number of sets:

	<i>General</i>	<i>Juvenile</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Nature</i>	<i>Spec.</i>	<i>Total</i>
1950-51	77	348	169	33	13	24	665
1951-52	107	406	198	31	11	11	764

Number of books:

	<i>Adult fiction</i>	<i>Adult non-fiction</i>	<i>Juvenile</i>	<i>Total</i>
1950-51	24,200	10,400	199,000	133,600
1951-52	29,300	12,900	115,000	157,200

Binding

Items bound:

720 magazines in	190 volumes
139 town reports in	7 “
946 books (rebound) in	946 “
Total	1,673

Documents

Distributed to the public officers and libraries entitled to receive them:

State department reports	3,835
State department miscellaneous publications	6,107
Old Bristol Vital Records, vol. 1	150
Court Reports	2,156
Court Reports, advance sheets	300
Legislative Record (bound)	325
Legislative Record (unbound)	333
Legislative Documents	14,000
Laws of 1951	1,580
Maine Bar Association Reports	120
Library list of new books	6,196
Library checklist of state publications	2,380
Graded lists	200
	<hr/>
Total	37,682

Sales

Revised Statutes	67
Laws, 1945	42
Laws, 1947	44
Laws, 1949	79
Laws, 1951	472
Old Laws	66
Index to Private and Special Laws	17
	<hr/>
Total	787

FINANCES

All Library operations are financed by legislative appropriation. Any sums collected for fines, fees or book sales are not used for library purposes, but are deposited with the State Treasurer to the credit of the general fund of the state. The Legislature of 1951 adopted a new employee classification and pay plan, and appropriated a lump sum to cover increases over budget estimates. Transfers from this were made to each department if needed. A transfer from the Contingent Fund

to the Library in 1950-51 was necessary because of the unanticipated publication of a volume of the Maine Court Reports. In the year 1951-52 the anticipated publication of a volume was not realized, so there was an unexpected balance in this one item of \$3060.19.

Receipts

	1950-51	1951-52
Appropriation	\$76,828.00	\$90,014.00
Salary fund transfers	2,898.00	3,459.00
Insurance		120.00
Transfer for court reports & vital records . . .	3,802.33	
Encumbered balance forward	2,006.14	6,225.63
	\$85,534.47	\$99,818.63

The following moneys were received and deposited to the credit of the general fund of the state:

Fines	\$ 35.58	\$ 47.40
Sales	1,852.40	5,494.15
Traveling library fees	765.75	900.00
	\$2,653.73	\$6,441.55

Expenditures

	1950-51	1951-52
Salaries	\$43,175.84	\$45,438.15
Books	11,206.14	15,337.15
Periodicals	1,524.13	1,734.66
Microfilm	265.67	259.98
Binding and rebinding	1,668.69	917.21
Postage	1,532.02	2,368.29
Express and freight	255.83	50.91
Office supplies	1,560.83	1,853.06
Telephone and telegraph	327.81	328.77
Repairs	10.35	57.07
Printing	241.56	103.85
Travel	606.67	921.58
Furniture and typewriters	657.84	606.56
State aid	11,228.65	11,556.40

Expenditures *(concluded)*

	1950-51	1951-52
Ancient Vital Records	786.00	1,000.00
Maine Court Reports	3,536.86	7,436.28
Miscellaneous	172.99	142.84
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$78,757.88	\$90,112.76
Encumbered balance forward	6,384.33	6,157.79
Unexpended balance lapsed	392.26	3,548.08*

*\$3,060.19 was for Maine Court Reports which were not published as anticipated in the budget.