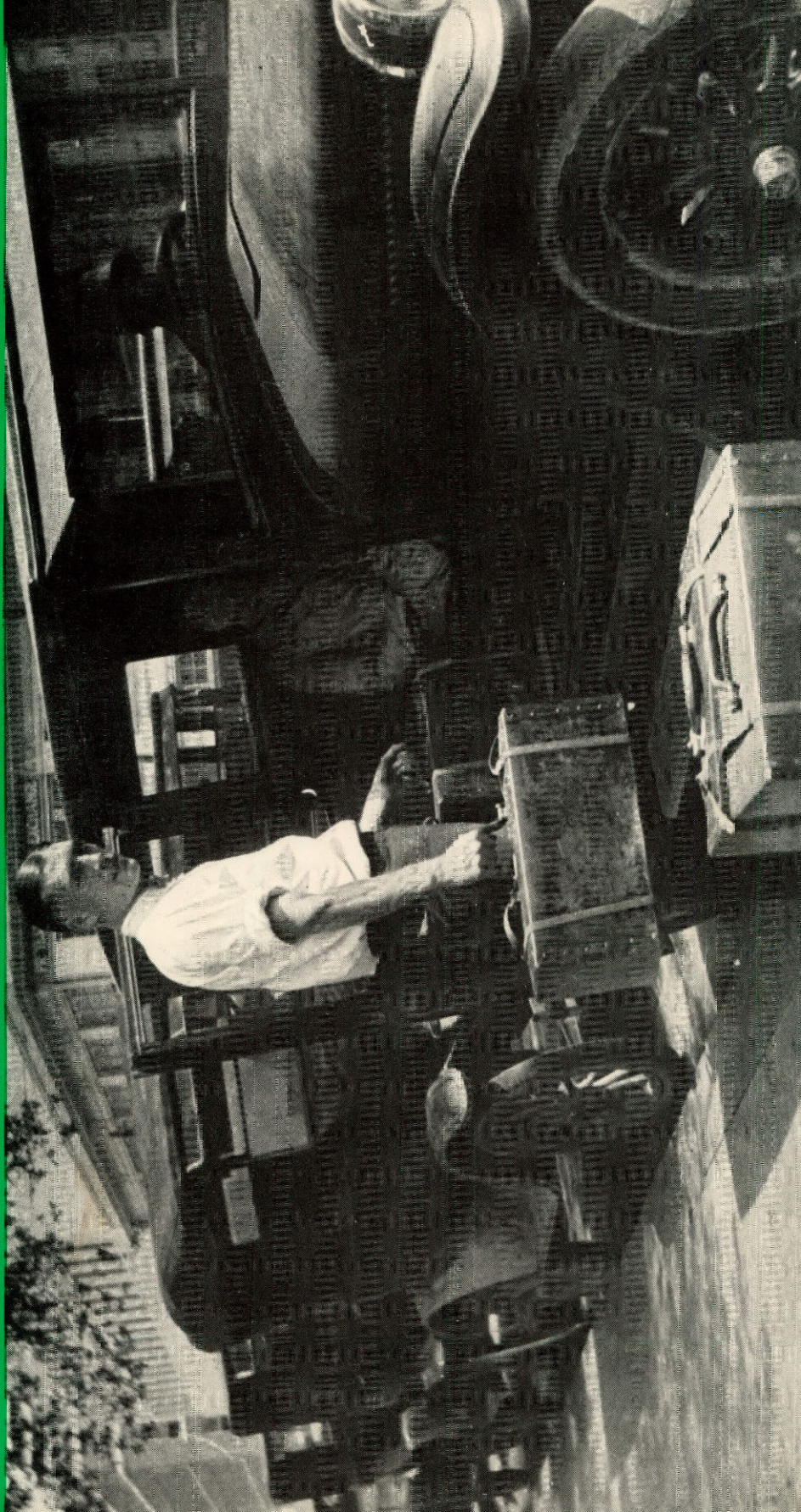


Texas Libraries

Volume 37

Number 1

Spring 1975



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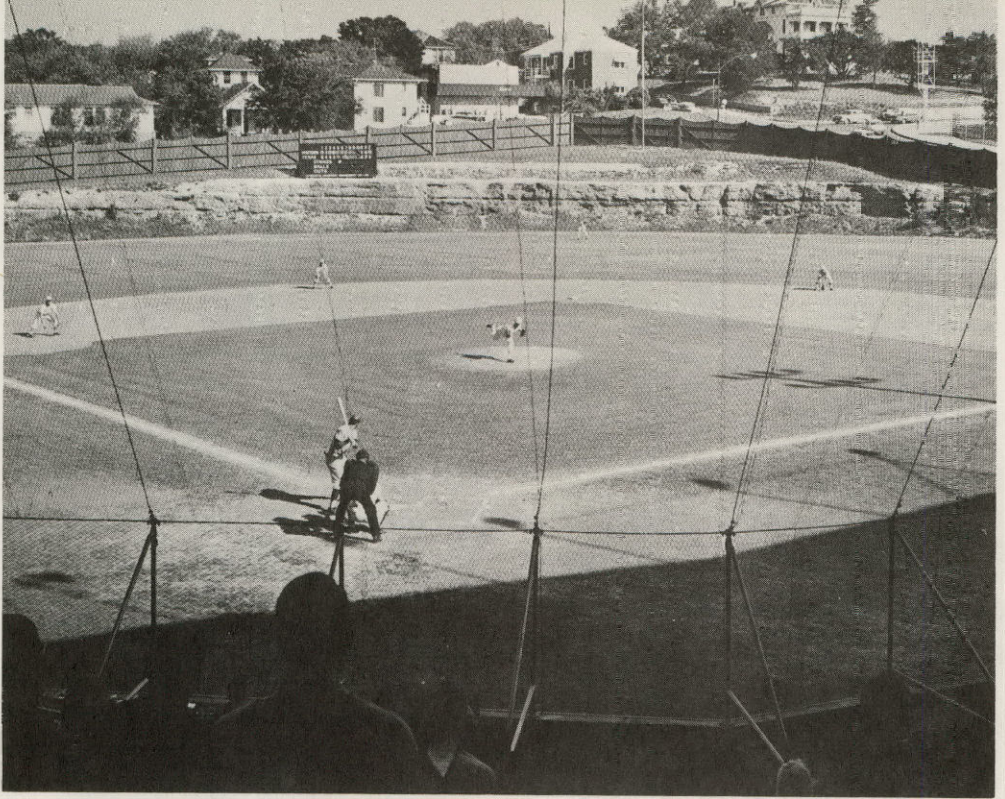
About the Cover

Travelling libraries taking materials to isolated areas of Harris County during the 1920's represented an early effort to make service more accessible.

Making Libraries Accessible

Getting books to people who live in rural areas has long been a problem for public libraries. Deposit collections placed in rural stores, post offices, schools, and even private homes provided a partial solution during the 1920's. Later the book wagon or bookmobile began to provide service on wheels. Today books-by-mail reach persons isolated from libraries. The need for library service is universal. Developing means to reach persons who are physically isolated from it demands imagination.

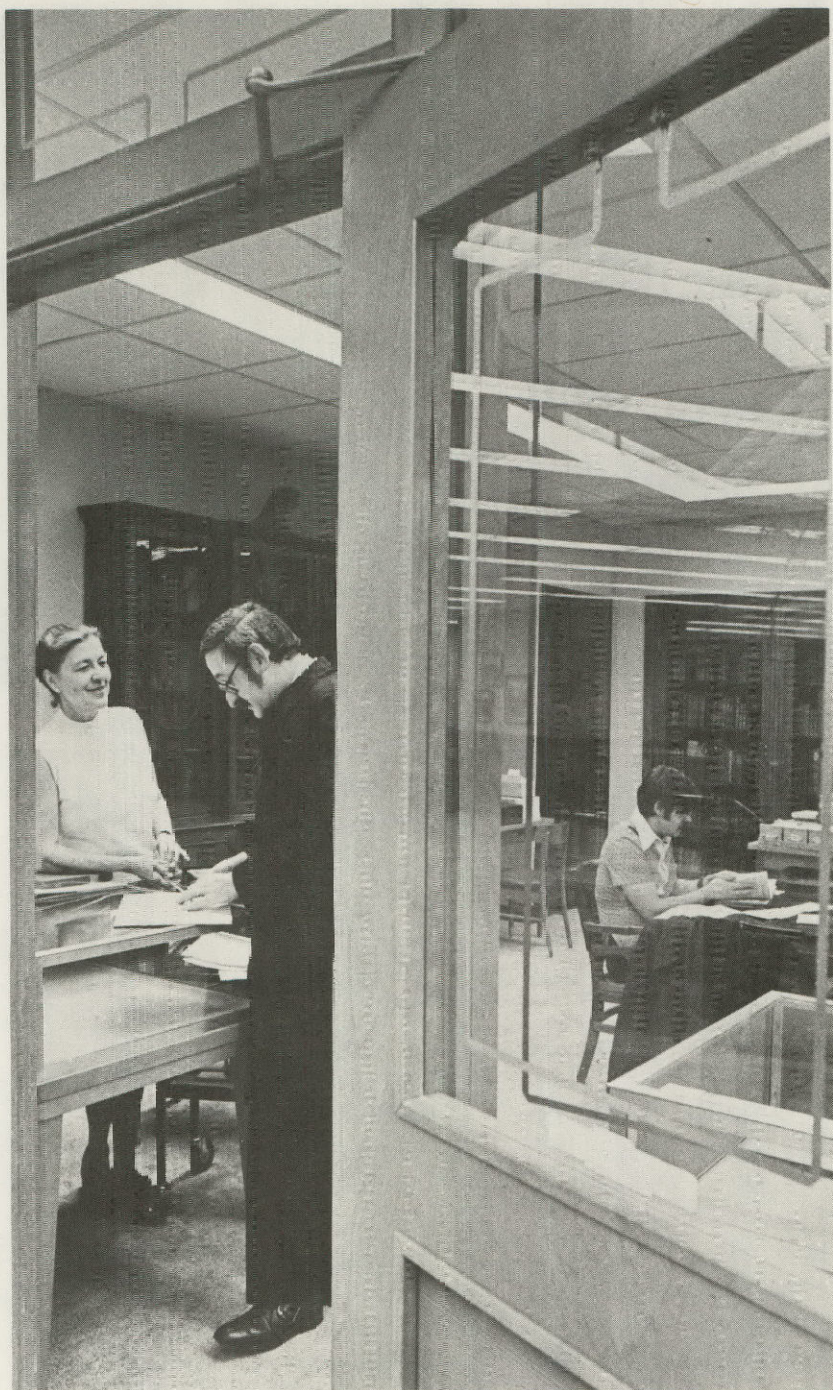
Much of the thrust of present programs is directed toward making services of all kinds more accessible. For the blind or physically handicapped person, the distance of a few blocks may be insurmountable. For this reason we have reprinted the application for service to the blind and physically handicapped on the inside back cover of this issue of *Texas Libraries*. Xerox copies, if you wish, or write Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for copies to distribute at your circulation desk.



Baseball fans long thought that Clark Field at the University of Texas at Austin was unique because a cliff gave it an upfield and a downfield instead of an infield and an outfield. When the Longhorns moved to new Disch-Faulk Field, they not only left behind the notorious limestone cliff but also what must have been one of the few baseball fields anywhere named for a librarian.

Librarian Loses Out To Baseball Coaches

In 1975 the Texas Longhorn baseball team moved into a stadium that fans of the game probably think is appropriately named for Billy Disch and Bibb Faulk, a pair of baseball coaches with phenomenal win records. But the team also stopped playing in a field named for a librarian. Among his numerous other responsibilities, James Benjamin Clark, for whom Clark Field was named, was also responsible for the library at the University of Texas when it consisted of a few books in two rooms of the old Main Building. Since the Longhorns won the Southwest Conference championship 30 times, shared it 7 times and lost it only 9 times while playing in the field on Red River Street, a field named for a librarian may have been a good idea.



Special Collections Librarian Ann Day McDermott talks with a faculty member at the entrance to a separate room that houses the William Luther Lewis collection.

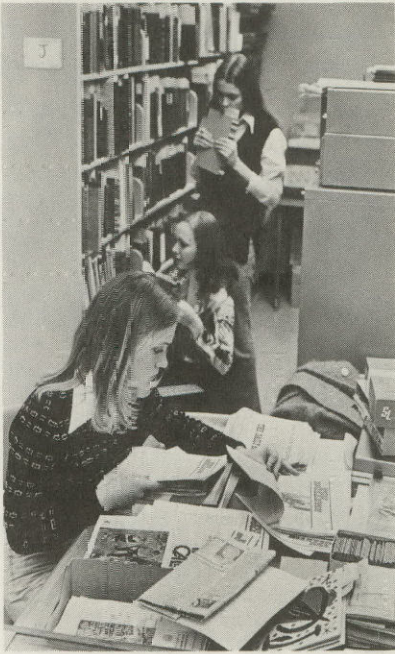


Special Collections In New Role at TCU

Specialized collections at Texas Christian University's Mary Coats Burnett Library had been almost building themselves for many years. Items were acquired from time to time with no apparent objective in mind.

Then in November, 1972, the thousands of books, papers, manuscripts and assorted memorabilia were designated a separate unit—Special Collections—to be brought together and supervised by Ann Day McDermott. Since then the division has been steadily gaining strength.

"We are typical of a pattern which so often occurs in libraries," said Dr. Paul Parham, University librarian. "Our special collections had been formulating for a number of years. It became apparent that we had gained some notability in our undergraduate collection, that we had reasonable support for our graduate programs and that we had attained some maturity in



Student helpers work through some of the brochures and periodicals that will become part of the school's archives.

collection building. It seems appropriate that the wave of our future be in developing specialized collections to complement and add emphasis to what we've done in collection building all along. "We needed a qualified person to organize the unit and search out our strong points to develop later."

TCU's Special Collections are built around the following:

—The Rare Book Collection of some 2,000 volumes that includes many rare Bibles. Dated as early as 1491, the books include many first editions, Bibles of different revisions and languages, gifts to the University and purchases by the library. They are a mixture of titles, collected around no certain theme. A slim, frail volume called *Hey for Honesty, Down with Knavery* by Thomas Randolph, printed in London in 1651, was a gift from a former professor. A modern first edition of William Faulkner's *Pylon* came from a Fort Worth businessman. The Friends of the TCU Libraries, organized in 1972 and now boasting membership of 300 individuals, gave a three-volume first edition of Charlotte Bronte's *Shirley*. A handsomely bound 1692 *Aesop's Fables*—with 17th Century bookplate showing it once belonged to a knight—was the gift of an early-day TCU supporter. There are also three short shelves of typescript entitled Fort Worth Historical Notes, the results of work done for the Texas Writers

Graduate students Karen Hostetter and David Kendziora assist Mrs. McDermott in identifying and cataloging a papers collection.



Project, a venture funded through the Work Projects Administration during the Depression.

—University Archives, including yearbooks, catalogs, theses and dissertations, newspapers, student handbooks, literary publications and winning entries in the annual Creative Writing Contest. There is also an ever-growing group of photographs, negatives and color transparencies, some of the founding family that date long before the University's 1873 establishment as AddRan College in Thorp Spring. The pictures are of campus buildings, activities, personalities, organizations and student life covering the last 100 years.

—The William Luther Lewis Collection of 1,500 rare books and manuscripts from more than 300 American and British authors of the 15th through the 20th Centuries. The valuable assemblage was once part of the personal library of Lewis, president of the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company, who had gathered the books over a 30-year period with the help of New York book dealer Michael Papantonio. It was bought at Lewis' death in 1952 by the Amon G. Carter Foundation and later given to TCU. A glance at spine labels shows the first complete edition of Pope's *Rape of the Lock* (1714), *De Imitatione Christi*, printed in Augsburg, Germany, and credited to Thomas a Kempis (1473),



Students in Dr. Bob Frye's honors English class study some of the William Blake etchings that are part of the Lewis Collection of rare manuscripts and books.

first edition of Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* with type set by the author, and the first attempt to issue a collection of Shakespeare's plays by bookseller Thomas Pavier (1619). Part two of *A Descriptive Catalogue of the W. L. Lewis Collection*, which lists books, will be issued in 1976 by the TCU Press as a companion volume to part one, which covered manuscripts, inscriptions and art.

—The Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Pate, Jr. Collection on the American Presidency, an open group of 3,000 items and 1,500 books relating to U.S. chief executives from George Washington to Gerald Ford. Dr. Pate, president of Texas Refinery Corporation and a leader in both the Texas Historical Foundation and the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, and his wife, who was instrumental in formation of the Abraham Lincoln Appreciation Society, included with the gift of their collection an endowment for the purchase of additional books each year.

—The Robertson Colony Papers, a multitude of letters and documents tracing the history of a Central Texas colony that lay between Fort Worth and Austin from 1788 to 1842. Privately held for more than a century, the papers are being compiled by Dr. Malcolm D. McLean of TCU's modern languages department into

TCU's Rare Book Collection of approximately 2,000 books are currently housed in a temperature and humidity controlled room with University Archives.



a 10-volume set of books on the 30-county tract.

—Personal papers of a number of people, such as Fort Worth businessman Raymond E. Buck and Joseph Lynn Clark, son of TCU's co-founder.

—A developing aviation collection with material from the Buck papers and records from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce's aviation committee and Greater Southwest International Airport.

—A number of small private libraries, notably the Florence M. Ames and Anne Burnett Tandy collections.

Mrs. McDermott, currently chairman of the Archives and Local History Round Table of the Texas Library Association, oversees all of Special Collections—from her office on the first floor with its files and stacks of items en route to other destinations to the Rare Book and Archives Room on the third floor. The versatile librarian also conducts sessions in these surroundings occasionally for classes in archival history, bibliography, honors English and literature.

Her job now takes her to scattered holdings throughout the library, but Special Collections will be set aside in its own area when the proposed expansion of the facility is complete.

Highway Department Source For Audiovisual Materials

As a part of its work in the travel information field, the Texas Highway Department has produced both 35mm slide sets with accompanying narrative scripts and 16mm sound, color films. Both are available for free loan. In addition, new prints of the films may be purchased at the Highway Department's cost, and the slide sets may be copied by borrowers.

While the purpose of these materials is to encourage travel within Texas, they can also be used for a variety of programs on Texas. They add an additional resource to libraries that are developing audiovisual collections of their own or which are making an effort to make such materials available through the library from other sources.

There is no charge for borrowing the films, but return postage must be paid. The films should be returned immediately after they are shown unless other arrangements have been made. Students must borrow under the supervision of a teacher or other adult. Because of heavy use during the school year, a minimum of three or four weeks should be allowed.

Return this form to: Slide Library
Travel & Information Division
Texas Highway Department
Post Office Box 5064
Austin, Texas 78763

Name of Program _____

Date of Program _____

Alternate Date _____

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

16mm Color Sound Films

- Texas—America's Fun-tier** Vividly depicts recreational aspects of Texas and includes a variety of scenes from throughout the state. (27 minutes)
- Texas—Land of Contrast** Available not only in English but also in German, French, and Spanish, this film is a general introduction to the scenic, historic, and recreational attractions in Texas. (28½ minutes)
- Law West of the Pecos** The Highway Department's visitor center at Langtry highlights Judge Roy Bean's career. Film shows area scene, original "Jersey Lilly" saloon-courtroom, a comprehensive display of Southwestern flora, and unique dioramas. (22 minutes)
- Beautify Texas** This look at the Highway Department's 40 year history of highway beautification includes scenes of beauty along the roadside as well as an anti-litter appeal. (28½ minutes)
- The Missions of Texas** Narrated by Ricardo Montalban, this film describes the ancient missions in Texas. It features ten of the missions that date back to 1681. (14½ minutes)
- Festival Time in Texas** A fun-loving people, Texans celebrate just about everything—blackeyed peas, German sausage, and crawfish. This film takes viewers to some of these events. (14½ minutes)

35mm Slide Sets

- Scenic Texas** Highlights of scenic beauty spots throughout the state. (80 slides)
- Texas' Colorful Past** Historic sites from before the Republic of Texas to the taming of the frontier (60 slides)
- Flowers of Texas** Shows hillsides, woodlands, and roadsides blooming with a profusion of color as well as shots of individual specimens. (72 slides) (filmstrips also available)
- Texas Highway Story** Texas Highway Department operations and functions. Shows how highways are planned, financed, and built. (51 slides)

Texas Travel Trails Slide Sets

- Texas Brazos Trail** Stops at historical and recreational sites, with views of rugged limestone hills and serene valleys in the heart of Texas. (80 slides)
- Texas Forest Trail** Visits the important forested areas of East Texas with its national forests and huge lakes. (80 slides)
- Texas Forts Trail** Leads to eight sites of frontier forts, ranging from lonely ruins to excellent restorations. Includes recreational and scenic spots. (76 slides)
- Texas Hill Country Trail** Traverses the Hill Country of Central Texas with views of history, hills, and Highland lakes. Includes Austin and San Antonio. (78 slides)
- Texas Independence Trail** Visits sites where the war for Texas independence began and

- Texas Lakes Trail** ended. Includes highlights of Houston and Galveston. (65 slides)
Provides a sample of water recreation at 20 major Texas lakes. Includes Dallas and Fort Worth. (80 slides)
- Texas Mountain Trail** An adventure route through the highest region of Texas, a land of towering peaks in which the breath-taking views includes ghost towns and painted deserts. Includes El Paso. (72 slides)
- Texas Pecos Trail** Crosses and re-crosses the Pecos River to visit the Edwards Plateau and the Rio Grande Plain, returning to the Trans-Pecos. (79 slides)
- Texas Plains Trail** Contrasts the fertile High Plains of the Texas Panhandle with the mighty Palo Duro Canyon and Cap Rock. Includes Amarillo. (80 slides)
- Texas Tropical Trail** Moves along the Gulf and coastal plains and skirts Mexico as it offers palms and citrus groves in a large measure. Includes Corpus Christi (80 slides)

New Organization Seeks To Improve Service to State

by Jeanetta Sanders

In recent months state agency librarians and information personnel have organized to form the State Agency Libraries of Texas (SALT) "to increase the quality and quantity of information resources available to Texas' state agencies through expansion of the efficiency and scope of those libraries' services." As the formalized goals and purposes statement decrees, membership is open to any and all information personnel employed by a Texas state agency. Representatives from approximately 35 state agencies have expressed interest in becoming involved with SALT.

As Vicki Hodlofski, librarian for the General Land Office and SALT's president, notes, "The underlying concept of SALT is cooperation. Together, we make available a vast amount of resources to state agency decision-makers and researchers. A single library may lack the budget, space and manpower to manage this information. By pooling our resources, we have greatly increased the number of sources and resources available to each of us, without creating a strain on anyone."

Cooperation is the key word to the existence of SALT in that it provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and the chance to meet others engaged in similar undertakings.

Linda Kemp, librarian for the Texas Education Agency and program development chairperson for SALT, states, "I hope that SALT will work toward answering some of the unique needs of the special librarian working in state government. I believe this voluntary association will encourage communication between agency libraries and foster continuing professional development of the members which will result in more efficient services for our users."

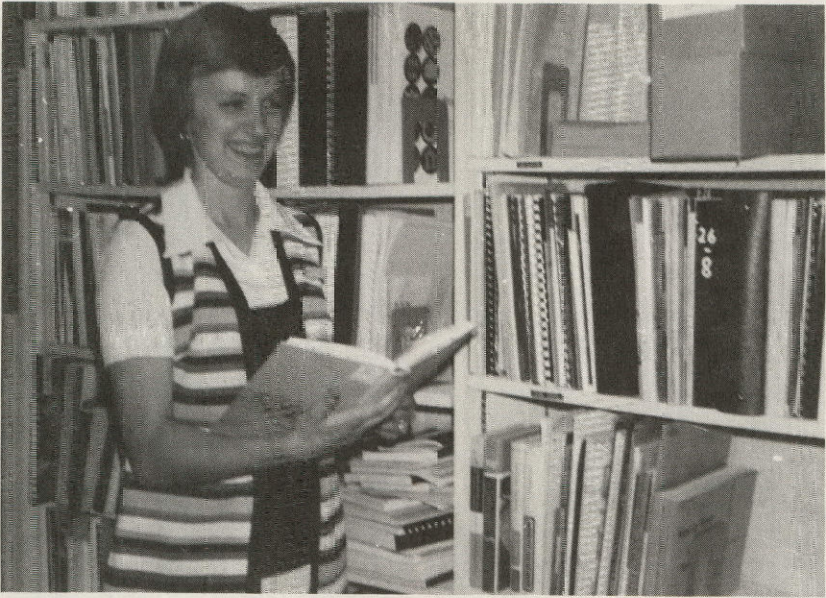
By working through the structure of the new constitution, regular meetings, task forces and round tables are being utilized to meet some of the more common problems faced by State agency librarians. The constitution was developed by Ann Beardsley,



Illustrating card catalog use at the Supreme Court Law Library are Marian Boner, director of the library, and Ann Beardsley, acquisitions librarian and secretary of SALT.

acquisitions librarian for the Texas Supreme Court Library and SALT's secretary, using a comparison of other professional library association constitutions and giving consideration to SALT's special needs.

A Standing Program Committee, which is set up in the constitution, provides arrangements and agendas for the quarterly meetings and seeks to encourage participation in other professional organizations and activities by working with the newsletter editor of SALT to publicize events. On March 19, the organizational meeting was held and officers elected. The first meeting following the election of SALT officers, held April 30, included a discussion of current state government reference tools by Brenda Olds, librarian for the Legislative Reference Library, and Marvene McCann, librarian for the Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Mrs. Olds discussed the Legislative Reference Library classification scheme for state documents and the bibliography of Texas documents that the Legislative Reference Library keeps up-to-date. Mrs. McCann, who undertook a comprehensive project in the compilation of



Part of the materials collection for the Texas Department of Community Affairs' Texas Office of Economic Opportunity is shown by their librarian, Jeanetta Sanders.

Handbook of Governments in Texas, explained the book, including the research techniques she employed in gathering the information and the constant up-date the book undergoes.

Other ideas for meetings have included a panel discussion of information sources in the Austin area outside of State government and inviting directors of large diversified State agencies along with their librarians or information personnel to explain their programs and what informational tools might be of use to other agencies.

Task forces are provided for in Article VI of the constitution. Each task force is instructed to work independently under the direction of a chairperson and to report to the executive committee of SALT upon completion of its project accompanied with a written report.

Task forces arranged thus far include a task force for the development of a union list of serials for Texas State agencies, with Debbie Miller of the Texas State Library as the chairperson. She has asked all State agencies to submit to her a list of periodicals to which they subscribe along with holdings.

Dr. Dorman Winfrey, director of the Texas State Library,

notes of this project, "As the cost of books and subscriptions to periodicals rises, all of us are becoming increasingly concerned about the needless duplication of resources. There are, of course, some materials that all of us need multiple copies of. But there are also materials that we need only occasionally. A union catalog of materials in agency libraries could encourage the sharing of these materials."

Catalog card reproduction is many times a problem in smaller libraries with limited budget and staff. Frances Brownlow, librarian for the professional librarianship collection at the Texas State Library, has been examining different methods of catalog card reproduction aiming at the possibility of a half-day workshop for those interested SALT members. An Acquisitions Task Force has been organized under the direction of Frances Turley, librarian for the Texas State Department of Public Welfare. As part of this task force State purchasing procedures will be examined and the State Board of Control will be invited for input. Susan Fekety, also of the Welfare Department, has been appointed as temporary chairman of the Circulation Task Force.

Special task forces or round tables that might be developed in the ensuing months include specific technical problems concerning library management, development of a budget request, preparation of a grant proposal, and the use of multi-media in State agency libraries.



Providing guidance in the use of audio-visual equipment is Linda Kemp who serves as the librarian for the Texas Education Agency. Linda is program development chairperson for SALT.

Background History

Impetus for the origination of SALT came from State agency librarians who attended a newly instituted series of meetings sponsored by the Texas State Library which began in June 1974. Barbara Duke, who was transferred to the Reference Section from the Field Services Division in September 1973, was assigned as part of her new job the rendering of assistance and the assessment of State Library services to State agency libraries. Assistance to State agency libraries by the State Library had been rendered before this time but the State Library further enunciated their goals for expanding this service in the Fall 1972 issue of *Texas Libraries* in their Long Range Plan which was developed in compliance with the provisions of the U.S. Library Services and Construction Act. The Plan states, "Under both State and Federal legislation, the State Library is charged with the responsibility for serving library needs of governmental offices. . . .As an increasing number of agencies develop special collections, there is a responsibility for the State Library to provide coordination for them as well as to advise in the acquisition and cataloging of materials."

Shortly after beginning her job, Mrs. Duke visited the 23 agencies known to have library collections. As a result of her survey two agencies were dropped from the original list and several others were added bringing the total to around 35. While visiting the agencies she briefly explained some State Library services the librarians might avail themselves of and asked such questions as what they would like to see the State Library develop, how large their collection was, what borrowing procedures they had, and what subject areas were covered by the materials. A list was then compiled including the address, phone, and name of librarian and sent to all agencies surveyed.

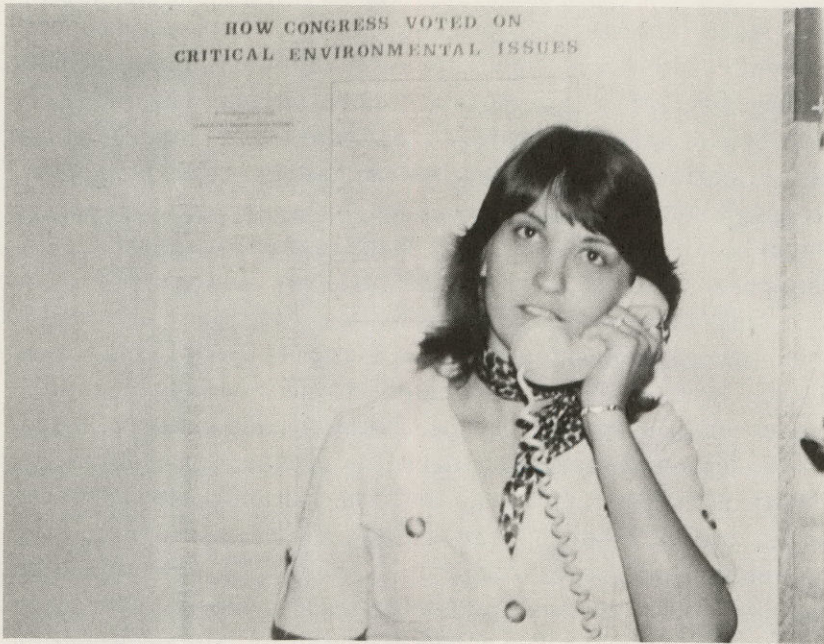
Agencies represented on that list included: Aeronautics Commission; Agriculture Department; Air Control Board; Commission on Alcoholism; Arts and Humanities Commission; State Auditors Office; Board of Control; Department of Community Affairs: Division of Education, Information & Training and Texas Office of Economic Opportunity; Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System; Education Agency and their School for the Blind and their School for the Deaf; Employment

Commission; General Land Office; Governor's Office: Committee on Aging, Comprehensive Health Planning, Information Services, Division of Planning-Coordination; Health Department and its Film Library; Highway Department: Division of Planning and Research, Materials and Tests Research Library, Highway Design Library, Automation Division, Photographic Library; Historical Commission; Industrial Commission; Insurance Board; Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations; Supreme Court Law Library; Legislative Property Tax Committee; Legislative Reference Library; Mental Health and Mental Retardation Department; Austin State Hospital; National Guard; Parks and Wildlife Department; Public Safety Department; Railroad Commission; Rehabilitation Commission; Securities Board; Water Development Board; Water Quality Board; Welfare Department; and the Youth Council; as well as the various divisions of the Texas State Library.

After distribution of the list many State agency librarians were amazed that there were so many other librarians in small materials centers such as their own. For those with some subject overlapping it enabled a cross-exchange of ideas and a beginning for a regular exchange of information.

The first of six monthly meetings held by the Texas State Library began in June 1974 and were designed to inform State agency librarians of the services of the Texas State Library and to give the librarians and information personnel a chance to meet. As Phillip Monypenny in the 1966 American Library Association publication, *The Library Functions of the States*, pointed out in the chapter on "Departmental Libraries," "Central finding aids are of less importance in many states in reference work than is personal acquaintance." Librarians who attended the meeting, which explained the operation of the Texas State Library Communications Network and the services of the Professional Library collection at the State Library, were handed a survey asking questions about their collection, their job titles and various other questions concerning the existence of a card catalog, method of classification, use of interlibrary loan services, subscriptions ordered and whether or not more meetings of this type would be of interest.

As a result of this survey and the desire on the part of the Texas State Library to continue to aid State agency libraries, more meetings followed. Government publications were discussed and a



Librarian for the General Land Office, Vicki Hodlofski, answers a telephone request for information. Vicki serves as SALT's president.

tour of that section came about on July 22, 1974. Two task forces were proposed and formed at a meeting on August 19. The task forces included one on functions of state agency library services and one on standards for state agency libraries. At the next meeting of the group, on September 16, the task forces reported on their work and the suggestion was made for a formalized group to be developed to continue the work of the task forces and to mobilize the librarians into other areas of concern.

At the October 25 meeting a steering committee was selected which was assigned the task of presenting a list of proposed goals and projects to the group at the next meeting that the newly named SALT might undertake. The steering committee membership included representatives from the Supreme Court Law Library, Parks and Wildlife, Texas State Library, Department of Public Welfare, General Land Office, Education Agency, and the Department of Community Affairs' Texas Office of Economic Opportunity.

The first task of the steering committee was to visit each of the

individual libraries and propose potential topics for special committee discussion. Topics discussed with the libraries included management of a one-person library, circulation procedures, handling of reference materials and questions, cataloging and classification schemes, acquisition procedures, and general feelings about how an organization for state agency librarians might be structured. As a result of the response obtained through the personal visits a statement of goals and purposes was developed and a constitution was written. After these were sent to the librarians for their examination a letter was sent to the various agency heads under the signature of the steering committee requesting their approval for their librarians to participate in such an undertaking and to attend a meeting on March 19. "Participation of your library and information personnel in this organization assures your agency of access to expanded information resources throughout the state. We aim to facilitate the flow of data and information between members so that state agency libraries can better answer the needs of those for whom the collections were created. In undertaking a cooperative effort of this size, we hope to give your agency the most service for your information dollar."

March 19 saw the first official meeting of SALT as the steering committee presented their work to the librarians, who in turn adopted the constitution and elected officers. Then SALT was ready to begin work. The beginnings of SALT were summed up by Bill Gooch, assistant state librarian, "The function of SALT represents a major step forward in developing effective library services to state government. The increasing complexity of operating state government makes it vital that employees and officials have adequate and rapid access to the information resources they need. We see the cooperative spirit among agency libraries and the goals and objectives of SALT bringing assurance that Texas state government will have this access available."

FUTURE

Vicki Hodlofski, president of SALT, extended this message to all SALT members, "We are a young organization and there is much yet to do. The enthusiastic spirit and the energetic interest of the members, and the assistance of the State Library hold the promise of good times to come. The list of possibilities is virtually endless."

The Texas State Library: 1918-1928

The establishment of the Texas State Library as an independent agency under the Texas Library and Historical Commission in 1909 was the culmination of more than a decade of dedicated work by the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, the Texas Library Association, interested faculty members of the University of Texas and other colleges, and public-spirited citizens throughout the state. Legislative commitment to the agency, however, did not go so far as appropriating funds for public library development. The passage of laws enabling counties to establish and maintain public libraries increased this responsibility. The appointment of Elizabeth Howard West, who had been archivist at the State Library and then headed San Antonio Public Library, as state librarian in 1918 put into this important post someone who recognized the needs for both the historical and archival work of the Library and also the work in public library development. Patterns of operation still used were developed during the seven years she held the post.

The Constitution of the Republic of Texas provided for a National Library. The architect of the present Capitol located the State Library conveniently between the chambers of the Legislature. But at the beginning of the twentieth century, the State Library was a small room in the Department of Insurance, Statistics and History, and the *ex-officio* State Librarian was the "historical clerk" in that department. Under this unprepossessing title developed two distinguished bibliographers: Cadwell Walton Raines and Ernest William Winkler. Raines had begun assembling the documents of Texas history at the direction of Governor James Stephen Hogg, and at Raines' death in 1906, he was succeeded by Winkler, who had been his assistant for three years.¹

The Act of 1909 establishing the Texas State Library under the Library and Historical Commission defined the object and

purposes of the Commission as (1) to control and administer the State Library, (2) to aid and encourage libraries, (3) to collect materials relating to the history of Texas, to publish the manuscript archives, to diffuse knowledge of the history of the state and encourage historical work and research, mark and preserve historic sites and houses, and (4) to aid those who are studying the problems to be dealt with by legislation. The same act ordered the transfer to the State Library of all books, maps, documents, relics, flags, works of art, etc., in current custody of the departments not necessary for the conduct of current business. The Commission appointed under this act was to consist of the head of the school of history of the State University [*sic*], the superintendent of public instruction, and three members appointed by the Governor for two-year terms.²

E. W. Winkler was elected state librarian at the first meeting of the new Commission. His notable contribution was the accelerated collecting and beginning of publication of "the materials upon which must be based the written history of the state."³ As very little money was appropriated for public library development, he began publication of *Texas Libraries* as a newsletter to organize the forces working for free public libraries and to provide a means of communication.⁴

Winkler's removal by Governor Ferguson for political reasons and the subsequent appointment of Christian Klaerner, Washington County superintendent of public instruction, has been thoroughly covered by Llerena Friend.⁵ Klaerner's primary interest was in mobilizing the State Library to provide more school and public libraries,⁶ but he was handicapped by more than lack of funds. As the Commission chairman later put it, "...he knew nothing of a Librarian's duties and Octavia Rogan, ...was carrying the burden."⁷

After the impeachment of Governor Ferguson, a legislative committee was formed to investigate the departments and institutions of the State government. An additional charge to subcommittee #5 was the inquiry into charges of disloyalty and pro-German sentiments by the German-born state librarian. The committee report found no basis for the charges of disloyalty but did note that too little attention was being given by the Commission to the Library and recommended immediate replacement of Klaerner by a professional librarian.⁸ (A further recommendation by the subcommittee requested either the

Texas Library and Historical Commission
State Library
Traveling Library

RULES FOR BORROWERS

Borrowers—Any person is entitled to draw books who will sign the record of card-holders after reading carefully the borrower's agreement.

Borrower's Card—Each person entitled to draw books from the library will be given a card which must be presented whenever a book is taken, returned, or renewed. If this card is lost, a new one will be issued after seven days' notice.

Number of Volumes—One volume may be drawn at a time on one card.

Time Kept—Any book may be kept two weeks and once renewed for the same time.

Fines—A fine of one cent a day shall be paid for each book kept overtime, and any money thus received shall be used by the secretary of the local library association for transportation and other library expenses. No book shall be lent to any one to whom a book or an unpaid fine is charged.

Injuries—The pages of the books must not be marked, and librarians are required to collect fines for injuries beyond reasonable wear.



These Rules for Borrowers were pasted in books in the State Library's Traveling Library collections.

destruction of all German language books in the Library "or their internment" until the end of the war⁹)

The Commission met February 9, 1918 to implement the recommendations of the legislative committee. Klaerner was discharged and other staff members were asked to submit statements of their qualifications for the position they held.¹⁰ Meeting again, on March 21, on a motion by Miss Emma Burleson, they postponed naming a new librarian until they could confer with Governor Hobby to ascertain if he had anyone to recommend for the position.¹¹ At their next meeting, May 24, Miss Burleson reported that "the Governor had no particular wish in this matter." A statement from Winkler requested that his name be withdrawn from consideration. Elizabeth Howard West was named state librarian,¹² the first woman to head a State department in Texas.¹³

A new approach was needed. The legislative committee's call for more attention to the public libraries of the state could not be ignored, but the three demands of the establishing legislation had to be kept in balance. It is doubtful if there was another librarian in the state better qualified to undertake the multi-faceted duties of state librarian than Elizabeth West. As the daughter of a Presbyterian minister, she had received a better than average education for a woman of her day, graduating from Mississippi Industrial Institute and College in 1892, at the age of 19. She

taught school in Mississippi, then in Bryan, Texas, after moving there with her parents. In 1899, she entered the University of Texas and after two years additional study she received the BA and MA degrees with a thesis on "Cartography of French and Spanish Exploration in North America."¹⁴ She continued her interest in this early cartography after she returned to Bryan to teach¹⁵ and in 1903 came back to Austin where she taught at Whitis School, probably so she could have access to the University Library. During the academic year of 1905/06, she completed the work offered by the University library training class, a non-degree program.¹⁶ She was immediately accepted at the Library of Congress as an assistant cataloger and, after a few months, transferred to the manuscript division. In 1911, she returned to Austin as archivist at the Texas State Library. While there, her two most important projects were calendars of the Lamar Papers and the Nacogdoches Archives. She spent two summers in Mexico City and Havana supervising transcriptions of papers relating to Texas and the Southwestern United States.¹⁷ In March, 1915, as the Commission was in the process of removing Winkler, Miss West resigned to become librarian of the San Antonio Carnegie Library.

Administration of a public library offered a wider scope for Miss West's talents and she carried out a broad program of deposit stations in schools (including four Negro schools), Spanish and German language books for the city's minority readers, lectures at the library's auditorium, and instruction for apprentices.¹⁸

Her statewide activities had included two terms as president of the Texas Library Association in 1915 and 1916. She took part in American Library Association book drives to provide recreational reading for military training camps¹⁹ and usually attended the annual conferences of the ALA. As state librarian, she expanded the scope of these activities. She participated in the ALA enlarged program, "Books for Everybody" activities, because she could see that "any work tending to strengthen library interests is a proper function of the State Librarian" and helping libraries on a national scale would help Texas. Being the only southerner invited to New York for a preliminary meeting of the program, she modestly attributed to the organizers' feeling that "Texas...is considered a very important field."²⁰ She continually encouraged the members of the Library and Historical Commission to become

members of ALA and TLA²¹ and enlisted the help of Richard Burges to promote library interests at the Washington level.²²

In 1920, she responded to a call from the Louisiana Federation of Women's Clubs for assistance in securing a library commission for the state of Louisiana. Her testimony before the House Committee for Public Education described the Texas Commission law; she also assisted with the publicity campaign.²³

These activities outside the state brought her in contact with librarians in the adjoining states and led to a mutual desire for closer cooperation. In 1922, after two years of planning and visits to other states by Miss West, Maude Durlin Sullivan of El Paso Public Library and Dorothy Amann of Dallas, president of Texas Library Association, the Southwestern Library Association, composed of librarians in the states adjoining Texas and in Mexico was organized with Elizabeth West as the first president.²⁴

This unique background of school teacher, historian, archivist, cataloger, public librarian, and administrator, combined with her personal search for efficiency, sense of order, and eagerness to take on ever more tasks and responsibilities made her an outstanding choice to head the State Library and to bring it out of the chaos brought on by political mismanagement. In her seven year administration, she set up a plan of operations which would provide a continuity of service regardless of later upheavals.

Miss West's first order of business after she took office in September as state librarian was to attack what she termed the "housekeeping" aspects:

"to install such labor and time saving activities as were within the library's means, to simplify business forms and procedures, to provide equipment and space for the rapidly growing collections of the library, and to reduce to order the large mass of material which has accumulated in the course of years—years wherein the library was so undermanned as to make proper care of the material impossible...the task of arranging this...material is a slow one; the work on the more important groups, however, is well in hand."²⁵

New library legislation was needed and she worked closely with the sponsors of the new laws to ensure their strength and workability.²⁶ Dr. Eugene C. Barker was determined to remove the State Library from future political manipulation and to sever its ties to the University.²⁷ The Texas Federation of Women's Clubs wanted local library legislation, and Miss Lillian Gunter of

Denton spearheaded the fight to obtain a county library law.²⁸ The reform administration of Governor Hobby provided both.

The rewritten Library and Historical Commission law provided that all five members of the Commission be appointed by the Governor for six-year staggered terms. It also spelled out more specifically the qualifications of the librarian, the assistant librarians, and the clerical assistants. The objects and purposes remained the same.²⁹

Elizabeth West added a further clarification when she wrote at least one prospective Commissioner to inquire if he would accept an appointment if tendered to him:

The duties of the Commission are set forth in the enclosed copy [of the new law.] A duty which may be read between the lines, especially in view of the recent history of the Library, will readily suggest itself to your mind, namely, the duty of standing firmly for trained service in the library and for non-interference for political or personal reasons by authorities having more love for self than for law.³⁰

The overlapping terms and the reappointment of two especially strong members of the Commission provided continuity of purpose and action throughout the decade. Miss Emma Kyle Burleson, chairman of the new Commission, was the only member of the previous Commission appointed by Governor Ferguson, and she remained on the Commission until her death in 1941. She was the sister of Albert Sidney Burleson, postmaster general in Woodrow Wilson's cabinet, and was more politically oriented than the other members of the Commission. As the chairman of the Commission and because she lived in Austin, she was more involved in the day-to-day details of operations than the other members.

Richard Fenner Burges was an El Paso lawyer who was also a member of the board of trustees of the El Paso Public Library. He served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1913 to 1917. After distinguished service in World War I, he was briefly boomed as a candidate for Governor until he withdrew from the campaign. His many public services included membership on the High Plains Irrigation Commission, Mexican-American Claims Commission, and the Texas Forestry Association. His personal collection of Texana contained many unique items. To keep the collection in bounds, he frequently passed parts of it along to the El Paso and Texas State libraries. He was the member of the Commission who was most frequently delegated to consult with other State agencies

when inter-agency problems were considered. His correspondence at the University of Texas Archives provides the most complete records of the work of the Commission during this period, containing not only copies of his letters but also letters to him from other members of the Commission.* He resigned in May, 1929, when the Legislature redefined "conflict of interest."

The Rev. William M. Anderson, Jr., was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. He drew a two-year term at the first meeting and asked not to be reappointed. The Rev. R. L. Irving of Fort Davis appointed in 1924, was also a Presbyterian minister, chairman of the Committee of Education of the Synod of Texas and stated clerk and treasurer of the El Paso Presbytery.³¹

Kate Hunter of Palestine, Mrs. Emmett Lee Perry of Freeport, and later Decca Lamar West of Waco, were all clubwomen with a demonstrated interest in history. Mrs. Perry (Hally Ballinger Bryan Perry) was a founder of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and a descendant of Moses Austin. Miss Hunter and Miss West held offices in the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. Miss Hunter wrote a history of Anderson County and frequently turned up items for the State Library Archives. Miss West was also active in the Texas Press Women's Association.

There was no private space in the Library to hold Commission meetings, and space everywhere in the Capitol was at a premium. Meetings were frequently held in the railroad commissioner's hearing room, occasionally in the Governor's public reception room.³² The dates of the meetings were also flexible. No meeting was held in 1921 as the call for a meeting was delayed waiting for Governor Neff to fill vacancies. Finally, at a December 22 meeting, only one member was present, so Elizabeth West wrote the members outlining the immediate problems requiring their attention. The answers were tabulated and confirmed at the next Commission meeting.³³ Both Elizabeth West and Octavia Rogan tried to hold Commission meetings in conjunction with Texas Library Association or Southwestern Library Association meetings but were never able to complete the arrangements.

The County Library Law which was passed in 1919 was modeled after an effective California measure. Lillian Gunter, later librarian of the Cooke County Library, had spent a year in California studying the working of the county library system there and is credited with being the driving force behind passage of the Texas law.³⁴

HOW TO SECURE A COUNTY LIBRARY

INCLUDING

THE TEXT OF THE COUNTY LIBRARY
LAW OF TEXAS



TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

BULLETIN 1, JANUARY, 1924

A366-1223-1000

The Texas law provides for the establishment of a county library by the initiative of the commissioners' court or in response to a petition of a majority of the voters. The library is to be housed in the courthouse or another suitable building with branches and deposit stations in schools and other locations, usually post offices or general stores. Support is from the general fund but limited to not more than five cents on the hundred dollars property valuation. Any municipal library may enter the county system or remain independent. Options for the court to contract for library service from an established library or to join with another county or counties to provide regional service are included.

A county librarian requires a certificate from the State Board of Library Examiners which was established in the law. The Board consists of the state librarian, the librarian of the University of Texas, and three other librarians originally chosen by them for staggered six-year terms, vacancies to be filled by the remaining members of the Board. The county library is under the supervision of the state librarian as well as under the general supervision of the commissioners' court.³⁵

The Texas State Library had no funds to assist in the organization of county libraries under the new law, but a windfall of books provided Elizabeth West with incentives to encourage local action. Surplus books collected for wartime use were redistributed by the American Library Association to the states on

the basis of the number of men from the state who had served in the armed forces combined with the need of the state as determined by the number of volumes per capita in public libraries. Texas, with over 200,000 men in military service, received 13,335 volumes. Of these books, the state librarian offered 1000 volumes to the first county having no town over 20,000 population which established a county library and 250 volumes to each county thereafter. Dallam County claimed the 1,000 books, first setting up deposit stations with a headquarters library opening January 1, 1920.³⁶ Next to open were Cooke, Harris and Potter counties, although Harris County did not receive any books.³⁷ The pace slowed, and only four more county libraries (Tarrant, Wilbarger, Lubbock and Denton) were established in the next five years.³⁸

The State Library received many requests for aid in establishing new libraries; although funds for a library organizer appeared regularly in the budget requests during the period, they were just as regularly denied by the Legislature until 1928.³⁹ Miss West made many trips at her own expense to assist in library organization and development.⁴⁰ As chairman of the library extension committee for the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs,⁴¹ she approached the problems of library organization from another angle. But the most innovative and enduring work for fostering public library development in the state was the printed material she provided from the State Library. Regretting that pleas for assistance could be answered only with a letter of sympathy, suggestions, and good wishes,⁴² the State Library began publication and distribution of informational bulletins designed to improve library services on the local level.

The first bulletin was *How To Secure A County Library*, which—in addition to the text of the county library law—contained tips on how to mobilize public opinion for a library, success stories from other county libraries in Texas, and copies of the legal forms necessary for a petition to secure a county library or to contract for service.⁴³ The second bulletin, *Texas Library Manual*,⁴⁴ received a wide circulation. A London bookdealer even ordered it, reportedly for a library in Moscow, while a librarian on the Pacific Coast ordered one hundred copies for use in bringing up library standards in his state.⁴⁵ The *Manual* discussed standards for school libraries, provided a yardstick for evaluating local public library service, and discussed salaries for

librarians and clerical personnel. Both publications contained selections of the most pertinent and succinct writing of authorities in the field, rather than attempts to produce original material.

Municipal libraries expanded and increased throughout the decade. Gathering and dissemination of information on the public libraries in the state was one of the duties assigned by law to the state librarian, but early definitions of a public library were somewhat elastic. The statistics for 1921 are the first that apply the criterion of tax support; these show thirty public municipal libraries (two of these, Rosenberg Library at Galveston and Sims Library at Waxahachie were supported by endowments but were for public use) and four county libraries.⁴⁶ At the end of the decade, there were fifty-three.⁴⁷

There were several reasons for the relative growth of municipal libraries rather than county libraries. The county library law is detailed and restrictive in regard to the operation of a county library. In contrast, the operative law for city libraries authorizes their establishment and allows the city "...to adopt rules and regulations for the proper management thereof...and to appropriate such part of the revenues as...the municipal government...may determine."⁴⁸ Under these legal options, it was much easier to persuade a city council than a commissioners' court to establish a library, or to obtain the required number of signatures on a petition. Unfortunately, many of these city libraries were opened in towns which were too small to provide a proper tax base to support all of the governmental functions properly; and the libraries faced a population service base inadequate for viable service.

But neither municipal nor county libraries kept pace with the ardor of the women's clubs for local public libraries. When they were unable to persuade county or city authorities to establish a library, they often went ahead and opened a club-sponsored library. The quality of these varied. Too often they were manned by volunteer, untrained members, open for limited hours of service, and stocked with donations of cast-offs from the members' personal libraries. A small membership or registration fee was sometimes charged which, although nominal, was a psychological barrier to prospective users.⁴⁹ These increased from thirty-six in 1920⁵⁰ to eighty-four in 1928.⁵¹ A few were able to make the transition to tax support and full services in later years, but many remained static.

While these struggling town and subscription libraries may have stimulated a few readers, they undoubtedly formed a negative image of the "public library" for countless young Texans as they grew up. They also represented a waste of tax money and volunteer enthusiasm which, if they could have been properly directed by a State-financed library consultant or "organizer," might have resulted in many years of efficient public library service for their communities. When the State Library did finally obtain funds for a library organizer, Mrs. Helen Lake Clutter began work in March, 1928. She mobilized the latent support in three counties almost immediately and new libraries were approved in Hale, McCullough, and Tom Green counties before the end of the 1928 biennium.⁵²

The thirty-four city and county libraries served only 1,027,400 persons or 22 percent of the total population.⁵³ The Texas State Library attempted to partially meet the library needs of the other 4,660,000 by a number of more direct services. Such direct services drew heavily on the State Library's resources of time and money but were unavoidable in the context of the lack of local library service. Travelling libraries, special collections, and individual reference and loan service by mail were all utilized. (The University of Texas extension service also provided "package libraries," information on topics of current and general interest, usually pamphlets or clippings from periodicals.)⁵⁴

Travelling libraries were conceived to be the precursor to the local library service. A community would receive a few travelling libraries which would build up a desire for readily available informational and recreational reading, then establish a community or, preferably, a county library to expand reference service and supply a wider range of books. The travelling library service began in 1916 with books donated by the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. The resulting seven hundred books were divided among eleven travelling libraries, the rest to be lent individually.⁵⁵ The post-war distribution of books by ALA augmented the travelling libraries. By 1927, there were forty-seven travelling libraries.⁵⁶ Each collection consisted of about fifty volumes, containing one-third adult fiction, one-third adult non-fiction and one-third juvenile books. They were sent to "any responsible party" which could be a school, a civic club, a woman's club, or two substantial citizens who would assume responsibility.⁵⁷ Special collections were assembled by request on a

specific subject. They were sent to study clubs or schools and could be kept for the club year.⁵⁸

Individual requests for information were answered by use of the general reference works or archival materials. Requests for the loan of individual volumes were a hit-or-miss affair until the Library began to issue lists of books available with such headings as "At Home and Abroad," "Some Nature Books," and "Some Books on Texas."⁵⁹ Both Elizabeth West and the Commission were aware that whenever possible, such requests should go through a local library but realized the futility of trying to establish such a policy until such local libraries as did exist were more uniformly able to fulfill local needs.⁶⁰

School libraries were included in the responsibilities of the State Library at this time. As the organization was already stretched so thin, libraries in schools seemed to be approached indirectly, as elements of local county and municipal public libraries. The only direct services to schools are those noted in the placing of travelling libraries in schools (and that possibly because a school was a focal point for a community) and the inclusion of school library standards in the library manual. School libraries were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Texas Education Agency at a much later date.

Service to the blind, which Elizabeth West inaugurated in 1919, was a legitimate statewide function because of the size of collection needed and the scattered specialized clientele. A few Braille volumes had been donated to the San Antonio Carnegie Library while she was librarian there, and she found that the local readers had soon "read out" the entire collection.⁶¹

The success of the first budget request in the Legislature was later described by Miss West. When the appropriations committee sat down to consider the budget, one member immediately suggested cutting out that item but the committee chairman, Charles G. Thomas, demurred, saying that his little girl was blind and he was grateful to anyone who would try to help her. The item remained uncut through committee, House, and Senate actions.⁶² From that first \$1,000 "a hundred-odd" books were purchased in New York Point, which was the system taught at the State institutions, but as the American Printing House for the Blind had announced that their future publications would be in Revised Braille 1½, the Library would begin buying Braille.⁶³ Some volumes in Moon type were also purchased, as it was considered easier to

learn by adults who had been blinded in later life. By 1926, the Library owned 891 titles in 1725 volumes, of which 445 titles were in New York Point, an embossed typed based on a system of four dots; 187 in Revised Braille and 249 in Moon type, embossed letters similar to print. An additional 484 titles were loaned to the Library in 1925 by the Veteran's Bureau but were sent on to St. Louis the following year.⁶⁴ By the end of the decade, the library was forced to cease buying Braille books because of lack of space to store them.⁶⁵

The extension operations were handled by the assistant librarian, with help on the information questions when the subject matter fell into archival or legislative reference fields. There were also times between sessions when the legislative reference service resembled an extension library.

The function of the service was defined by Octavia Rogan, legislative reference librarian, as "To inform, not reform." She went on to add that the service had "aided the lobbies, the Legislature and the General public...by supplying accurate data. The petticoat lobby, the capitalists' lobby and even the hobo lobby, interested in the vagrancy laws, sought the help of the bureau."⁶⁶ To provide this help, the legislative reference librarian kept federal documents and the laws and official publications of the other States as well as a pamphlet file of 30,000 items on topics of current legislative interest. Between sessions, she culled the metropolitan newspapers to determine what problems the legislators were discussing with their constituents as possible legislation so that the background information on these could be available.⁶⁷ During sessions, an index to bills, inaugurated in 1919, was kept on cards giving a history of each measure introduced into the hopper and following its passage through committees, hearings, actions, etc. This involved a nightly perusal of the journals for postings to the cards.⁶⁸ This and "spot" reference work was all that could be handled during these busy times.

To obtain the official publications of other States, a document exchange service was maintained. Texas agencies deposited 175 copies (later the number varied) of each item published with the State Library, which, in turn, mailed the documents to libraries in other states and to depository libraries within the state.⁶⁹

Doris Connerly joined the staff as legislative reference librarian July 1, 1928, after Fannie Wilcox convinced the Commission that her law degree and Texas background would be more valuable to

the Library than library training from an out-of-state school.⁷⁰ She held that position until her retirement in 1962.

The Archives of Texas are the foundation of the State Library. The collection, arranging, indexing, publication, and preservation of these documents was the original function of the Library and has remained one of its primary missions. Archival and immediate concerns overlapped in a classic textbook manner in the early 1920's in a series of transactions involving the muster rolls of the Texas Rangers and volunteer companies engaged in the Indian wars. Successive acts of Congress from 1917 to 1927 granted pension rights to the men who served in these units, proof of service to be based on "muster rolls on file in the several state or territorial archives." Records were transferred from the Adjutant General to the State Library where they were indexed. The veteran then requested the proof of service which was forwarded to Washington. For several years in the early 1920's, this work was so heavy that little long-term progress was made on other projects.⁷¹

Transfers from other departments of the State government gave the Library letters of Houston and Lamar, records of the Republic, including executive records of the presidents, letter books of the Secretary of State, land registers, auditor's account books, and import records. Early State records added by transfer were executive records of the Governors from 1846 to 1873, registers of voters in 1867, lands sold in 1861, and lists of materials delivered to the Capitol grounds in 1883, while current material was swelled by "eight large dry-good boxes" of the reports compiled by the education survey committee.

Transcripts of Mexican and Spanish documents have always been sought by the Archives. During the 1920's, 15,000 pages of manuscripts in the Archivo General in Mexico City were copied by the University of Texas with the State Library receiving a copy of each by purchase. Copies of documents in the Secretarias de Gogernacion and Guerra y Marina were given to the Library by Sr. Luis Chaves of Mexico City.

The Diary of Adolphus Sterne, a German immigrant, covering the years 1838 to 1851, was deposited in the Archives through the efforts of Kate Hunter, member of the Commission.

Formal presentation was made to the Legislature at a joint session February 10, 1925. After editing, the diary was published in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* in installments beginning October 1926. Other diaries acquired were those of James

Glasscock, a Mier prisoner; Lillian Gunter, sponsor of county library legislation; and a transcript of that of John E. Wheeler of Gainesville, which contained meteorological data from 1842 to 1880. H. A. McArdle, artist of "Dawn at the Alamo" and "The Battle of San Jacinto," gave the Library the scrapbooks of information he had assembled to insure authenticity in the paintings.

Publication of the more than 3,000 items in the papers of Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, begun in 1918, was finally completed ten years later. Meanwhile, the *Journals of the Fourth Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839-40*, were copied and prepared for publication in three volumes beginning in 1928. "The Diary of Jose Gutierrez de Lara, 1811-1812," translated and edited by Elizabeth West, was published in the *American Historical Review*, October, 1928, and January, 1929.⁷²

Harriet Smither, who came to the Texas State Library as archivist in 1925, remained until 1953, becoming one of Texas's outstanding archivists. In addition to her BA from the University of Texas, she had completed "almost enough graduate work for the doctor's degree."⁷³ Her ability in German, Spanish and French was beyond the usual archival requirements and led to increased calls from the Governor's Office and other State agencies for translation of current correspondence and service as interpreter with foreign visitors.⁷⁴

Texas State Library had long attempted to collect copies of the works of Texas authors and works written about Texas. This state author collection was considered exemplary. Fannie M. Wilcox, acting state librarian, was invited to describe it to the Conference of the National Association of State Librarians at Los Angeles in 1930. In her paper, she stressed the importance of collecting contemporary authors as they were published and listed with pride the Library's holdings in this area.⁷⁵

Historical relics and works of art in the Capitol Building had been transferred to the State Library by both the 1909 and the 1919 laws. Some of these were on display but most were in storage taking up precious space in an overcrowded building. Shortly after the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Texas Division, set up the Texas Museum in the old Land Office Building, the Legislature allowed the State Library to lend them many of these relics.⁷⁶ Title remained with the State Library and a formal contract was executed listing each of

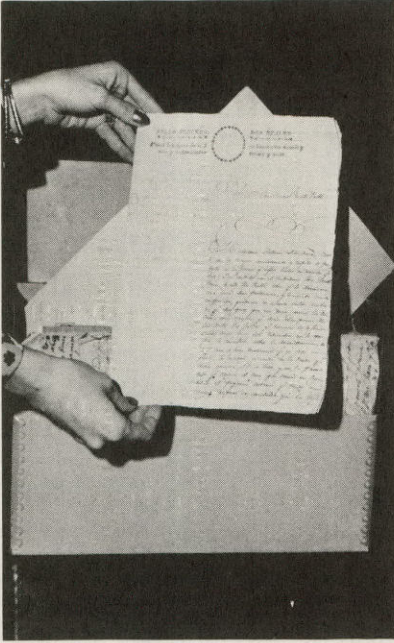
the 136 items transferred.⁷⁷

Throughout the decade the State Library was plagued by a continually worsening problem of space in which to carry on the needed services and to safeguard the priceless archives. The architect had provided an impressive room, in the center rising two full stories to a skylight. Small desks built around the ornate supporting columns heightened the Victorian decor, as did the mezzanine book shelves. In the northwest corner, a wrought iron staircase led to the room designed for the Supreme Court Library on the floor above.

One particular large table in a secluded corner was frequently referred to as "the lobby table" because it had been adopted by the lobbyists as a convenient place to meet with legislators.⁷⁸ Shelving occupied the east side of the room with the section holding the Archives enclosed in a metal cage for the security of the documents. The librarian's desk, and later that of the library organizer, were placed on the mezzanine with desks of the other staff members placed wherever space permitted.⁷⁹

As the collection grew, the overflow was placed in the basement and by 1920 occupied three rooms there.⁸⁰ Even if space had been available for shelving, the building was not designed to take the additional weight on the second story. When an additional fifty bound volumes of newspapers were acquired the following January, Miss West wrote Burges "if they are sent to the basement, they are practically useless for reference purposes. Upstairs, they are among our most useful reference material."⁸¹

The preservation of the Archives was a continual worry. Lack of ventilation during hot, wet weather promoted mold and mildew, ancient enemies of paper. "The rats and mice which infest the building constitute another source of danger to the State's property as well as a menace to the health of the staff."⁸² Even the cage was not secure, and Miss West arranged to have a safe containing the Travis letter, the treaties of the Republic, and other "most precious possessions" placed in the treasurer's vault.⁸³ Burges repeatedly referred to the Capitol as a firetrap and sought to get the Archives to a fireproof building. Nor were the other Library materials secure as the Capitol became more overcrowded. In April, 1926, one department "surreptitiously at night time broke a lock on one of the library's doors in the basement and threw out into the corridor the entire contents of the room, and prepared to move into the vacated space."⁸⁴ However, that matter



Among the documents about which Elizabeth West expressed concern were the Nacogdoches Archives. Today they have been arranged and are housed in Hollinger boxes under controlled temperature and humidity.

was settled by the Board of Control and the Library was able to obtain a slightly larger room in a trade with the offender.⁸⁵

Hopes for a new building and possibilities of one sort or another were continually on the minds of the librarians and the Commissioners. The Land Office Building was mentioned. After it was occupied as a museum, the possibility of placing another building just north of it, similar in architectural style and connected to it by a courtyard, was brought up.⁸⁶ Attention was also focused on the area north of the capitol grounds. Miss West and Miss Emma Kyle Burleson investigated an attractive lot on the corner of 13th and 14th streets and Congress Avenue. When they discovered that the Hogg family had a residual interest in this property, Miss West's imagination immediately produced a full-scale operation. The entire lot to Brazos Street could be acquired to allow room for future expansion. The building would be the James Stephen Hogg Memorial Library in recognition of Governor Hogg's role in beginning the collection of Texas's historical documents. The grounds would be planted with pecan trees propagated from seed of the tree at his grave.

She outlined a building program which would do credit to a modern library building consultant, providing for each phase of

library operations and setting out general desiderata of the building such as reinforced floors for stack flexibility, as few supporting pillars and permanent partitions as possible, no outside columns to shut out the light (ornamental pilasters could substitute), stacks on the west side of the building, wiring for power as well as light with an ample number of base plugs, and a vacuum cleaning system for the entire building including the basement. She would have connected the building to the Capitol by a tunnel with book carriers. She wanted to take an immediate option on the lot, but when she consulted her commissioners, Burges advised that such action might offend the Legislature. She wrote more extensively of her plans to Mrs. Perry, asking that Mrs. Perry discuss the plans with the Hoggs if she thought it advisable. She remembered that Mrs. Perry had expressed the hope that the State would one day acquire all the land between the Capitol and the University.⁸⁷ Hopes for a Hogg Memorial Library remained active for several years⁸⁸ during consideration of temporary quarters of one or two floors in a State office building which was frequently proposed but never materialized.⁸⁹

If the space problem was frustrating, the budget problem was even more so. Funds were never adequate for the work to be done. As Miss West pointed out, "it is a curious fact that people unacquainted with library work can realize books but not personnel. We have hundreds—thousands—of books on hand which nobody has time to catalogue."⁹⁰ Nevertheless, funds did rise slowly as cataloging assistants were added and finally, the library organizer was authorized.⁹¹ Salaries remained non-competitive but there seemed to be enough applicants who had personal reasons for remaining in Austin, (Octavia Rogan, Doris Connerly, Harriet Smither, *et al.*) and who qualified themselves at the University undergraduate library training program which operated again from 1919 to 1925.⁹²

Elizabeth West resigned from the State Library in 1925 to organize the Library for the recently authorized Texas Technological College. She was succeeded by Octavia Fry Rogan, who had proved her competence in eleven years as assistant librarian and legislative reference librarian. She expanded the publicity program of the State Library and brought to fruition the long campaign for a library organizer. But she made no basic changes in the Library's pattern of service which had been laid down by Elizabeth West. She did not have Miss West's executive

ability and was not able to handle personnel problems with Miss West's finesse. By the summer of 1927, half of the staff nervous breakdown.⁹³ She resigned to accept a position as reference librarian at Rosenberg Library in Galveston, where she remained until budget cutbacks in 1931 ended her job.⁹⁴

In the emergency, Fannie Miles Wilcox, assistant librarian, became acting librarian. She alone seemed to have remained on speaking terms with both factions in the feud. She was "quiet and retiring but she has far more initiative and executive ability than her quiet exterior would indicate...I have great confidence in her natural ability and in her possibilities for development."⁹⁵ The Commission expressed confidence in her abilities⁹⁶ but could not name her state librarian because she lacked the required technical training. They delayed seeking a replacement until a competitive salary could be obtained from the Legislature.⁹⁷ Four years later, a Commission somewhat changed in membership found a way around that obstacle and named her state librarian.

Howard Mumford Jones found an appalling lack of interest in contemporary literature and little "book consciousness" in the South in 1928. He found no encouragement in the state of the public libraries outside the metropolitan centers. In the average small city,

The library is often lacking; when found, it is usually inadequately housed, poorly equipped, and badly handicapped for lack of funds. The starvation wages too often paid have not proved attractive to enterprising students of library work; and the post of librarian is still a genteel refuge from poverty in dozens of institutions...⁹⁸

Unfortunately, these conditions were echoed at the Texas State Library. The proclivity of the Legislature to lace the library staff with "pensioners" was damaging to the work and prestige of the Library. After she had left the State Library, Miss West wrote frankly to Burges about these problems:

I had many difficulties...(one) grew out of the Legislature's writing into law the name of Mrs. Shirley [Ann Throckmorton Shirley] year after year instead of leaving to the commission the selection of a person fitted by temperament and training to do the work as it should have been done...You will recall...that I was never able to get the salaries increased for the staff; that when these increases had

actually been written into a proposed bill that the Legislature overnight wrote in the name of General Houston's daughter [Nettie Houston Bringhurst] as another pensioner. That was the final blow that caused me to leave the library.⁹⁹

For Miss Burleson, as for other members of the State government who were accustomed to the rights of patronage as a prerequisite of office, a non-political State agency was a difficult concept to grasp. After Christian Klaerner's resignation, Miss Burleson suggested the Commission find out the Governor's wishes regarding a successor before naming a new state librarian.¹⁰⁰ Again in 1921, the question of reappointment of the staff was sent to the Governor's Office, and returned with the statement from Governor Neff that the Commission was independent of the Governor and should act on its own for the good of the Library.¹⁰¹ Nevertheless, when a clerical vacancy occurred shortly after Governor Moody's inauguration, Miss Burleson first suggested Miss Rogan notify the Governor of the vacancy, then "for fear Miss Rogan might hesitate to act, I told the Governor myself of the vacancy—I really felt this was a courtesy due him."¹⁰²

More directly, as Elizabeth West noted

A very marked characteristic of Miss Burleson's: her intense loyalty to her friends, and her feeling that the way to show that loyalty is to provide for them in public positions...try to influence her in the direction of building up a professional staff rather than providing for her friends.¹⁰³

The personnel problems which plagued Miss Rogan the summer of 1927 began with a staff overbalanced with friends of Miss Burleson. If the Commission chairman's friends could not be fired, their friends could be. But these, in turn, had friends in the Legislature who would write letters to their aid.¹⁰⁴ But now the program and operations of the Library had become sufficiently well-established that the institution could go on regardless of political storms, fulfilling the hopes Elizabeth West had expressed as she prepared to leave.

I have accomplished only a little of what I had hoped to do, but I hope that little will stand...the situation demanded, from the point of view of permanent growth,...dependence on building a solid, non-partisan service as the main objective.¹⁰⁵

Ten years after Elizabeth West came, the breadth of service at the Texas State Library was staked out and was the equal of any state. Still lacking was the depth of commitment necessary if the Texas

State Library was to become an effective force in statewide library development and a leader in the publication of the historical treasures of the state.

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