Research on the History of State Libraries in the United States
Bernadette A. Lear, February 2013

Origins, Sources, and Limitations of this Bibliography

As the contributors to the special issue demonstrate, state libraries are a fascinating area of library history scholarship. Initially, the following bibliography was envisioned and compiled by Bernadette Lear as an internal resource to assist Dr. Martin and her in identifying gaps in scholarship that might be discussed in their introduction to the special issue. Yet, after experiencing the challenges of seeking and finding recent material, they decided that the scholarly community might benefit from the list as well as some hints for searching the literature. However imperfect the following bibliography may be, it is shared in the spirit of prompting further reading and research.

As explained in the introduction to the special issue, the editors chose to define “state libraries” as agencies which are eligible to receive federal funds under the Grants to States program of the Library Services and Technology Act. This includes not only the fifty states within the United States, but also the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

Literature about these entities exists not only in academic books and journals, but also within the magazines and newsletters of state-level library associations. There are also student theses, as well as commemorative books, pamphlets, and web sites produced by the libraries themselves. Thus Bernadette Lear tapped numerous resources in compiling this bibliography. Two starting points were Davis and Tucker’s *American Library History: A Comprehensive Guide to the Literature* and the Library History Round Table’s *Bibliography of Library History*. Both sources provided numerous citations to articles, books, and student theses. She also searched pertinent journal databases such as *America: History and Life*, *ERIC*, *JSTOR*, and *Library Literature*, as well as ProQuest *Dissertations and Theses* database. *WorldCAT* was also consulted. In hopes of finding in-house or local publications not listed in commercial databases,
she contacted every state and territory’s library and archives and searched each one’s catalog and finding aids. In using every electronic resource, Lear not only searched for the proper name of each state library (for example, “Alabama Public Library Service” as an author, subject, and keyword), but also performed keyword and subject searches regarding library history in each state, and the history of state libraries generally. Finally, Lear shared a draft of this article and invited comment through the listserv of the American Library Association’s Library History Round Table, an organization of more than four hundred scholars and practitioners with interests in the history of librarianship. Several members offered additions and corrections. The bulk of compilation was undertaken in 2010–2011. Cursory checks of America: History and Life and Library Literature in February 2013 revealed no new publications other than the articles published in the special issue. For colleagues’ convenience, Lear has added them to the bibliography.

Despite the care taken in conducting these searches, the resulting bibliography is not comprehensive. Variability in state libraries’ political geographies, organizational missions, and administrative structures made the task quite complex. When trying to identify the proper “state library” for each state, Lear visited governmental web sites to determine which entities were responsible for reference service to state employees, providing access to government publications and records, and public library development. Using online agency histories wherever available, she then tried to determine how these units were related to each other. If she found that state archives, law libraries, and other entities were independent of the state library for all or most of their history, she did not include their publications in this bibliography.

When trying to seek historical information about libraries across more than fifty states and territories, one cannot read every publication of possible relevance. In selecting items for this bibliography, Lear focused on items that had “history” or other indications of substantial historical content in the title, subject headings, abstract, or (when electronically available) table of contents. This said, the bibliography also includes selected contemporary accounts of recent state library efforts, such as statewide catalogs and computer networks. These may not be rigorous historical studies but do reveal how new services were conceived and established. Lear made no attempt to read the histories of public libraries, library associations, or states to identify chapters or sections pertaining to state libraries. She also did not consult print or online encyclopedias or reference works concerning state history or library history to find relevant
entries. The author also did not attempt to compile lists of prominent state library employees in order to search for published biographies or oral histories. Finally, the notes regarding each state’s library history were taken largely from agency web sites. No attempt was made to seek out missing details or to verify and cite the information found. In considering such shortcomings, readers are reminded that the bibliography was first conceived as an internal tool for the editors and their colleagues, rather than a formal publication.

**Trends in American State Library History Scholarship**

The search methods described above resulted in nearly four hundred entries, including articles, books, student theses, web sites, and other publications. Other than the pieces authored for the present issue, there appear to be relatively few recent materials. In all, the author found fewer than one hundred and fifty publications dating from 2000 or later, and included among these are many web sites whose dates were presumed (but could not be definitely determined) as recent. Thus, there are abundant opportunities for further research.

Although it appears that state libraries in New England are in particular need of scholarly attention, there do not seem to be other discernible geographic trends in the amount or quality of scholarship. Instead, states which are graced with dedicated library historians offer the most publications. For example, Maurice York has published several articles about the North Carolina State Library during various phases of its history, and Mark Sorensen has published various short pieces about the Illinois State Library. Members of the California State Library Foundation have published numerous pieces in its newsletter. Various historians have studied different aspects of the State Library of Louisiana, the New York State Library, and the Texas State Library and Archives.

During the 1940s to 1970s, dozens of graduate students captured basic facts of state library establishment and early initiatives, publishing such information in theses and term papers. Now that a half-century has passed, fresh interpretations are sorely needed, as is coverage of recent decades. Early studies often lack critical analysis of library activities in terms of class, gender, political views, race/ethnicity, and other perspectives. Any study written before 1965 also lacks substantial information about federal programs such as the Library Services and Construction/Technology Acts, expansion of the National Library Service for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped, and the state affiliate program of the Library of Congress’s Center for the Book. Histories written decades ago also do not contain discussion about state libraries’ roles in technological adoption and innovation, including providing statewide database access and digitizing cultural materials. Although some state library employees have authored articles about recent projects, such publications are intended for practitioners and usually do not place events in historical perspective. Items such as Kay Dahlgreen’s article about the Oregon Center for the Book, Linda Fredericksen’s item on LCSA grants in Washington state, Rebecca Hamilton’s study of the State Library of Louisiana’s response to natural disaster, Cheryl Kirkpatrick and Catherine Buck Morgan’s article about renovating the South Carolina State Library for patrons with disabilities, and Frederick Smith’s work on statewide library automation in New York during the 1980s are included here not so much because of their historical analysis, but because they document helpful facts about significant, recent activities that are somewhat common across state libraries but which have not been formally studied.

Among state libraries which have received recent historical attention, research has often focused primarily on a particular era. For many states, there are articles covering state libraries’ involvement in public library development during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For instance, one can find materials about Cornelia Marvin Pierce and Mary Frances Isom of Oregon, Mary E. Downey of Ohio and Utah, Lutie Sterns of Wisconsin, and others who were active in librarianship through the 1920s. There are also some studies of state libraries during the 1930s. Yet it is more difficult to find material about colonial and early national state libraries and it is exceedingly challenging to locate items that examine the late twentieth century with historical perspective. In other cases, scholarship has highlighted some of a library’s efforts while ignoring others. For example, there are several studies about Thomas Owen and the founding of Alabama’s Department of Archives and History in 1901, but little about its Public Library Service, which was founded in the 1930s. Similarly, there are several publications about Charles McCarthy and Wisconsin’s Legislative Reference Bureau (not included here, since the law library was not part of a state library). However, there is apparently nothing about the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction’s efforts to develop public and school libraries after World War I.

As following bibliography reveals, there are many other potentially rich areas of study. Outside of the southeastern states, there are few if any comparative or multistate studies
explaining how certain functions (such as state record keeping, public library development, grantmaking, or statewide automation) were implemented by different state libraries. There is not much discussion about how state libraries in the same geographic region may have shared concerns, worked collaboratively, or influenced each other. Other than persons who were active during the turn of the nineteenth-twentieth centuries, there are few critical biographies of state librarians or key personnel. There are hardly any studies of the architectural design and decorative art of state library buildings, and how the structures may have espoused various civic ideals. Despite the existence of many nineteenth-century printed catalogs, one can find few scholarly examinations of state library book collections. It remains challenging to locate historical discussions of how federal-state relationships pertaining to libraries were negotiated. Thus the following list should generate much thought and discussion while also inspiring others to research and write the history of our state libraries.

**General and Multistate Sources**


Wilkins, Barratt, Willie D. Halsell, and James D. Kellen. *A Bibliography of South Carolina Library History; A Bibliography of Mississippi Library History; A Bibliography of Minnesota Library History*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University, School of Library Science, 1973. (although these are apparently part of the “State Library History Bibliography Series” published by the *Journal of Library History*, these do not appear in electronic copies of the journal. Instead, they were published together as a single volume.)
They include references to the state libraries in Minnesota, Mississippi, and South Carolina, as well as library development and related topics in these states)


**Alabama**

Alabama Public Library Service

Preceded in the 1890s and early 1900s by library extension efforts of the Alabama Federation of Women’s Clubs, the Alabama Library Association, and the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH), the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) was founded in 1939 as a division within the Alabama Department of Archives and History. In 1959, Legislative Act 600 separated APLS from ADAH and made APLS a separate agency. There is a separate Alabama State Law Library, founded in 1828. Today, APLS’ activities include services to government employees and to the blind and physically handicapped, as well as to administer federal and state funding and support interlibrary networks. Further information about APLS’s mission and services may be found on the agency’s web site, [http://statelibrary.alabama.gov](http://statelibrary.alabama.gov).

ADAH is the repository for APLS archival material, including its reports, periodicals, and records. *WorldCat* lists its holdings. Additional material may also be found within the Alabama Library Association Records, held by the University of Alabama.


**Alaska**

*Alaska State Library*

The Alaska State Library (ASL) was established as a Department of Library Service in 1955 and was placed within the Alaska Department of Education in 1959. It currently exists within the Division of State Libraries, Archives, and Museum, which is part of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. There is a separate Alaska State Court Law Library. Today, ASL provides a variety of services, including database and e–book access; federal, state, and historical documents collections; professional consultation to public libraries; and the distribution of state publications. Additional information about its activities can be located on its web site, [http://library.state.ak.us/aboutasl.html](http://library.state.ak.us/aboutasl.html).

ASL maintains Historical Records of the Alaska State Library (MS 186), which is publicly accessible. ASL also published a newsletter, *Friday Bulletin*, and issues from 2000 to 2010 are available online (see [http://www.eed.state.ak.us/temp_lam_pages/library/fb/home.cfm](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/temp_lam_pages/library/fb/home.cfm)). Supplementary material may be found within the Alaska Library Association Records (USUAF16) at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.


American Samoa

American Samoa is an unincorporated territory of the United States. No information or materials about the history of its libraries were found.

Arizona

Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records

The Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records is currently a division of the Arizona Secretary of State. Its current activities include administering historical collections and museums, research and legal libraries, resources for people with visual and physical disabilities, and library development activities. Recent annual reports and other information are accessible through the agency’s web site, http://www.lib.az.us/. The agency dates back to at least the 1930s, given the existence of annual reports from that decade listed in WorldCat.

On the Death of Con P. Cronin, State Law and Legislative Reference Librarian. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1, Arizona Legislature, Eleventh Legislature, (1933).


**Arkansas**

Arkansas State Library

The Arkansas State Library (ASL) was founded in 1937 as the Arkansas Library Commission. Among its divisions are the Arkansas Center for the Book, Children’s Services, Computers and Arkansas Libraries, a Library for the Blind, and a Patent and Trademark Resource Center. There is a separate Arkansas History Commission founded in 1905 and responsible for collecting state records. Additional information about the Arkansas State Library’s current services is available on the agency’s home page, [http://www.library.arkansas.gov](http://www.library.arkansas.gov).


**California**

California State Library
The California State Library (CSL) was established in 1850 within the California Secretary of State and State Capitol. In 1927 it was moved to the California Department of Education, although the “division” part of its designation was dropped during the 1980s. In addition to a Braille and Talking Book Library, a California History Room, and Library Development Services, CSL administers a California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, which develops educational materials and programming pertaining to the Japanese internment of World War II. There is a separate California State Archives, charged with collecting and preserving the records of state government. Those interested in CSL’s current activities may consult its web site, http://www.library.ca.gov. The Bulletin (1983–) of the California State Library Foundation contains many articles documenting the history of CSL. Issues from 2002 to the present are freely available at http://www.cslfdn.org/pub.html#bulletin.

Early issues of News Notes of California Libraries (1906–1979), CSL’s official newsletter, have been digitized and are available through Google Books (http://www.books.google.com). There is also From the State Librarian’s Desk, a newsletter begun in 1951 by state librarian Carma Zimmerman, which continued through Edith Crockett’s administration and was superseded by the California State Library Newsletter in 1981. WorldCat lists many other publications, including annual reports and book lists. The California State Archives maintains various accession and circulation registers from the 19th century, World War I–era records of the CSL Board of Trustees (ID number F3616:823), and other materials within the California State Library Records (R179). CSL holds the papers of Caroline Wenzel (collection 1994–2019), who was employed at CSL from 1914 through the 1950s, and Harriet G. Eddy (collections MANUSCRIPT 2482–93 and 2513–19), who worked on behalf of CSL to establish county libraries throughout the state during the early 1900s.


**Colorado**

Colorado State Library

The Colorado State Library (CSL) is a division within the Colorado Department of Education. Among its current activities are consulting and training for library staff, a Colorado Virtual Library, and a Talking Book Library. There is a separate Colorado State Archives and
Colorado Supreme Court Library. Those interested in CLS’s current activities may consult its
web site, http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/. The agency dates back to 1938 (perhaps earlier),
since various libraries hold issues of CSL’s Bulletin from that year.

University of Denver, 1940.

Connecticut

Connecticut State Library

Founded in 1854, the Connecticut State Library (CSL) remains an independent agency. Until 1910 it was housed in the State Capitol. From 1910 through the present, it has shared its own building with the Connecticut Supreme Court. In addition to historical collections, newspapers, the state archives, a Museum of Connecticut History, and a Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, CSL owns a collection pertaining to Samuel Colt, famous maker of firearms. There is a separate system of regional Judicial Branch Law Libraries. Current information about the library’s work, including recent issues its newsletter, the CONNector, are available online at http://www.cslib.org.

According to Google Books and WorldCat, CSL annual reports and bulletins dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are widely available. There is also an Index to State Librarian’s Reports, 1900–1922. CSL provides access to Records of the State Library (RG12) which include architectural drawings, ledgers, and other materials. Additional materials may be found within Connecticut Library Association Records (RG127), also held by CSL.


Hart, Mary L. “No. 8: A Bibliography of Connecticut Library History.” *Journal of Library History* 7, no. 3 (July 1972): 251–74. (includes references to the state library, as well as library development and other related topics)

**Delaware**

Delaware Division of Libraries

The Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL) was established as the Delaware Library Commission in 1901. After the Commission was abolished in 1970, its responsibilities were transferred to the Delaware Department of Community Affairs, where it remained until 1992. Today, DDL is part of the Secretary of State and its offices are in the Delaware Public Archives (DPA). Among other services, DDL includes the Delaware Center for the Book and a Disaster Assistance Team which coordinates disaster planning and response among the state’s libraries and repositories. Further information about DDL’s recent activities may be found on its web site, [http://state.lib.de.us/default.shtml](http://state.lib.de.us/default.shtml).

DPA holds early reports of the State Librarian and records of the Delaware Library Commission, especially pertaining to its traveling libraries (see RG 1325). Historic records of the Delaware Library Association, which may contain additional material, are stored at DDL, while recent material can be found on the association’s web site, [http://www2.lib.udel.edu/dla/archives/index.htm](http://www2.lib.udel.edu/dla/archives/index.htm).


District of Columbia

District of Columbia Public Library

Technically, the District of Columbia is a municipality. As the site of the capital of the United States, the district is not a state, nor a part of any state. Until the Home Rule Act of 1973, the United States Congress had jurisdiction over all district affairs. The federal government continues to oversee much of its operations. It is included here because it is eligible to receive LSTA funds. It also has a state-level chapter within the American Library Association (the District of Columbia Library Association) and has undertaken various statehood movements during its recent history.

The District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) was established by Congress in 1896. There is a separate District of Columbia Archives. DCPL’s Washingtoniana Division offers the D.C. Public Library Archives (collection 40) and the District of Columbia Library Association Records (collection 39). Those interested in DCPL’s current activities can check its web site, http://www.dclibrary.org/.


Florida

State Library of Florida
Both the State Library of Florida (SLF) and the State Archives of Florida are part of the Division of Library and Information Services within the Florida Department of State. SLF provides historical collections as well as federal and state documents collections. The Florida State Supreme Court Library is a separate entity. For additional information about SLF’s current activities, see [http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/library/](http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/library/). The State Library of Florida maintains copies of the meeting minutes (1927–1971) of the State Library Board in its State Documents Collection.

Bergquist, Constance C. “No. 1: A Bibliography of Florida Library History.” *Journal of Library History* 5, no. 1 (January 1970): 47–65. (includes references to the state library, as well as library development and other related topics)


**Georgia**

According to bibliographic records of items found in WorldCat, Georgia once had a “State Librarian” and a “State Library,” as well as a “Division of Public Library Services” within the Department of Education. It is unclear whether such entities relate to the current State of Georgia Law Library, or to some other entity that is now defunct. Today, the University System of Georgia’s Georgia Public Library Service performs many functions of the typical state library, including a statewide interlibrary lending network, grant administration, professional development for librarians, and coordination of a children’s summer reading program. Its home
on the Internet is [http://www.georgialibraries.org/](http://www.georgialibraries.org/). There is also the Georgia Archives, part of the Georgia Secretary of State.

Papers of Ella May Thornton, State Librarian from 1912 to 1954, are available in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library of the University of Georgia Libraries (see MS 569 and MS 767). One may find additional materials within the records of the Georgia Library Association (MS 595), housed at Valdosta State University Archives.


**Guam**

Guam Public Library System

Guam is a territory of the United States and maintains its own chapter of the American Library Association. The Guam Public Library System (GPLS) was established in 1949, and there is a separate Guam Law Library. Those interested in GPLS’s current work may visit its web site, [http://gpls.guam.gov/](http://gpls.guam.gov/).

Hawaii

Hawaii State Public Library System

With roots extending back to the Honolulu Library and Reading Room Association of the late 1870s, the Library of Hawaii was established in 1909. The cornerstone of its building, which was funded by Andrew Carnegie, was laid two years later and completed in 1913. Until the early 1920s, the Library of Hawaii used traveling libraries to serve communities on other islands. In 1959, the Hawaii State Legislature established the Hawaii State Public Library System and several years later, the Library of Hawaii was designated as the Hawaii State Library and the system’s main branch. It provides book collections, interlibrary loan, and books by mail, among other services. For information about HSPLS’s current efforts, see http://www.librarieshawaii.org/. There is a separate Hawaii State Law Library System, founded in 1966, as well as the Hawaii State Archives.

WorldCat lists various bibliographies, newsletters, reports, and other materials published by the agency. In addition, several series of records in the Hawaii State Archives include documentation of the Hawaii State Library and other libraries within HSPLS. For example, within the records of the Department of Accounting and General Services, there is correspondence of the Post-War Planning Division (series 461) which includes folders for the Library of Hawaii and several county libraries. Series pertaining to audits and land surveys also include information on some libraries. Within the records of the Department of Education, the Superintendents’ Correspondence (series 380) contains information about the Library Advisory Commission and Library Division of the 1970s.


Idaho

Idaho Commission for Libraries

Established in 1901, the Idaho Commission for Libraries is part of the Executive Branch of the Idaho state government. Among its current activities are LILI, a collection of online databases and audiobooks, summer reading and book discussion support services, resources for trustees, and a talking book library. It can be found on the Internet at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/history. The Idaho State Archives and the Idaho State Law Library are separate entities.

According to WorldCat, there are significant series of annual/biennial reports (ca. 1900–1956) and various newsletters. Archival records of the Idaho State Library’s history, as well as
the papers of Walter Lockwood (State Librarian, 1937–1941) are available at the Idaho State Historical Society. Additional materials may be found within the records of the Idaho Library Association (manuscript group 29) at the University of Idaho Library.

http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/history.


**Illinois**

Illinois State Library

The Illinois State Library (ISL) was formally established in 1843. In 1921, the Illinois State Archives was established as a division of the library; it became an independent agency in 1957. There is also the Illinois Supreme Court Library. ISL remains under the purview of the Secretary of State, who is also State Librarian, and administers grants, collects federal and state documents, and provides a talking book service. Information about its current resources and services can be found on the library’s web site, http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/home.html. Past issues of Insight, ISL’s newsletter, are available on the library’s electronic documents web site, http://iledi.org.

The Illinois State Archives holds ISL’s records, which include 13 volumes of circulation records (1842–1919) and the working papers of Margaret Cross Norton, chief of the ISL
Archives Division from 1922 to 1957 and a founder of the Society of American Archivists. Records series are described in WorldCat. ISL owns several nineteenth-century catalogues of its collection, as well as other publications of the library.


Indiana

Indiana State Library

The Indiana State Library (ISL) was founded in 1825 and for many years was part of Indiana’s Department of Education. Today it includes offices for library and professional development as well as a History and Archives division, the Indiana Center for the Book, and a Talking Book and Braille Library. There is a separate Indiana Commission on Public Records.
(including the State Archives) and an Indiana Supreme Court Law Library. For further information about ISL’s recent activities, see its web site, http://www.in.gov/library.

According to WorldCat, ISL issued biennial or annual reports during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, a Bulletin during the 1900s and 1910s, and a periodical, Library Occurrent, from 1906 to 1980, which are available at various libraries. ISL holds the papers of former directors Louis J. Bailey (served 1922–1936) and Harold F. Brigham (1942–1955).


Iowa

Iowa Library Services/State Library of Iowa

The United States Congress established a territorial library for Iowa in 1838. Upon statehood in 1846, this became the State Library of Iowa (SLI). In addition to providing
reference services and a law library, SLI has a Library Development department and a State Data Center. From 1919 to 2010 SLI also included the Iowa State Medical Library. Although the State Library had a “historical department” earlier in its history, the State Archives, which is part of the State Historical Society of Iowa, is a now separate entity. For more information about SLI’s services, as well as digital copies of recent publications, see http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org.

The State Historical Society in Iowa City offers SLI annual/biennial reports, collection catalogs, and other publications. According to WorldCat, back issues of Iowa Library Quarterly (1907–1989), which was published by the State Library Commission, are available in various repositories, as is Footnotes (1976–), SLI’s current publication. Additional primary sources may be found in the records of the Iowa Library Association (MsC 491), held by the University of Iowa Libraries.


Miller, Mary H. Historical Sketch of the Iowa State Library. Des Moines, IA: [State Library of Iowa], 1893.


**Kansas**

The State Library of Kansas began as a territorial library in 1855. Over the years, it added traveling libraries (1889), grants for rural public libraries (1964), talking book services (1970s), and state data information (1980). Today, it also provides numerous online databases to its users, as well as the Kansas Center for the Book, a statewide library catalog and borrowing card, and other services. The State Archives, which is part of the Kansas State Historical Society, and the Kansas Supreme Court Library, are separate entities. Current information about SLK is available on the agency’s web site, [http://www.kslib.info/](http://www.kslib.info/).

The Kansas State Historical Society owns Records of the Kansas State Library (Unit ID 215424), Records of the Kansas Traveling Libraries Commission (Unit ID 215996), and Kansas Library Association Records (Unit ID 45950).


Kentucky

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) is an agency within the state’s Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. It includes both a Division of State Library Services, a Division of Public Records, and a Division of Field Services (which includes both public library development and talking book activities). There is a separate State Law Library of Kentucky. Those interested in KDLA’s current activities can find its web site at http://kdla.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx.


Hanly, Rebecca S. "Emma Guy Cromwell and Mary Elliott Flanery: Pioneers For Women in Kentucky Politics." Register of the Kentucky Historical Society 99, no. 3 (July 2001): 287–301.


**Louisiana**

State Library of Louisiana

The State Library of Louisiana (SLL) has its roots in the Louisiana Library Commission, which was founded in 1920. Among its collections are audiovisual materials, big books, die-cut templates, a “hi-lo” literature collection, and large print materials, as well as the customary electronic databases, federal/state documents, genealogy and local history, and reference items often found in state libraries. Current activities include consulting services for public libraries, grant administration, statewide interlibrary loan, the Louisiana Center for the Book, a Talking Book and Braille Library, and an annual Summer Reading Program. For more information, see SLL’s web site, [http://www.state.lib.la.us/](http://www.state.lib.la.us/). There is a separate Law Library of Louisiana and a Louisiana State Archives.

SLL maintains copies of the “Historic Minutes” (1925–2006) of the Louisiana Library Commission, as well as numerous SLL documents and publications. Additional materials may be found in the Louisiana Library Association Records (Mss. 4031), held by the Special Collections Department of Louisiana State University Libraries.


Maine

Maine State Library

The Maine State Library (MSL) began in 1836. Though an independent agency, it shares a building with the Maine State Archives and Maine State Museum and is part of the Maine Cultural Affairs Council. There is a separate Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library. MSL’s Library Development Division administers grants, collects statistics, provides consultant services, offers professional development resources, and undertakes technological initiatives. The Reader and Information Services Division offers electronic books, talking books, and genealogical/local history sources. For more information about MSL’s current activities, see http://www.maine.gov/msl.

The Maine State Library has historical circulation record books (1864–1983, MLS Safe MS 027.5.M22c), accession books from its traveling library program (1906–1928, MSL Safe, MS 027.5.M22t), and papers of the Maine Library Commission (1897–1902, MSL Safe File Box MS 027.5.M225p). It also owns copies of many of its publications, including early printed catalogs. There is also a Maine Library Bulletin published from ca. 1916 to 1933 by the Maine Library Commission. No articles, books, or other publications on the history of MSL were identified.
Marshall Islands

Alele Museum, Library, and National Archives

The Marshall Islands is a sovereign country which receives defense and social services from the United States. The author found was unable to identify a “state library” as such in the Marshall Islands. The Alele Museum, Library, and National Archives was founded in 1981. In addition to public library services, it is “dedicated to preserving the history and conserving the folk arts, traditional skills, historic accounts, oral literature and other traditions of the Republic of the Marshall Islands,” according to the organization’s web site. The author found no relevant historical studies.

Maryland

Division of Library Development / State Library Resource Center

In Maryland, state library functions are currently handled by several agencies. In 1902, a State Library Commission was founded to develop public libraries throughout the state. In 1935, these responsibilities were given to the Maryland Department of Education, where they have remained. Included within the Division of Library Development are the Maryland State Library for the Blind and the Physically Handicapped (founded in 1968). For more information, see the division’s home page, http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/divisions/library/. Annapolis is also home to a separate Maryland State Archives, founded in 1935, and a Maryland State Law Library, founded in 1826. In Baltimore, Enoch Pratt Free Library has functioned as the “State Library Resource Center” since 1979. SLRC provides reference service, database access, interlibrary loan, and professional development opportunities. Further information about SLRC is available at http://www.slrc.info/.

According to WorldCat, annual and biennial reports for a “state library” (probably the law library) are extant. There is also a “Condensed Accession Book” (1901–1973) and a a “General File” of early records of the law library. Additional materials may be found in the Archives of the Maryland Library Association (ARCV81-9), currently housed at the University of Maryland.


Massachusetts

State Library of Massachusetts

The State of Massachusetts began exchanging documents with other governments in 1811, but a State Library was officially established years later, in 1826. Today, it is the official repository for Massachusetts state documents and provides resources for legal research. It also has historic newspapers, photographs, maps, and other local history materials. Those interested in its activities can visit its web site, http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/oversight-agencies/lib/. There is also a separate Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), founded in 1890, which is responsible for library development. For more information about MBLC, see http://mblc.state.ma.us/index.php. The state also has the Massachusetts Archives, a repository for government records, and a system of regional Trial Court Law Libraries.

The State Library of Massachusetts maintains original records of its history (see Ms. Coll. 66), as well as annual reports (1911–1978), early collection catalogs, architectural plans, photographs, and other materials.


**Michigan**

Library of Michigan

Begun in 1828 in the territorial courthouse, Michigan’s state library has encompassed a travelling library program (1895), library development activities (1899), LSCA/LSTA grant administration (1956), library services for the blind (1959), free online databases for state residents (AccessMichigan, 1998), and various other efforts. It is currently part of the Michigan Department of Education. Those interested in its current activities may find it on the Internet at http://www.michigan.gov/mde. There is a separate Archives of Michigan, as well as the Michigan State Law Library.

The Library of Michigan has annual reports, collection catalogues, periodicals, and other publications pertaining to its history. According to *WorldCat*, the Archives of Michigan holds the papers of Loleta Dawson Fyian (MS 94-231), who was State Librarian from 1941 to 1961, the papers of Gail Curtis (MS 78-1), head of reference from 1919 to 1957, and other pertinent records. Additional items may be found in the Michigan Library Association Records held at the Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan.


http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-54504_19270_28958---,00.html.

Micronesia


The following resources are offered for those who wish to explore the topic further.


Minnesota

In Minnesota, there does not appear to be a physical “state library” that provides reference services or database access to other government agencies or the general public. There is a Minnesota State Archives (designated part of the Minnesota Historical Society in 1915), a Minnesota State Law Library (founded in 1849 and located in the Minnesota Judicial Center), and the Minnesota State Library Agency (MSLA), which has long been a division of the Minnesota Department of Education. According to its current staff list, MSLA compiles library statistics, supervises the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library, administers aid programs,
and assists in public library development. Further information may be found at http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/StuSuc/Lib/StateLibServ/index.html.

According to WorldCat, the Minnesota Historical Society maintains MSLA’s annual reports, Director’s Correspondence (record ID 001714850), Public Library System Files (record ID number 001735827), Records of Library Visits (record ID number 001714913), and other materials. The historical society also houses School Library Records (record ID number 001714914) and the Minnesota Library Association Records (catalog ID number 09-00041179).


Mississippi

Mississippi Library Commission

The Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) was established in 1926. Its current activities include the Mississippi Center for the Book, services for the blind and physically handicapped, research database access, patents and other government documents, a statewide catalog of primary source materials, interlibrary loan, and administration of federal library grant programs. For more information, see MLC’s web site at http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us/index.html. There is a separate Mississippi Department of Archives and History, as well as a State Law Library of Mississippi.

Both MLC and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History retain copies of MLC’s annual reports, newsletters, and publications. The University of Southern Mississippi holds papers of Lura Gibbons Currier (M267), head of MLC from 1950 to 1967.


**Missouri**

Missouri State Library

Established in 1946, the Missouri State Library (MSL) and the Missouri State Archives are separate entities within the Secretary of State. Among other services, MSL provides reference services, federal and state documents, a talking book library, professional development opportunities, resource sharing, and grant administration. For more information, see its web site at [http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/).

According to WorldCat, the Missouri State Archives holds various records pertaining to MSL during the mid-twentieth century. MSL also holds copies of many of its recent publications. Additional material may be found within the Missouri Library Association Papers (C0515), available at the State Historical Society of Missouri.


**Montana**

Montana State Library

In addition to research database access, a talking book library, grant programs, and library development resources, the Montana State Library offers various digital information systems pertaining to natural resources in the region. Those interested in its current activities may consult its web site, [http://msl.mt.gov/](http://msl.mt.gov/). There is a separate State Law Library of Montana, which is the federal depository, as well as the Montana Historical Society, the official repository for state government records.


**Nebraska**

Nebraska State Library / Nebraska Library Commission
The Nebraska State Library was founded as a territorial library in 1855. Originally, it had both law and general materials. In 1913, it was placed under the jurisdiction of Nebraska Supreme Court and eventually disposed of non-legal materials. Today, it functions as a law library. For more information, see http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/state-library/. The Nebraska Library Commission was founded in 1901. It administers federal and state library grants, collects library statistics, provides reference service, offers a Talking Book library, and includes a Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse (a repository for state documents). For more information, see the NLC’s web site at http://nlc.nebraska.gov/. The Nebraska State Historical Society, which maintains state government records, is a separate entity.

Digital copies of many of NLC’s biennial reports (1902–1980), as well as some of its periodicals, are available on the agency’s web site. According to WorldCat, NLC also owns a scrapbook pertaining to traveling libraries during the early twentieth century. The Nebraska State Historical Society holds these reports, as well as meeting minutes, correspondence, and other records pertaining to the NLC (see RG016).

“Nebraska Library History.” *Nebraska Library Commission.* http://nlc.nebraska.gov/history/nebraskalibraryhistory.aspx

**Nevada**

Nevada State Library and Archives
The Nevada State Library and Archives (NSLA) is a division of the Nevada Department of Administration. Today, it includes a State Data Center, Talking Book Library, government records, genealogical resources, research databases, and library development activities. For more information, see http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/. The Nevada Law Library, part of the Nevada Legislature, is a separate entity. NSLA owns copies of its annual reports and other publications.


Reno, Ramona L. *Nevada State Library and Archives, a Statutory and Administrative Chronology.* Carson City, NV, 2006–.


**New Hampshire**

New Hampshire State Library

With roots extending back to 1717, the New Hampshire State Library (NHSL) appointed its first librarian in 1833 and printed its first collection catalog in 1846. By 1891, New Hampshire also had a commission which promoted library development across the state. Today, NHSL includes federal and state documents, a talking book library, a family resource collection, local history and genealogy resources, the New Hampshire Center for the Book, and professional resources for librarians. Those interested in its current activities and recent publications can find more information at http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/index.html. The New Hampshire Division of Archives and Records Management is a separate entity within the New Hampshire Secretary of State. The New Hampshire Law Library is another distinct institution.

NSL maintains copies of biennial reports (1847–1991 with gaps) and other publications. It also holds the correspondence files of Josiah H. Whittier, an member of the New Hampshire Board of Library Commissioners during the 1890s (see ARC NH 027 N532f), The New
Hampshire Division of Archives and Records Management also has records pertaining to the library commission (see CR 6 and CR 7).


**New Jersey**

**New Jersey State Library**

The New Jersey State Library (NJS) is an affiliate of Thomas Jefferson State College. It currently consists of three bureaus: the State Library Information Center (which includes a Law Library), the Library Development Bureau, and the Talking Book and Braille Center. For more information, see NJS's web site at http://www.njstatelib.org/. It appears that the state library and state archives may have once been within the same department, but currently, the Division of Archives and Management is a separate entity within the New Jersey Department of State. NJS has early catalogs of its collection as well as reports of its yearly activities.


“State Lib., Virtual College Merge in NJ.” Library Journal 121 (June 1, 1996): 18.

New Mexico

New Mexico State Library

The New Mexico State Library (NMSL) was established in 1929 and is currently a division within the Department of Cultural Affairs. Among its collections are federal and state documents, a Southwest Collection, a Foundation Center (grantsmanship) collection, and a Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. It also provides books directly to rural areas through bookmobile and the mail, and assists with public library development by administering grants and offering professional development opportunities. For more information, see the agency's web site at http://www.nmstatelibrary.org/. The New Mexico Supreme Court Library and the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives are separate organizations.

NMSL maintains copies of accession lists from 1929 to 1983 (see State Document Reference F 841.71:A 16). It also offers copies of its annual reports, periodicals, and other publications. The New Mexico State Archives holds minutes of the State Library Commission from 1936 to 1996 (see collection (1983-034). There are also folders of related correspondence within the papers of various governors.


**New York**

New York State Library

Founded in 1818, the New York State Library (NYSL) was an early federal depository (1858), provider of pre-professional training for librarians (1888), and library for the blind (1896). Today, NYSL is part of the Office of Cultural Education within the New York State Education Department. It consists of a research library, a talking book/braille library, and a division of library development. The New York State Archives is a separate entity within the Education Department. There is also a separate system of public access law libraries. Those interested in NYSL’s current activities may consult its web site, [http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/).

The most thoroughly documented era in NYSL’s history is likely 1888 to 1906, when it was headed by Melvil Dewey. Dewey’s work has been chronicled in various articles and books (see especially Wiegand below). A fire which swept through the state capitol in 1911 destroyed much of the library’s collection. Still, NYSL holds many resources pertaining to its history, including annual reports (1888–1945, available in the Manuscripts and Special Collections department), nineteenth-century printed catalogs of its collections, and annual reports and registers of the New York State Library School. NYSL also offers a collection documenting the effects of the 1911 fire (see SC10867), the papers of former state librarian Alfred Billings Street (served 1848–1862, see SC10809), the papers of longtime staff member Joseph Gavit (served 1896–1946, see SC19294), librarian and archivist Arnold J. F. Van Laer (served 1899–1915, see SC15317), former state librarian Charles Francis Gosnell (served 1945–1962, see SC22597), and the papers
of Cecil Roseberry (SC14744), who wrote a history of the library. NYSL also maintains the records of the New York Library Association (see SC14879). In addition, the New York State Archives holds minutes of the New York Board of Regents’ Standing Committee on the State Library (see A2019).


Lopez, Manuel D. Bibliography of the History of Libraries in New York State. Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University, School of Library Science, 1971. (includes references to the state library, as well as library development and other related topics)


Wyer, James Ingersol, Jr. “Notes on the Earlier Librarians of the New York State Library.” In
New York State Library, One Hundred and Sixth Annual Report, 63–71. Albany, NY:
University of the State of New York, [1923].

North Carolina

State Library of North Carolina

With beginnings in 1812, the State Library of North Carolina (SLNC) is now part of the
Department of Cultural Resources. It consists of a “Government and Heritage Library” which
preserves government documents and genealogical information, a Library for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped, and a Library Development Section, which includes the North Carolina
Center for the Book and administers grants for public libraries. The North Carolina State
Archives is a different unit within the state’s Office of Archives and History. Those interested in
SLNC’s activities may peruse its web site, http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/. Copies of recent
newsletters are also available online at http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/about/updates.html.

SLNC owns annual/biennial reports (1854–1972 with gaps, see State Documents F15 1:),
printed collection catalogs, copies of the North Carolina State Library News Letter (1956–1975),
North Carolina Update (2005–present). The North Carolina State Archives offers many of these
publications, as well as correspondence, minutes, photographs, and other primary sources (see
especially Record Group 62).


Carmichael, James V., Jr. “North Carolina Libraries Face the Depression: The Regional Field
64.

Carpenter, Ray, Bea Bruce, and Michele Oliver. “No. 5: A Bibliography of North Carolina
Library History.” Journal of Library History 6, no. 3 (July 1971): 47–65. (includes
references to the state library, as well as library development and other related topics)


North Dakota

North Dakota State Library

Founded as a Library Commission in 1907, the North Dakota State Library (NDSL) currently offers reference service, including access to North Dakota newspapers, state documents, and talking books. It also provides grant administration, interlibrary loan, professional training, and other resources for public libraries. The State Archives is a separate entity, part of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. The Supreme Court of North Dakota provides public access to legal materials. See NDSL’s web site, http://www.library.nd.gov/index.html, for more information about the state library’s current activities.

NDSL holds original accession books (1909–1923, see Z881.N67 N6712), meeting minute books (1907–1915, see Z733.N67 N678), biennial reports (1907–1970, see Z733.N67 N68), copies of Library Notes (1925–1969, Z732.N9 L52), and other resources pertaining to its history. The State Archives holds director’s correspondence, ledgers, and other primary sources (see series 31063–31066). The University of North Dakota holds the papers of Hazel Webster Byrnes, director of the library commission from 1948 to 1965 (see OGL 180). Additional material may be found in the North Dakota Library Association Records, held by the State Historical Society (see collection 10018).


Northern Marianas Islands

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
The Northern Mariana Islands are a territory of the United States, and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is the state library for the commonwealth. It particularly emphasizes services to families, including a substantial children’s collection, a homework center, and bookmobiles. Those interested in the library may consult its web site, http://www.cnmilibrary.com/. The author was unable to find any historical studies of the library.

Ohio

State Library of Ohio

Since its founding in 1817, the State Library of Ohio (SLO)’s responsibilities have grown to include library development (1908), grant funding (1935), and cataloging services (1953). Today, it serves as a repository of federal and state documents, administers grants, provides talking books and database access, offers training for librarians, and has various other services. The state archives are housed within the Ohio Historical Society, a separate organization. Although legal materials were originally part of SLO’s collection, they were transferred to the Supreme Court around 1860, and the Supreme Court Law Library continues to provide legal information to the general public. For more information about SLO’s activities, see http://www.library.ohio.gov/.

SLO owns minutes of the Board of Library Commissioners (1896–1915, see Rare Books Z732.O3 O28x), annual reports, and other resources pertaining to its history. In addition, the Ohio Historical Society holds State Librarians’ Correspondence from 1915 to 1990 (see series 1149). Additional material may be found in the Ohio Library Council Records (MSS 985), also held by the historical society.

Agriesti, Paul A. “No. 7: A Bibliography of Ohio Library History.” Journal of Library History 7, no. 2 (April 1972): 157–88. (includes references to the state library, as well as library development and other related topics)


State Library of Ohio. “History of the Jeffrey Mining Corporate Center.”

http://www.library.ohio.gov/StateLibrarian/aboutus/history/bldg.


http://www.library.ohio.gov/StateLibrarian/aboutus/history/statelibrarians.


http://www.library.ohio.gov/StateLibrarian/aboutus/history.

Stauffer, Suzanne M. “She Speaks as One Having Authority: Mary E. Downey’s Use of Libraries as a Means to Public Power.” *Libraries & Culture* 40 (Winter 2005): 38–62.


**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma Department of Libraries

With beginnings in 1890 as a territorial library, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries is currently comprised of a law library, a state records center, and the Allen Wright Memorial Library which includes interlibrary loan services, federal and state documents, a literacy resource office, and the Oklahoma Center for the Book. For more information about the agency, see http://www.odl.state.ok.us/index.html.
http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/O/OK040.html

Oregon

Oregon State Library

The Oregon State Library (OSL) offers reference services, genealogical information, and federal and state documents. It also collects statistics, administers grants, and provides database access for Oregon’s public libraries. The Oregon State Archives is a separate entity, part of the Secretary of State. There is a State of Oregon Law Library as well. See http://www.oregon.gov/OSL/ for more information about OSL’s current resources and services.

OSL maintains early biennial reports back to 1866 and other publications. The Oregon State Archives holds a variety of primary sources, including accession and circulation records, correspondence, traveling library records, press releases, and series pertaining to radio programs and to the Victory Book Campaign. Additional materials may be found in the Cornelia Marvin Pierce Papers (MSS Pierce Cornelia) held by Reed College.


Wann, Jey. “History of the Oregon Documents Depository Program.” *Oregon State Library. Oregon Documents Depository Centennial.* [http://library.state.or.us/home/Centennial/history.html](http://library.state.or.us/home/Centennial/history.html)

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**Palau**

**Palau Public Library**

Palau is a sovereign nation, which through a compact receives defense and other services from the United States. The Palau Public Library, part of the Ministry of Education, provides reading material and information about the history of the region to the people of Palau. No relevant
studies were found for this bibliography. For information about its current activities, see  
http://www.palaumoe.net/publib/about.html.xhtml.

Pennsylvania

State Library of Pennsylvania

Beginning with a purchase of law books by Benjamin Franklin in 1745, the State Library of Pennsylvania (SLP) has grown to encompass legal materials, newspapers, genealogical and local history items, and public library development. The Pennsylvania State Archives and the State Museum of Pennsylvania were begun in the early twentieth century under SPL’s aegis, but are now separate agencies. Services for the blind and physically handicapped are offered through the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Center for the Book is located at the Pennsylvania State University. For more information about SLP, see  

SLP owns copies of annual reports, Pennsylvania Library Notes (1908–1941), and other publications. A small collection of historical documents and photographs are also available in the director’s office. Additional material may be found in the Archives of the Pennsylvania Library Association, headquartered in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.


Hering, Katharina. "’A Very Busy Part of the State Library’: Genealogy at the State Library and Archives of Pennsylvania." Pennsylvania History 76, no. 4 (2009), 494–503.


**Puerto Rico**

Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States and its residents are American citizens. Puerto Rico has no state library or agency that coordinates public library development. No articles, books, or other materials about the history of state libraries were found.

**Rhode Island**

State Library of Rhode Island / Office of Library and Information Services

The State Library of Rhode Island (SLRI) is part of the Secretary of State. Located in the capitol building, it focuses on historical and legal resources. Within the state’s Department of Administration, the Office of Library and Information Services administers grants and promotes library development. The State Archives is a separate agency within the Secretary of State’s office. For more information, consult the State Library’s web site at [http://sos.ri.gov/library/](http://sos.ri.gov/library/) and OLIS’s web site [http://www.olis.ri.gov/](http://www.olis.ri.gov/). According to WorldCat, various libraries hold copies of annual reports, newsletters, and other publications. No articles, books, or other published studies about the SLRI’s history were found.

**South Carolina**

South Carolina State Library

Established by the state legislature in 1929, but initially funded by the South Carolina Library Association and the Rosenwald Foundation, the State Library Board of South Carolina undertook public library development with WPA assistance during the 1930s and 1940s. Renamed the South Carolina State Library (SCSL) in 1969, it continues to promote public
libraries. SCSL also includes a Talking Book Library, as well as an Information and Resource Center which includes government documents, grants information, and South Carolina history. The South Carolina Department of Archives and History is a different entity. Public access to legal materials is provided by the Supreme Court Library. Those interested in SCSL's current activities can consult its web site, http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/.

The state archives holds copies of the State Library Board's minutes from 1926 to 2006, newsletters, and other primary sources (see record group 184000). Additional material may be found in the records of the Citizens Library Association of South Carolina (Mss 0054), held by Clemson University Libraries. The University of South Carolina also has the papers of Estellene P. Walker, who was director of the state library board.


**South Dakota**

South Dakota State Library

The South Dakota State Library Commission was created in 1913 to promote public library development. The commission existed through the 1970s. Today, the South Dakota State Library (SDSL) continues to develop public libraries by providing consulting services and professional development opportunities. It also offers reference and research services and a talking book library. The South Dakota State Historical Society, which includes the state
archives, is a separate organization. Those interested in the library's current activities can check its web site, http://library.sd.gov/.

Various libraries own copies of the South Dakota Library Commission's Newsletter (1914–1973) and biennial reports (ca. 1914–1970), and other items pertaining to the state library's history.


**Tennessee**

Tennessee State Library and Archives

The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) is part of the Secretary of State. It includes state government records, a Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a Planning and Development Section which promotes library development and administers grants, and other resources. For more information, see TSLA's web site, http://www.tn.gov/tsla/.

TSLA holds primary sources documenting its history, including book accession records (1908–84, see RG 173) and photographs (RG 120). Additional material may be found in the Tennessee Library Association Records (accession number 1285), also held by TSLA.


**Texas**

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

With beginnings in 1839, when a "national library" was established for the Republic of Texas, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission has grown to include the state archives (1890s), talking books (1931), records management (1947), public library grant administration (1955), provision of research database access (1994), and other activities. The Texas State Law Library is a separate agency. For more information about TSLAC, see its web site at [https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/](https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/). TSLAC holds director's and librarian's records (1939–99), meeting files (1909–2005), and other primary sources.


Gracy, David B., II. “’To Have the Texas People See the Necessity For It’: Laying the Foundation for the Texas State Library, 1835–1909.” *Texas Library Journal* 84, no. 3 (October 15, 2008): 102–107.


“TSLAC Centennial History.” Texas Library Journal 82, no. 3 (Fall 2006): 132.


**Utah**

Utah State Library

Utah had a state library commission during the early twentieth century. Established in 1957, the Utah State Library (USL) is a division of the Utah Department of Community and Culture. It administers grants, provides training, offers database access, and provides a program for the blind and disabled. The Utah State Archives and Records Service is a separate agency, as is the Utah State Law Library. For more information about USL, see http://library.utah.gov/.

The Utah State Archives holds board minutes (series 26810), library commission correspondence (series 1840), state library director's correspondence (series 4425), and other primary sources. Additional materials may be found in the Utah Library Association Records (Ms 154), available at the University of Utah Library.


Stauffer, Suzanne M. “She Speaks as One Having Authority: Mary E. Downey’s Use of Libraries as a Means to Public Power.” *Libraries & Culture* 40 (Winter 2005): 38–62.

**Vermont**

Vermont Department of Libraries

Vermont had a Free Public Library Commission in the early twentieth century, and during the 1960s there was a Vermont Free Public Library Service. Today, the Vermont Department of Libraries (VDL) provides a law library, government documents, statewide research database access, professional consultants, and training for librarians. The Vermont State Archives and Records Administration is a separate agency within the Secretary of State. Those interested in VDL’s current activities may consult its web site, [http://libraries.vermont.gov/](http://libraries.vermont.gov/). VDL offers copies of its biennial reports (1964–98) and News (1976–2004), as well as the Bulletin of the Vermont Free Public Library Commission (ca. 1905–62).

**Virginia**

Library of Virginia

Established in 1823, the Library of Virginia (LV) includes historical and manuscript collections, state documents and records, and other resources. It also administers federal and state aid to public libraries. The Virginia State Law Library is a different entity within the state supreme court. For more information, see [http://www.lva.virginia.gov/](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/).
The Library of Virginia holds many records pertaining to its history, including correspondence of the State Librarian (1903–2007), correspondence of the library board (1903–1970), nineteenth century collection catalogs, architectural drawings, and scrapbooks (see especially RG 35). Additional items may be found in the Virginia Library Association Records (accessions 32434 and 36996), also available at the Library of Virginia.

Gillespie, David, and Michael H. Harris. “No. 4: A Bibliography of Virginia Library History.” *Journal of Library History* 6, no. 1 (January 1971): 72–90. (includes references to the state library, as well as library development and other related topics)


**Virgin Islands**

Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums

The western Virgin Islands are a territory of the United States. Within the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (DLAM) includes a reference library, Caribbean collection, the territorial archives, and other resources. It also includes a system of public libraries reaching St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas. Those
interested in DLAM’s activities may consult its web site,  

**Washington State**

Washington State Library

Established as a territorial library in 1853, the Washington State Library (WSL) includes a genealogical and local history collection, newspapers, government documents, and a Talking Book Library. WSL also provides statewide access to research databases, professional development opportunities, and management of grants for public libraries. Both WSL and the Washington State Archives are agencies within the Secretary of State. The Washington State Law Library was once part of the WSL, but in 1959 it was reassigned to the Supreme Court. For more information about WSL, see http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/.

WSL holds copies of annual/biennial reports, collection catalogs, Bulletins, other other publications. It also maintains transcripts from 1930s radio programs (MS 334), correspondence, photographs, and other primary sources (see MS 321, MS 376, MS 401, MS 417, and MS 419). Additional material may be found in the Washington Library Association Records (MS 370), also held by WSL.


**West Virginia**

West Virginia Library Commission

Founded in 1929, the West Virginia Library Commission (WVLC) provides research databases, the West Virginia Center for the Book, and audio materials. The State Law Library, which predates the commission, is part of the Supreme Court. The State Archives is situated within the Division of Culture and History. Those interested in the WVLC may consult its website, [http://wvlc.lib.wv.us](http://wvlc.lib.wv.us). The State Archives has correspondence, surveys, and other records pertaining to the WVLC's history (see Ar 1975). Various libraries offer copies of the commission's annual reports.


**Wisconsin**

Wisconsin State Law Library / Wisconsin Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning
Today, it does not appear that Wisconsin has a “state library” which provides general reference service to government agencies or citizens. Wisconsin established a territorial library in 1836. Thirty years later, a legislative act refocused the collection on law, political science, and statistical material. Today, this is the State Law Library (see http://wilawlibrary.gov/). In 1875, all non-legal material originally in the territorial/state library was transferred to the State Historical Society, which also includes the State Archives. Pertaining to public library development, the Wisconsin Free Library Commission was founded in 1895 and over the course of its history provided books by mail to rural residents and founded a library training program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Commission’s work was taken over by the Department of Public Instruction sometime during the 1960s. Today, the Department of Public Instruction includes a Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL), concerned with development, grants, and information technology for PreK–12 schools and public libraries. Those interested in its activities may consult its web site, http://dpi.wi.gov/dltcl/.

The Wisconsin State Historical Society offers correspondence, photographs, reports, and other primary sources pertaining to the Free Library Commission and Division for Library Services (forerunners of the DTLCL, see series 1075–1114). Additional material may be found in the Wisconsin Library Association Records (Mss 34). The Society also holds the papers of various persons who served the Free Library Commission, including Clarence Brown Lester (1910s–1940s, see M2002-120), Matthew Simpson Dudgeon (1910s, see Wis Mss UB), and John Rector Barton (1950s, see Mss 401). In addition, the Society offers the papers of Gilson Gardner Glasier (Mss 749) who worked for what is today the State Law Library from 1906 to 1956, and the papers of Ole Saeter Rice (Mss 497) who oversaw school library development within the Department of Public Instruction from 1907 to 1923.


Schwarz, Philip J. “No. 12: A Bibliography of Wisconsin Library History.” *Journal of Library History* 11, no. 2 (April 1976): 87–166. (includes references to the state library, as well as library development and other related topics)


**Wyoming**

Wyoming State Library

The Wyoming State Library includes federal and state documents, genealogical and historical materials, newspapers, grants information for nonprofit organizations, talking books, and the Wyoming Center for the Book. WSL also provides statewide access to research databases, grants for public libraries, and professional development opportunities for Wyoming library employees. The Wyoming State Archives is a separate entity within the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. The Wyoming State Law Library is also a separate entity within the Judicial Branch. Those interested in WSL’s current activities should peruse its website, [http://www-wsl.state.wy.us/](http://www-wsl.state.wy.us/). WSL provides copies of its annual reports (1904, 1909–1966, see WYDOCS LI 1.1), periodicals such as the *Outrider* (1969–), and other publications.


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