

90-A 123

COLLECTIONS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS

NAME OF COLLECTION: LEIGH, Robert Devore -- Public Library Inquiry Papers

SOURCE: Transferred from the School of Library Service, 1974; 1981; 1985

(Originally given by R.D. Leigh in 1960)

SUBJECT: Public Libraries

DATES COVERED: ca. 1947 - 1955 NUMBER OF ITEMS: ca. 4,000

STATUS: (check appropriate description)  
Cataloged:      Listed: X Arranged:      Not organized:     

CONDITION: (give number of vols., boxes, or shelves)  
Bound:      Boxed: 7 Stored:     

LOCATION: (Library) Rare Bk & Manuscript Library CALL-NUMBER Ms Coll/Leigh

RESTRICTIONS ON USE None

DESCRIPTION: Correspondence, documents, memoranda, reports and clippings of book reviews of the Public Library Inquiry, the Social Science Research Council's comprehensive survey of the United States public library system, 1947-1953. These papers are from the files of Robert Devore Leigh, 1890-1961, (M.A., Ph.D. Columbia), Director of the Inquiry. The correspondence is chiefly with public, university, and special libraries;; foundations, and other organizations. There is correspondence with several leading American Librarians, such as Carleton Joeckel, Joseph Wheeler and Charles C. Williamson. About one-half of the collection contains the field reports, interview reports, questionnaires, vocational interest blanks, and related materials used for one Inquiry study: Oliver Garceau, Library Government and Politics, published by Columbia University Press in 1949 under the title: The Public Library in the Political Process. The manuscript of a Report for the Russell Sage Foundation, The Nature of Public Communication, 1955, was added.

For a list of collection, see following pages.

8/28/74 BRC  
9/27/85 JL-W

## The Robert D. Leigh Papers

The papers of Robert D. Leigh, on which I worked, were those pertaining to the Public Library Inquiry that he organized and headed while at Columbia. I received a large number of loose papers, folders, and bound volumes, dating between 1947 and 1953. These papers were of a mixed nature, official, semi-official, and personal, yet were all related to the Inquiry, itself. Many were the actual working material of the Project.

Although these papers were in a disorganized state, upon further examination they fell into cohesive groups and a natural order, which followed closely the progression of the Inquiry. The papers included correspondence, official documents of the Inquiry, statistical data, rough drafts of reports, memoranda, and a massive number of clippings of reviews. The bound volumes contained Inquiry documents and several reports relating closely to the project.

In working with Dr. Leigh's correspondence, I found eighty-two pieces, dating between September, 1949, and March, 1952, all pertaining to the study. The letters were exchanged with institutions, for the most part - public library systems, university libraries, and government offices - and with individuals, in some cases. Although some contained personal references, all were basically on the subject of the Inquiry and were most logically arranged in chronological order.

There was among the papers, a large portion that were Inquiry documents, statements of goals, progress reports, and

memoranda to the staff. Included among these I found several pieces which were working papers of the project - data sheets and charts, evaluations and rough drafts - all handwritten. In this group, I was able to follow the Principle of Provenance, leaving the basic original order, with a few minor adjustments. These were numbered in folders.

The greatest bulk of papers was a massive number of clipped reviews, dating from February, 1947, to Winter, 1951. These, I sorted chronologically and arranged by year. In addition, I designated separate folders for the collections of reviews on related reports which had been clipped and pasted on manila folders. These were arranged alphabetically, according to the various authors.

Finally, I found ten bound volumes. Of these, two were Inquiry documents, in temporary bindings. These were removed, placed in folders and interfiled appropriately, in this case, among the official documents, in chronological sequence. The other volumes, containing reports relating to the Inquiry, were in permanent bindings. They were labelled accordingly, numbered, and added at the conclusion of the collection.

Although the collection was disorganized upon initial examination, it fell quickly into an order of its own, resembling the original progression of the project. In many cases, I was able to observe the Principle of Provenance. This part of the Robert D. Leigh Papers comprises two boxes of material, which move in logical sequence through the various steps of the Public Library Inquiry.

The Robert D. Leigh Papers  
on  
The Public Library Inquiry

BOX A

Correspondence

Correspondence pertaining to the Public Library Inquiry.  
82 pieces.

1. Correspondence 1949

American Library Association  
American Library Association - Division of Libraries for  
Children and Young People  
Cleveland Public Library  
Columbia University Press  
Detroit Public Library  
Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Indiana State Library  
Michigan State Library  
New England Library Association  
New Jersey Library Association  
Pratt Institute  
Public Library of Newark, New Jersey  
University of Nebraska

2. Correspondence 1950

American Civil Liberties Union  
American Council on Education  
American School Publishing Corporation  
Bolton, Frances  
Boston Public Library  
Carnegie Corporation of New York  
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh  
Columbia University Press  
Committee on Public Administration Cases  
Companion  
Dayton Public Library  
Denver Public Library  
Des Moines Public Library  
Douglas, Paul  
Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Federal Communications Commission  
Fisher, Dorothy Canfield  
Flexner, Abraham  
Fly, Fitts, and Shuebruk

Harper's Magazine  
 Harvard College Library  
 Harvard University, Department of History  
 Hocking, Ernest  
 Indiana State Library  
 Joeckel, Carleton  
 Library Journal  
 Look  
 National Broadcasting Company  
 Newark Public Library  
 New Hampshire Sunday News  
 New York State Library  
 New York Times  
 New York Times, Book Review Section  
 Orange Public Library  
 Popular Science  
 Racine Public Library  
 Rockefeller Foundation  
 R.R. Bowker Company  
 St. Louis Dispatch  
 Schenk, Mr. Franz  
 Seattle Public Library  
 Teacher's College, Columbia University  
 Twentieth Century Fund  
 United States Department of Agriculture  
 University of California  
 University of Chicago  
 University of Michigan  
 University of North Carolina  
 Wayne University  
 Wheeler, Joseph  
 White, John  
 Williamson, Charles

3. Correspondence 1951-1952

American Civil Liberties Union  
 Newark Public Library  
 Public Library of the District of Columbia  
 Schuler, Edgar A.

4. Correspondence 1953

Grams, Theodore C.W.  
 Social Science Research Council

## Documents

## Documents of the Public Library Inquiry.

5. Statement of the Public Library Inquiry Project.

Outline and Goals at the inception of the project.  
 "A study of Public Library Service and a picture of its  
 present condition."  
 March 1, 1947

## 6. Public Library Inquiry Statement of Goals.

Official objectives, June 18, 1947.  
 Statement of Objectives of Public Libraries, August 7, 1948.  
 Revised goals.

## 7. Staff Memorandum #23 December 17, 1947.

## 8. Progress Memoranda

Staff Memorandum #6 "A Note on Methods" September 19, 1948.  
 Copy of report by Maryan E. Reynolds.  
A Report of the Public Library Inquiry by Columbia  
 University Press, August, 1949.

9. Report. "Personnel Administration in Public Libraries:  
A Review of the Literature".10. Library School Questionnaire for the Social Science  
Research Council.11. Charts. Data on library organization.  
Model organization in four state libraries.

## 12. Charts. Measurement of work in libraries.

13. Statistical data sheets.  
51 hand-written sheets.

## Clipped reviews of the Public Library Inquiry.

## 14. Reviews. 1947-1948.

- 15. Reviews. 1949.
- 16. Reviews. 1950.
- 17. Reviews. 1951.
- 18. Reviews. 1952.

**BOX 2**

Reviews of reports relating to the Public Library Inquiry.

- 19. Reviews. Bernard Berelson.
- 20. Reviews. Oliver Garceau.
- 21. Reviews. James McCamy.
- 22. Reviews. William Miller.

Bound Volumes of Reports.

- 23. Six Americans Tell Us their Sources of Information: Illustrative Interviews from the Public Library survey.  
November, 1947.
- 24. The Public Library Inquiry and the People.  
Survey Research Center  
Ann Arbor, Michigan.  
April 1948.
- 25. Lillian Ordea Memorandum:  
Library of Congress  
Federal Aid  
June 1948.
- 26. Civic Enlightenment in the United States as Measured by Public Opinion Polling Agencies.  
Helen E. Roberts  
July 18, 1948.
- 27. Special Libraries in the United States.  
Helen Roberts.  
July 28, 1948.
- 28. An Essay on the Magazine Industry in America  
A Report of the Public Library Inquiry, William Miller.  
1949.

29. A Report to the Director of the Public Library  
Inquiry. 2 copies  
 Otto Luenig  
 June 1949.

30. A Report to the Director of the Public Library  
Inquiry: Money for libraries.  
 A report on library finances.  
 Charles Armstrong  
 June 1951.

PUBLIC LIBRARY INQUIRY

ROBERT D. LEIGH PAPERS

LIBRARY GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS STUDY

OLIVER GARCEAU

FIELD REPORTS (Transcripts)

REPORTS OF INTERVIEWS (Transcripts)

FORMS AND QUESTIONNAIRES (Pierce Study)

FORMS AND QUESTIONNAIRES (Personnel Study)

1947-48 Three Boxes 15 folders

Reports on 60 representative United States Public Libraries. Includes general information in Field Reports and specific opinions and impressions by involved persons in these libraries in Reports of Interviews. Geared toward library government and politics. Field Reports and Reports of Interviews divided into sections:

- I. The Institutions
- II. Governing Authority of the Library
- III. The Librarian as Chief Executive
- IV. Library and Community
- V. Library and Schools
- VI. Key Processes in Library Government
- VII. The Library and the Profession
- VIII. The Library and the State Library Agency
- IX. Working Relations with Other Library Services
- X. Special Types of Library Service
- XI. Aspirations

Each Interview includes list of persons interviewed and by whom. Includes some statistical appendixes.

Forms and questionnaires relating to time distribution, technical processes and library services, work measurement (blank sheets), statistical tables etc. Pierce Study.

Forms and questionnaires including drafts of questions for interviews, Leigh letter re questionnaire, Guilford-Martin Inventory, Vocational Interest Blank for Women, Checklist for libraries of Books Held, etc.

Field Reports Vol. I - VII arranged alphabetically by city and by number. Seven folders.

Reports of Interviews Vol. I - VI arranged by number. Original order maintained. Six folders.

Forms and Questionnaires (Pierce Study) arranged numerically. One folder

Forms and Questionnaires (Personnel Study) arranged numerically. One folder.

1981 Addition

The California Librarian Education Survey, Questionnaire and Report, 2 v.

INVENTORY

Field Reports

Each volume corresponds to a folder.

**Box 3**

Volume 1

(numbered F.R.I)

1. Aberdeen, Washington - Robert D. Leigh
2. Alabama State - Lillian Orden
3. Arizona State - Robert D. Leigh
4. Baltimore, Md. - C. De Witt Hardy
5. Bangor, Maine - Oliver Garceau
6. Bethlehem, Pa. - C. De Witt Hardy
7. Boston, Mass. - Oliver Garceau
8. Bristol, Penn. - W. O'D. Pierce
9. California State - Robert D. Leigh
10. Centralia, Ill. - C. De Witt Hardy
11. Chattanooga, Tenn. - Lillian Orden
12. Chicago, Ill. - C. De Witt Hardy
13. Cincinnati, Ohio - C. De Witt Hardy
14. Cleveland, Ohio - C. De Witt Hardy
15. Colorado State - Oliver Garceau

Volume 2

(numbered F.R.II)

1. Delaware State - Lillian Orden
2. Denver, Colorado - Oliver Garceau
3. Detroit, Mich. - C. De Witt Hardy
4. Evansville, Ind. - C. De Witt Hardy
5. Flint, Mich. - C. De Witt Hardy
6. Florida State - Lillian Orden
7. Genessee County - C. De Witt Hardy
8. Geneva, Ala. - Lillian Orden
9. Georgia State - Lillian Orden
10. Gray's Harbor County - Robert D. Leigh
11. Greeley, Colorado - Oliver Garceau
12. Hinds County, Miss. - Oliver Garceau
13. Huntingburg, Ind. - C. De Witt Hardy
14. Huntsville, Ala. - Lillian Orden
15. Idaho State - Robert D. Leigh
16. Iowa State - Robert D. Leigh

Volume 3

(numbered F.R. III)

1. Jackson, Miss. - Oliver Garceau
2. Jasper, Indiana - C. De Witt Hardy
3. Kansas City, Kansas - Oliver Garceau
4. Kern County (Calif.) - Robert D. Leigh
5. King County (Wash.) - Robert D. Leigh

Volume 3 (cont.)

Box 3

6. Knoxville, Tenn. - Lillian Orden
7. Lancaster, S.C. - C. De Witt Hardy
8. Larchmont, N.Y. - Robert D. Leigh
9. Litchfield, Minn. - Lillian Orden
10. Little Ferry, N.J. - W. O'D. Pierce

Volume 4  
(numbered F.R. IV)

1. Long Beach, Calif. - Robert D. Leigh
2. Los Angeles City & County - Robert D. Leigh
3. Lubbock, Texas - Oliver Garceau
4. Lynn, Mass. - Oliver Garceau
5. Madison, Wis. - Robert D. Leigh
6. Minnesota State - Robert D. Leigh
7. Mississippi State - Oliver Garceau
8. Missouri State - Oliver Garceau
9. Montclair, N.J. - W. O'D. Pierce
10. Nebraska State - Robert D. Leigh
11. Nevada State - Robert D. Leigh
12. Newark, N.J. - W. O'D. Pierce
13. New Orleans, La. - Oliver Garceau

Volume 5  
(numbered F.R. V)

1. New Mexico State - Robert D. Leigh
2. New York, New York - Lillian Orden
3. North Carolina - C. De Witt Hardy
4. North Dakota - Lillian Orden
5. Norwalk, Conn. - Oliver Garceau
6. Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center - Robert D. Leigh
7. Perry Okla. - Oliver Garceau
8. Portage County(Hiram, Ohio)- Lillian Orden
9. Portland, Ore. - Robert D. Leigh
10. Posey County(Mt. Vernon, Ind.)- C. De Witt Hardy

Box 4

Volume 6  
(numbered F.R. VI)

1. Racine, Wisc. - C. De Witt Hardy
2. Rochester, N.Y. - Lillian Orden
3. San Francisco, Calif.-Robert D. Leigh
4. Scranton, Pennsylvania- Lillian Orden
5. Seattle, Wash. - Robert D. Leigh
6. Shelton Derby, Conn.- W. O'D. Pierce

Volume 7  
(numbered F.R. VII)

Box 4

1. Solvay, New York- W. O'D. Pierce
2. Springfield, Vt.- Oliver Garceau
3. St. Louis, Missouri-Oliver Garceau
4. Syracuse, New York -Lillian Orden
5. Telfair County -Lillian Orden
6. Toledo, Ohio -C. De Witt Hardy
7. University City, Missouri-Oliver Garceau
8. Warren Ohio - Lillian Orden
9. Vermont State - Oliver Garceau
10. Washington State - Robert D. Leigh
11. Weld County, Colo.- Oliver Garceau
12. Wilamette, Ill. - C. De Witt Hardy
13. Wyoming State - Robert D. Leigh

REPORTS OF INTERVIEWS

Each volume corresponds to a folder. The original order has been maintained. An alphabetical listing of cities follows this list.

Volume I  
(numbered R.I)

1. Litchfield Public Library - Lillian Orden
2. North Dakota State Library Commission-Lillian Orden
3. Portage County Service(Hiram Public Library)-Lillian Orden
4. Posey County Library Coverage, Alexandria Free Library-C. De Witt Hardy
5. Warren (Ohio) Public Library-Lillian Orden
6. Kansas City Public Library-Oliver Garceau
7. Kansas State Library Association-Oliver Garceau
8. Bethlehem (Pa.) Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy
9. University City Public Library(Mo.)-Oliver Garceau
10. St. Louis Public Library -Oliver Garceau
11. Huntsville Public Library -Lillian Orden
12. Lubbock, Texas Public Library -Oliver Garceau
13. Parry, Okla., Carnegie Public Library-Oliver Garceau

Volume II  
(numbered R.II)

1. Alabama State Public Library Service Division-Lillian Orden

Box 4  
Volume II Reports of Interviews, cont.

2. Chattanooga(Tenn.)Public Library-Lillian Orden
3. Colorado State Library -Oliver Garceau
4. Denver (Colo.) Public Library -Oliver Garceau
5. Florida State Library Board -Lillian Orden
6. Geneva(Ala.)Emma Knox Kenan Library-Lillian Orden
7. Georgia State Textbook and Library Divison & De Kalb County  
Georgia Library Service - Lillian Orden-MISSING
8. Knoxville, Tenn. Public Library-Lillian Orden
9. Long Beach, Calif. Public Library - Robert D. Leigh
10. Perry (Okla.) Carnegie Public Library-Oliver Garceau
11. Telfair County (Mc Rae,Georgia) Public Library- Lillian Orden -MISSING
12. Wilmette (Ill.) Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy
13. Bakersfield, Calif. Kern County Free Library- Robert D. Leigh
14. Notes of Los Angeles County Library and Los Angeles City Library-  
Robert D. Leigh

Volume 3:  
(numbered R.III)

1. Greeley (Colo.) Public Library- Garceau
2. Hinds County (Miss) Library -Oliver Garceau
3. Jackson, Miss. Carnegie Public Library-Oliver Garceau
4. Cleveland, Ohio Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy
5. Michigan State Library- C. De Witt Hardy-MISSING
6. Mississippi Library Commission- Oliver Garceau
7. Missouri State Library - Oliver Garceau
8. New Orleans,La. Public Library- Oliver Garceau-MISSING
9. Racine, Wis. Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy
10. San Francisco Public Library - Robert D. Leigh
11. Solvay, New York Public Library- W. O'D. Pierce
12. Weld County, Colo. - Oliver Garceau

Box 5  
Volume 4  
(numbered R.IV)

1. Bristol, Pa. Public Library - W. O'D. Pierce
2. Delaware State Library Commission-Lillian Orden
3. Detroit, Mich. Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy
4. Flint, Mich. Public Library and the Genesee County (Mich.)  
Library- C. De Witt Hardy
5. Little Ferry, N.J. Public Library-W. O'D. Pierce
6. Scranton, Pa. Public Library -Lillian Orden
7. Syracuse, NY Public Library -Lillian Orden
8. Portland, Oregon Public Library -Robert Leigh
9. Toledo, Ohio Public Library -C. De Witt Hardy
10. Newark, New Jersey Public Library-W. O'D. Pierce

Volume 5  
(numbered R. V.)

- Box 5
1. Aberdeen, Wash. Public Library - Robert D. Leigh
  2. Chicago, Ill. Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy
  3. Cincinnati, Ohio Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy
  4. Grays Harbor, Wash. County Library - Robert D. Leigh
  5. King County, Wash. Library - Robert D. Leigh
  6. Montclair, N.J. Public Library - W. O'D. Pierce
  7. New York, New York Public Library - W. O'D. Pierce
  8. Rochester, New York Public Library - Lillian Orden
  9. Seattle, Wash. Public Library - Robert D. Leigh

Volume 6  
(numbered R. VI)

1. California State Library - Robert D. Leigh - MISSING
2. The Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore Md. - C. De Witt Hardy
3. Larchmont, New York Public Library - Robert D. Leigh
4. North Carolina Library Commission - C. De Witt Hardy
5. Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center - Robert D. Leigh
6. Wyoming State Library - Robert D. Leigh
7. Lancaster, S.C. County Library - C. De Witt Hardy
8. Centralia, Ill. Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy
9. Huntingburg, Ind. Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy
10. Jasper, Ind. Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy

REPORTS OF INTERVIEWS ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY BY CITY (# signifies vol.)

Aberdeen, Washington - V.	Hinds County, Miss. - III.
Alabama State - II	Huntingburg, Ind. - VI.
Bakersfield, Calif. - II.	Huntsville - I.
Baltimore, Md. - VI.	Jackson, Miss. - III.
California State - VI.	Jasper, Ind. - VI.
Bristol, Pa. - IV.	Kansas City, Kansas - I.
Centralia, Ill. - VI.	Kansas State - I.
Chattanooga, Tenn. - II.	King County, Wash. - V.
Chicago, Ill. - V.	Knoxville, Tenn. - II.
Cincinnati, Ohio - V.	Lancaster, S.C. - VI.
Cleveland, Ohio - III.	Larchmont, N.Y. - VI.
Colorado State - II.	Litchfield - I.
Delaware State - IV.	Little Ferry, N.J. - IV.
Denver, Colo. - II.	Long Beach, Calif. - IV.
Detroit, Mich. - IV.	Lubbock, Tex. - I.
Flint, Mich. - IV.	Michigan State - III.
Florida State - II.	Mississippi - III.
Geneva, Ala. - II.	Missouri State - II.
Georgia State - II.	Montclair, N.J. - V.
Grays Harbor, Wash. - V.	
Greener, Colo. - III.	

(Cont.)

Box 5. Alphabetical list of Reports of Interviews, cont.

New Orleans, La.-III.(missing)  
Newark, N.J. - IV.  
New York, New York- V.  
North Carolina - VI.  
North Dakota State- I.  
Pacific Northwest- VI.  
Perry, Okla.-I. ← Portage County - I.  
Portland, Ore.- IV.  
Posey County - I.  
Racine, Wis. - III.  
Rochester, NY - V.  
St. Louis, Missouri-I.  
San Francisco, Calif.-III.  
Seattle, Wash. - V.  
Solvay, New York - III.  
Syracuse, New York - IV.  
Telfair County, Ga. - II.(missing)  
Toledo, Ohio - IV.  
University City, Mo. - I.  
Warren, Ohio - I.  
Weld City, Colo. - III.  
Wilmette, Ill. - II.  
Wyoming State - VI.

Box 6. Vocational Interest Blanks (from Alice Bryan) - cards

Box 7. The Nature of Public Communication: A report to the Russell Sage Foundation, 1955.  
Typed manuscript, some with manuscript corrections.