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.
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 status, 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 integrated 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. Leif 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
Fitz, Fitte, and Shuebrui
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.
Revised goals.

7. **Staff Memorandum #23**

December 17, 1947.

8. **Progress Memoranda**

Staff Memorandum #8 "A Note on Methods" September 19, 1947.
Copy of report by Maryan E. Reynolds.


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.


**BOX 2**

Reviews of reports relating to the Public Library Inquiry.


Bound Volumes of Reports.

29. **A Report to the Director of the Public Library Inquiry.**
   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 appendices.

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.
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. Genesee 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. Huntingtonburg, 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.)

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<td>6.</td>
<td>Knoxville, Tenn.</td>
<td>Lillian Orden</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Lancaster, S.C.</td>
<td>C. De Witt Hardy</td>
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<td>Farmington, N.Y.</td>
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<td>Litchfield, Minn.</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Little Ferry, N.J.</td>
<td>W. O'D. Pierce</td>
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### Volume 4

(numbered F.R. IV)

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Long Beach, Calif.</td>
<td>Robert D. Leigh</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Los Angeles City &amp; County</td>
<td>Robert D. Leigh</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Lubbock, Texas</td>
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<td>Montclair, N.J.</td>
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<td>Nebraska State</td>
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<td>Nevada State</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Newark, N.J.</td>
<td>W. O'D. Pierce</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>New Orleans, La.</td>
<td>Oliver Garceau</td>
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### Volume 5

(numbered F.R. V)

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

(numbered F.R. VI)

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<td>Lillian Orden</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Scranton, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Lillian Orden</td>
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<td>Robert D. Leigh</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Shelton Derby, Conn.</td>
<td>W. O'D. Pierce</td>
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Volume 7
(numbered F.R. VII)

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 (No.) - Oliver Garceau
10. St. Louis Public Library - Oliver Garceau
11. Huntsville Public Library - Lillian Orden
12. Lubbock, Texas Public Library - Oliver Garceau
13. Perry, Okla., Carnegie Public Library - Oliver Garceau

Volume II
(numbered R.II)

1. Alabam State Public Library Service Division - Lillian Orden
### 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 Division & De Kalb County 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 (Ga.) Public Library - Lillian Orden - MISSING  
12. Wilmette (Ill.) Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy  
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  
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

### 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  
7. Syracuse, N.Y. 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.)

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
7. New York, New York Public Library - C. De Witt Hardy
8. Rochester, New York Public Library - Lillian Orden

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.
Alabama State - II
Bakersfield, Calif. - II
Baltimore, Md. - VI
Bristol, Pa. - IV
California State - VI
Centralia, Ill. - VI
Chattanooga, Tenn. - II
Chicago, Ill. - V
Cincinnati, Ohio - V
Cleveland, Ohio - III
Colorado State - II
Delaware State - IV
Denver, Colo. - II
Detroit, Mich. - IV
Elkins, W. Va. - IV
Florida State - II
Frankfort, Ky. - V
Hinds County, Miss. - III
Huntingburg, Ind. - VI
Huntsville - I
Jackson, Miss. - III
Jasper, Ind. - VI
Kansas City, Kansas - I
Kansas State - I
King County, Wash. - V
Knoxville, Tenn. - II
Lancaster, S.C. - VI
Larchmont, N.Y. - VI
Little "e" in "ve" - VII
Long Beach, Calif. - IV
Lubbock, Tex. - I
Michigan State - IV
Mississippi - III
Missouri State - III
Montclair, N.J. - V
Muscatine, Iowa - II
Newark, Ohio - IV
New York - IV
Oklahoma State - II
Pensacola, Ala. - II
Pensacola, Fla. - II
Philadelphia - II
Phoenix, Ariz. - VI
Pittsburgh, Pa. - II
Portage County, Ohio - II
Portland, Ore. - II
Prattsburg, N.Y. - III
Providence, R.I. - III
Rutland, Vt. - I
San Francisco, Calif. - II
San Juan, Tex. - II
San Luis Obispo, Calif. - I
Savannah, Ga. - II
Seattle, Wash. - VI
St. Louis, Mo. - II
St. Paul - II
Springfield, Va. - II
Syracuse, N.Y. - III
Tallahassee, Fla. - I
Tampa, Fla. - II
Tulsa, Okla. - II
Vancouver, Wash. - II
Washington, D.C. - IV
Wichita, Kans. - II
Wichita, Kan. - II
Willmar, Minn. - II
Wichita Falls, Texas - II
Wichita, Kans. - I
Wichita, Kan. - I
Wichita, Kans. - I
Waco, Tex. - III
Whitewater, Wis. - II
Wichita, Kans. - I
Wichita, Kan. - I
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.
Poe 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

Typed manuscript, some with manuscript corrections.