

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING JUNE 30, 1900**

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Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900 by Various

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VARIOUS

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REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

100287 -

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1900.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1900.

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REPORT.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
Washington, December 4, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my report as Librarian of Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900.

FINANCE.

The following is a summary of the appropriations and expenditures of the Library for that year, and also, for convenience in comparison, a summary of the appropriations for the year preceding, and for the year now current. Details are given in Appendix I. Included also are the appropriations for the equipment and care of the building and grounds disbursed by the superintendent:

Object of expenditure.	Appropriations 1899.	Appropriations 1900.	Expenditures 1900.	Appropriations 1901.
Library:				
Salaries, general service.....	\$105,725.00	\$123,345.00	\$119,944.24	\$178,700.00
Salaries, special service.....		52.00	52.00	\$1,948.00
Salaries, copyright office.....	36,840.00	40,400.00	38,775.70	51,080.00
Increase of Library.....	23,000.00	33,180.00	31,670.83	61,180.00
Contingent expenses.....	2,000.00	4,000.00	3,999.09	8,500.00
Printing and binding (allot- ment).....	25,000.00	32,000.00	33,398.60	75,000.00
Total Library.....	192,625.00	235,977.00	226,840.46	376,488.00
Building and grounds:				
Care and maintenance.....	54,000.00	64,633.25	64,345.33	67,065.00
Fuel, lights, and miscella- neous.....	25,000.00	25,000.00	24,858.18	25,000.00
Furniture and shelving.....	20,000.00	15,000.00	14,996.45	45,000.00
Grand total.....	291,625.00	340,632.25	331,040.42	513,553.00

† Portion used of an appropriation of \$2,000 "available until expended." * Balance.

As will be seen by reference to the Appendix, the above figures for 1900 include the deficiency appropriations (\$2,500 for contingent expenses, \$10,000 for printing and binding); the sum of \$2,000 (so far as expended) for "special, temporary, and miscellaneous service," granted in the act of 1901, but available from April 17, 1900; and the sum of \$14,245, granted by the same act, to enable certain of the additional employees therein authorized to be started in during the last quarter

of the fiscal year 1900. The \$2,000 for special service being a continuing appropriation, the balance unexpended on June 30, 1900, has been carried forward as an appropriation for the year 1901.

Of the total amount appropriated for salaries, the sum of \$6,055.06 was unexpended and covered into the Treasury. As explained in my last report, this sum represents not a surplus provision for service, but salaries for a time undrawn—those of employees temporarily absent without pay, or of new appointees who failed to qualify promptly after appointment. The amount undrawn during the past year is the larger because of a vacancy in one \$2,000 position, and necessary delay in filling certain of the new positions which became available from April 17, 1900.

Receipts—Copyright business.

(The fees from copyright are covered into the Treasury, and are not an income available for maintenance, even of the copyright office.)

Fees earned during the fiscal year \$65, 206. 00

EXPENSES OF THE COPYRIGHT OFFICE.

Salaries as stated	\$38, 775. 70
Printing and binding (estimated)	\$6, 000. 00
Stationery and sundries (estimated)	700. 00
	6, 700. 00
	45, 475. 70
Net revenue.....	19, 730. 30

Service.—The amount and distribution of the Library force during the year 1899–1900, until near its close, varied little from that of the year preceding. It was a force not adequate even for the current work; and neither in amount nor in organization competent to deal with the arrears which existed in all divisions of the Library. Before the year had half elapsed I had, however, submitted with my estimates of the appropriations necessary for the present year, a statement which, describing briefly the existing conditions, set forth what I conceived to be the work to be done and the provision necessary.¹

The estimates were accepted by Congress and appropriations granted in substantial conformity therewith ("Appropriations 1901," p. 1, supra). Among other provisions the act reorganized the service in accordance with the schemes submitted, and created in the main Library four new divisions (order, bibliography, document, binding), and 81 additional positions; and in the copyright office 15 additional clerkships. It provided thus for the addition in all of 96 employees, at an aggregate compensation of \$80,360. These new positions would in ordinary course have become effective only from July 1, 1900; but in recognition of the

¹The statement, with the estimates, was printed in full as Appendix IV to my last annual report.

great arrearage of work for which, in part, the new employees were needed, it was provided that the majority¹ of them might be employed from the date of the passage of the act. The act became a law on April 17, 1900. Its considerate provisions, therefore, enabled at once a foundation to be laid for the organization which was to become effective July 1. Before the fiscal year 1900 had elapsed the most of the new employees had been selected and appointed, initiated into the methods of the Library, and made acquainted with their particular duties—a substantial advantage, even though the period was too brief to enable any impression to be made upon the work itself.

On April 17, 1900, there were on file 805 applications for employment in the Library received since April 5, 1899, the beginning of the present administration. These were on forms which tabulate very completely the education and experience of the applicant, and, besides enabling him to state very fully his qualifications as he supposes them, exhibit in some measure (by the character of his responses) his actual qualifications.² He might add testimonials of those familiar with his capacity and willing to vouch for his character, and he was encouraged to add the impressions to be gained in a personal interview.

From among these 805 applicants the requisite number were selected whose qualifications seemed appropriate for the particular positions to be filled. These were appointed on probation and given opportunity to demonstrate their capacity in actual work. Their employment was to be temporary and was to cease at the close of the probationary period unless then continued by their retention and confirmation in the regular service. The probationary period was therefore itself to be an examination. It was not an open and general examination, for the opportunity to undergo it was limited to the selected few. But the selection itself was upon a presumption of fitness raised by the previous education, experience, and character of the applicant as set forth in his application and credentials. And in general this presumption has been sustained by the actual test.

A schedule of the service as reorganized under the new act is given in Appendix II (in the reprint of the circular distributed to applicants with the form for application).

Since the close of the fiscal year 1900, but prior to the date of this report, the important new division of documents has been organized with Dr. Rowland P. Falkner at its head. Dr. Falkner was well known among economists as associate professor of statistics in the University of Pennsylvania, as vice-president of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and as editor of its annals, and to Congress as statistician

¹Not the entire number. For the sum provided—\$14,245—was based upon the number of additional positions (67 in all) authorized by the bill as it passed the House, and was not increased when the number was increased (to 96) in the Senate and in the bill as finally enacted.

²The form is reprinted as Appendix II to this report.