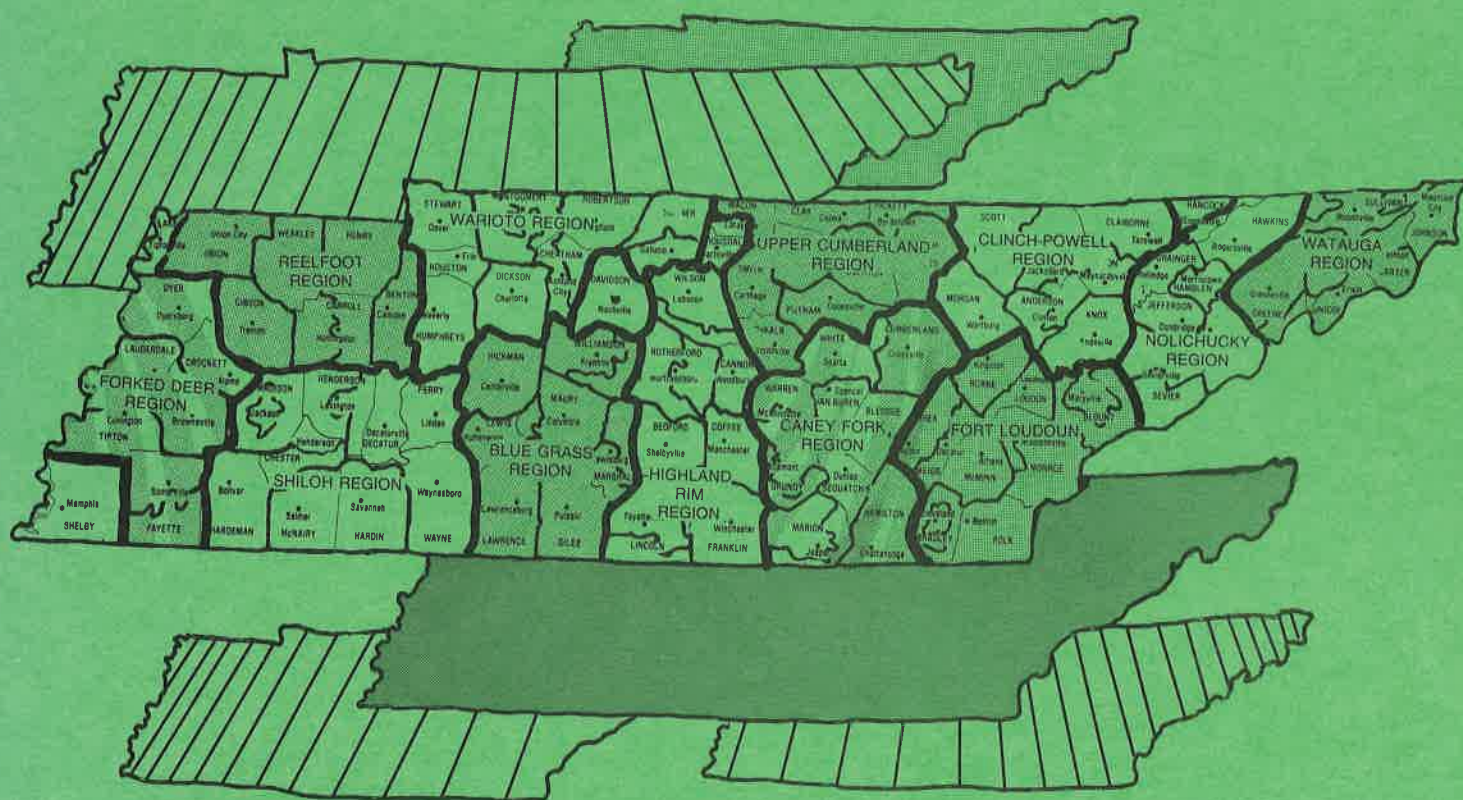


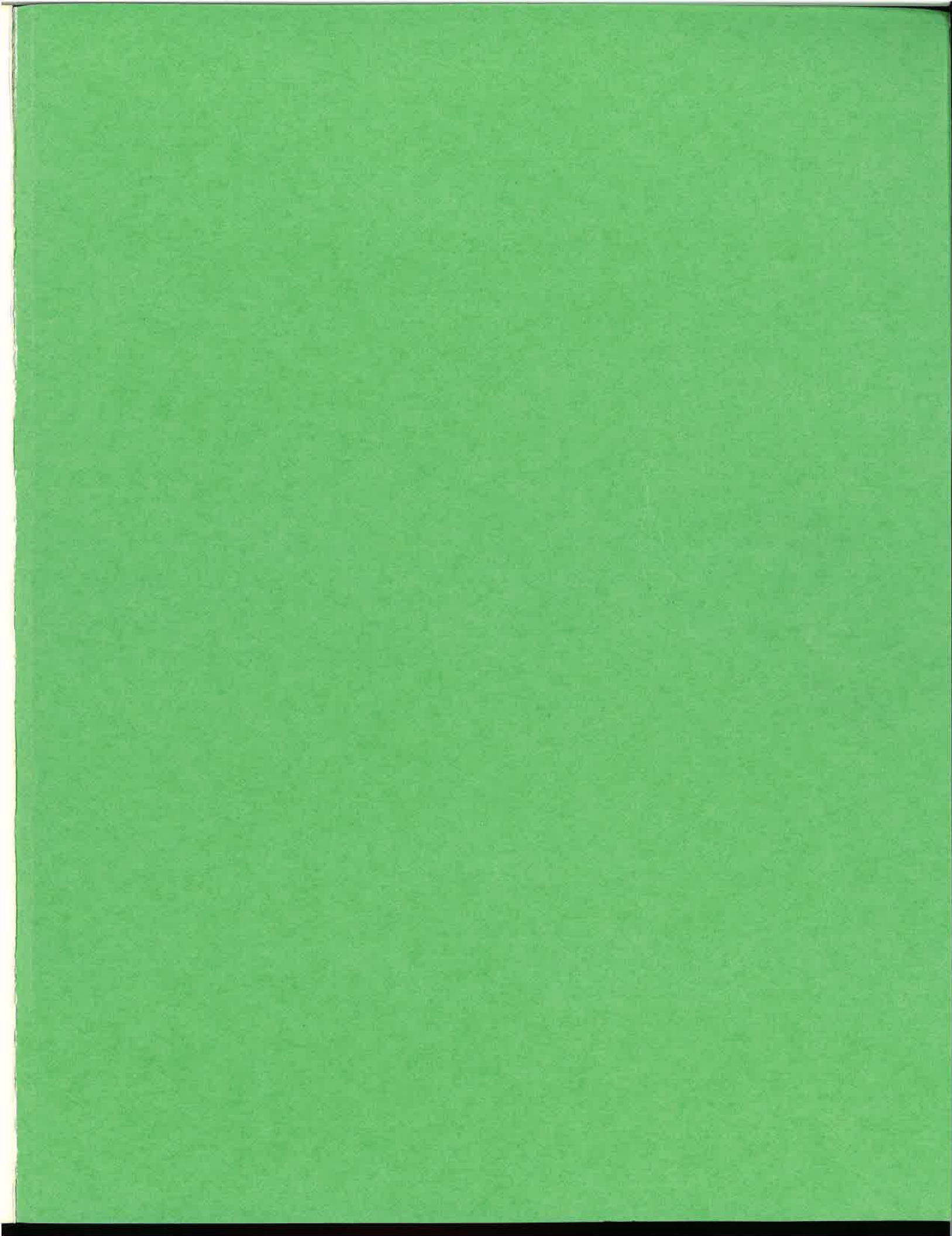
A SHORT HISTORY OF THE REGIONAL LIBRARY PROGRAM IN TENNESSEE

by
Katherine E. Andrews



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
GENTRY CROWELL, SECRETARY OF STATE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
APRIL, 1986





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FOREWORD

In attempting to compile a history of the Tennessee Regional Library system, it became clear that it would not be within the scope of the present paper to present an exhaustive study. Rather, it became apparent that the main point of the history was to show the beginning of service to the counties as they became a part of the Regional Library system.

Two papers prepared earlier as "Special Problems in Librarianship" for the Peabody School of Library and Information Science have been extremely useful. They are:

Patton, Glenna R. "Dreams and Realities:
The Regional Library Program of Tennessee."
July 1971

Zealberg, Catherine "Books for All: The
Regional Library Program in Tennessee,"
January 1940-June 1947

Material appearing in the article, "The French Broad-Holston Country; a history of Knox County, Tennessee," by Mary U. Rothrock, was the basis for most of the history of the Knoxville-Knox County Public Library.

The history of the Nashville public libraries was taken from an article appearing in the *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE*, v. 19, written by David Marshall Stewart: "Nashville Public Libraries" pp 16-26, 1976.

A debt of gratitude is owed to each director of the Multi-county and Metropolitan Regional Libraries for their

willingness to participate in this venture. They gave their time to gathering information, forwarding their findings to me, reading the proofs sent them and making changes where necessary. Also, directors of the Metropolitan Area Resource Centers were most helpful in locating additional material.

KATHERINE E. ANDREWS

BACKGROUND OF THE REGIONAL LIBRARY PROGRAM IN TENNESSEE

In 1897, the Tennessee Legislature passed a law "permitting cities to tax themselves for library purposes." Under power granted by this law, libraries were begun in the four metropolitan cities of Tennessee: Lawson McGhee Library in Knoxville; Chattanooga Public Library; the Cossitt Library in Memphis, and the Nashville Public Library.

In 1909, the Legislature made another step forward in promoting library growth by stating "that a small part of the educational fund of the State be set aside specifically for buying books for school libraries." Out of this legislation, the traveling library fund was established, enabling books to be purchased and circulated to rural communities from the State office. No money was allocated to public libraries, yet the establishment of the traveling library showed an indication that Tennesseans were becoming more and more aware of the importance of libraries.

The County Library Law (Public Act 1929, Ch. 98), passed by the Tennessee Legislature in 1929, was the first legislation to have a direct effect on regional libraries. This law stated that library service was the concern of the county and that the county court was enabled to establish a county free library or to contract for library services. This law also provided for

the establishment of county library boards, made up of seven members each, to be appointed by the county court for terms of three years each. These boards were enabled to direct the operation of the county libraries and to also make contracts with already existing libraries, county or municipal, to provide library service.

A Municipal Library Law (PA 1929, Ch. 100) was passed in the same year (1929) which enabled cities to provide public library facilities and the law granted to cities and towns approximately the same privileges afforded to counties under the County Library Law.

Ralph C. McDade was appointed Field Representative for Library Promotion in Tennessee in September, 1930. When Mr. McDade assumed his position, he made a survey of existing libraries and prepared a statement of objectives to be presented to a committee of librarians and the President of the University of Tennessee. The following points were included:

1. To create in the minds of the people of Tennessee a desire to provide for the children and youth of the State free access to the best thought of all time, and all men, and for themselves an opportunity for continued adult education.
2. To reveal the opportunity presented by good literature in the education of a people.
3. To provide the mechanics for such work by
 - (a) Establishing public libraries.
 - (b) Traveling libraries.
 - (c) Aiding libraries already existing.
 - (d) Aiding in effecting local legislation.
4. To develop the reading habit.

5. To so organize public interest as to establish libraries and other agencies for dissemination of books from public funds, in order that books may be available to all people.

"Mr. McDade covered the entire State in his promotion work and was instrumental in the establishment of libraries at Trenton (Gibson County) in West Tennessee, at Dayton (Rhea County) in East Tennessee, and at Gatlinburg (Sevier County) in East Tennessee. He assisted in the fundamental promotion work which established libraries in McMinnville (Warren County) in Middle Tennessee and in Somerville (Fayette County) in West Tennessee. These, of course, were beginnings and could not be too ambitious in their nature.

He used as special project counties, Rhea and Anderson counties, both in East Tennessee and in fairly easy reach of the University. These demonstrated and stimulated library work for rural people. In Rhea County -- with the central point in Dayton, in the upstairs of a store building and with the assistance of a woman's club -- there was located a feeder library with community libraries established in seven separate points in the county: Ogden, Morgan Springs, Graysville, Five Points, Frazier Grammer Carp, and Yellow Creek. Circulation in this area reached considerably above five thousand a year. In Anderson County, four community libraries were established: Fork Mountain, Scarborough, Blowing Springs, and Andersonville. Circulation in this area was satisfactory also.

In all of this work, Mr. McDade cooperated with the Community Service Specialist of the Agricultural Extension Service, the head of the Library School of the University of Tennessee, and the local county and home demonstration agents.

The report shows that two counties, Warren and Fayette, through efforts in which Mr. McDade cooperated, secured passage of special library measures by the State Legislature. These measures provided partially for the maintenance of county libraries through special tax funds. In Trenton, building space was secured and library collections begun, with especially promising prospects for the development of a real library. The establishment of rural library stations was encouraged at the Clarksville, Tennessee, Library.

It is definitely a fact that the ground work laid by The University of Tennessee through the encouragement of the \$5,000 grant from the Rosenwald Fund had much to do with the interest which stimulated the later development of libraries in the State of Tennessee.

Mr. McDade's work in library extension was brought to a close, however, before any substantial progress could be made when the Rosenwald grant expired in January, 1933, and no more money was appropriated. The University of Tennessee, also, was forced to withdraw its support, because of decreased appropriation from the State. In a statement in Tennessee

Libraries for January 1933, Mr. McDade made the following comment:

"Limited funds and lack of experience on my part have made it impossible for me to accomplish much that was to be desired. I have been forced to spread my efforts over a wide field in order that I might understand the State situation as a whole. I have tried to meet such immediate needs as could be supplied and at the same time lay a foundation for the future development of libraries through the State. I can only hope that my efforts have made Tennessee more library minded; if so I shall not have worked in vain."

In September 1932, public and school librarians welcomed the news that a school library supervisor, Miss Martha Parks, had been appointed under a special grant from the General Education Board which averaged \$6,000 a year, the grant covering a five-year period. The duties of the newly-appointed supervisor were advisory in nature. She assisted schools throughout the State by furnishing them with the benefits of a circulating book collection of more than 20,000 books, and wherever possible, she organized school libraries. She supplied the teachers and librarians of the State with supplementary reading lists, and made available for them bibliographic guides to aid in their local book selection. Further assistance reached librarians through information and suggestions contained in the quarterly School Library News Letter, edited by the assistant school library supervisor. The News Letter was initiated by Miss Velma Shaffer, appointed assistant school library supervisor September 15, 1941, and has

been continued by her successor, Miss Louise Meredith, who was appointed July 15, 1944.

In addition to her school duties, Miss Parks announced in Tennessee Libraries for January 1933, that she would "be glad to render what service she could to public libraries." The article further stated that Miss Parks would try to visit all the public libraries at the same time she was visiting the schools, and that she would suggest to the public librarians ways and means by which they could cooperate more effectively with the schools. Promotional work accomplished during the next five years helped to pave the way for future regional service.

The first law which definitely mentioned regional library development was passed in 1937 (PA 1937, Ch. 240). This act created in the State Department of Education a Division of Libraries which was to coordinate the library activities of the State. Miss Martha Parks, who had been serving since 1932 as School Library Supervisor under the five-year grant from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, was appointed by the Commissioner of Education as Director of the Division of Libraries. Power was delegated to the Director to "enter into agreements with local authorities such as county courts, city governments, boards of education, and library boards for the development and operation of free public library service." (PA 1937, Ch. 240) provided that such agreements were made in keeping with the policies

approved by the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.

The first law concerned with regional library development in Article 3, Section 2, made it a function of the newly-organized Division "to develop regional library service throughout the State by means of funds supplied in part by the State and in part by the counties and/or other local units within the region served," (PA 1937, Ch. 240).

Also passed in 1937, was the bill providing for certification of school and public librarians through the State Department of Education (PA 1937 Ch. 239) which, for various reasons, by 1947 had never been put into effect.

The following year, 1938, William E. Cole of the University of Tennessee, gave impetus to the plan for a regional set-up by recommending that libraries follow the regional scheme, then being successfully operated by the State Department of Institutions and Public Welfare. Under its welfare program, the State was divided into ten welfare districts each in charge of a Regional Director responsible to the State Director of Field Service and to the Commissioner of Welfare and his Executive Assistant. Mr. Cole outlined a similar plan of operation which is believed feasible for libraries. He wrote:

"It would seem in view of the financial conditions of many of the counties of the State, that the State might perform its best functions by attempting to build up eight to twelve strong

regional libraries, such as has been done in regional public welfare units, from which motor units might go out to outlying unlibrariied thousands and upon which already existing libraries might draw books, services, and guidance."

It was not until 1939, when the Tennessee Valley Authority entered its Contractual Agreement with the Department of Education and the counties, that an actual beginning of regional library service was made. Regional library service had its beginning in Tennessee in 1939 in the Watts Bar area of East Tennessee. The TVA began the construction of the Watts Bar Dam and immediately realized the necessity for library service for its employees and for persons living in the construction area.

Four counties were included in the construction area: Rhea, Meigs, Roane and Loudon. TVA authorities were interested in contracting for library service to furnish books to their employees, and since there was no local library large enough with which the authorities could make a contract, a three-way agreement was evolved with the TVA, the Tennessee Division of Libraries, and the Knoxville Library Board. With the cooperation of local, State, and Federal agencies, regional library progress was assured.

The first step was the organization of the library at the construction village, as called for by the contract. The library collection at this center consisted of approximately two thousand books, with current periodicals and newspapers, and was administered by a camp librarian. The distribution of

books to the employees and local inhabitants scattered throughout the four counties was to be taken care of by the regional librarian working from the regional administrative center at the Lawson McGhee Library in Knoxville, the third party to the contract. The regional librarian was to be assisted by local librarians throughout the counties. The TVA policy was that, while it was advisable to have a central agency to govern the large policies of operation, it was agreed that local matters would be better managed if administered locally. The regional librarians lived in the field where they were known by the people. Each county board was charged with the administration of its local program and handled all local funds.

This local interest was an absolute necessity before the regional librarians could hope to inaugurate any kind of satisfactory service to the scattered citizens of the counties.

As TVA's construction program moved up the river, a region was set up in 1941 when the four counties of Grainger, Hamblen, Hawkins and Jefferson were organized under a contract similar to that which controlled the Watts Bar Regional Library. Once again, TVA furnished funds for library service to its employees, and again the service was administered by the Lawson McGhee Library in Knoxville. The library service in these counties, which later took the name of the Nolichucky Regional Library, was carried on in much the same manner as that in the Watts Bar area. Local county library boards were set up,

county courts appropriated local funds, and the four counties benefited cooperatively from the regional service.

In July 1940, Congress authorized TVA to construct Douglas Dam and Fort Loudoun Dam. As construction work spread, the library program was expanded and by the Summer of 1942, Blount and Monroe counties were added to the Watts Bar or Loudon County Region, and Cocke and Sevier counties had become a part of the Nolichucky area.

At the same time that the regional program was developing in East Tennessee, a similar growth was going on in the West Tennessee counties.

In December 1941, regional service in the western counties of Henry, Benton, Stewart, Houston, and Humphreys was begun. Financial cooperation from the TVA, administered by the University of Tennessee Junior College at Martin, was assured. By 1943, four more counties, Hardin, Decatur, Perry and Weakley had joined the region and nine counties were participating in the service.

As construction work in the TVA areas neared completion in East Tennessee, officials began to plan for continuing the regional program after TVA withdrew its support.

On October 29, 1942, at a joint meeting in Knoxville, library trustees from eleven of the thirteen participating counties in the East Tennessee regional program discussed ways and means for sustaining the regional service. As a result of

pressure exerted from this group of trustees, the State Legislature passed an act in 1943 (PA 1943, Ch. 54) appropriating \$20,000 per annum for the biennium 1943-1945 to be expended for library services in the East Tennessee counties. One stipulation to securing the funds was that TVA turn over to the State Department of Education the books and equipment that had been used in carrying on the regional program. Lawson McGhee Library, which held title to these materials agreed to this arrangement, and under PA 1943, Ch. 54, the East Tennessee region received 16,500 books and two bookmobiles. On July 1, 1943, the State Department of Education assumed the former responsibilities carried by TVA, a contract was signed for Lawson McGhee to continue as administrator, and the regional service in East Tennessee continued without a break.

As the close of 1944 approached, the West Tennessee region was faced with the same prospect. Their contract with TVA was to expire December 31, 1944, and a State appropriation would be necessary to continue the service. Also, the two-year appropriation for the East Tennessee region was completed and further financial assistance was needed here, as well.

The Commissioner of Education appointed a committee to recommend a program for the coming biennium, and the Tennessee Library Association worked with the committee to arouse citizen interest in the library movement. The proposal outlined by the Tennessee Library Association requested an appropriation to be

allocated annually as follows: 1) General Aid, and 2) Establishment and Maintenance. The General Aid fund was to be distributed to established libraries which made application before April 1, 1945 and was to be allocated in proportion to the total population within the service area. This money was to be given to continue to maintain a community library service at their previous levels of local support.

The Establishment and Maintenance Fund was to be used to inaugurate library service in a new area. In order to participate in these funds, a county had to meet the requirements set up for county membership in the regional program, as stated earlier: 1) have a county library board appointed by the county court in accordance with the provisions of the County Library Law; and, 2) appropriate funds based on the county assessed valuation. These funds were to be distributed according to a schedule based on population and the number of counties cooperating to form a regional library.

When the bill was passed by the legislature in 1945 (PA 1945, Ch. 177), the amount allotted was considerably smaller than requested. However, provision was made for the salary and travel of a field supervisor who would be added to the staff of the Division of Libraries in the State Department of Education. This field supervisor was to assist in the administration and coordination of the regional library program. Applications for State aid funds was to be made by the qualifying regions by

January 15, 1946. Two new regions, Anderson County and East Tennessee State College shared in a portion of the allotment.

By 1946, there were seven regions and the \$37,500 annual appropriation was divided by seven instead of the proposed five.

During 1946, four new regional libraries began operation in rapid succession. In March 1946, the counties of Franklin, Lawrence, Marshall, and Warren were added with headquarters at Middle Tennessee State College. In April 1946, a regional library with headquarters at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, began operation. Originally the region served four counties - DeKalb, Putnam, Smith and White, but Cumberland and Overton counties became interested and joined the regional library system by August 1946.

In July 1946, the Anderson County Regional Library was formed, composed of Anderson, Campbell, Morgan, Scott and Union counties. The administrative agency for the region was the Anderson County Library, chosen because it had expressed an interest in developing a regional program.

The newest regional library at this time to begin operation was that administered from the East Tennessee State College at Johnson City. This program began in August 1946, and served Washington, Sullivan, Johnson and Unicoi counties. Despite the fact that this region was the most recent to begin actual service, it shared in the 1945-46 funds provided by the

State budget. Three of the counties were new to the service, while Unicoi County had been operating a bookmobile service to schools throughout the county for three years. By joining in the regional service, Unicoi County could expand its local program and enlarge its book collection, and the improved service soon showed the advantages of the regional system.

The close alliance of the regional library program with the Department of Education is evidenced by the passage of legislation pertaining to library service and appropriations for such services. With the passage of the bill, changes were necessary to handle the increased responsibility. On February 27, 1947, the Tennessee legislature passed an act creating a division of Library Services and Archives, Learning and Instructional Materials, Museum and State History, to coordinate the activities of the State library, school libraries, regional libraries, archives, State history and museum under a single division. This Division was to be administered by a director, appointed by the State Commissioner of Education. The budget for the division was a part of the Department of Education's budget.

The passage of the General Education Bill (PA 1947, Ch. 8) with its \$100,000 appropriation for regional library service provided the financial backing necessary for the early stage of developing the regional library program in Tennessee. The fifty-fifty matching funds which formerly had to be raised by

each region for participation in the regional program was eliminated from the new law.

As early as 1934, the Tennessee Educational Commission recommended that the State be divided into ten regions, each with a large and adequate central library. Up to 1947, seven regions had been organized, though not having the large and adequate central library and regional library service for the forty-one counties in the regions.

The regions were: Hamblen County Regional Library, Loudon County Regional Library, University of Tennessee Junior College Regional Library (Martin), East Tennessee State College Regional Library (Johnson City), Anderson County Regional Library (Clinton), Middle Tennessee State College Regional Library (Murfreesboro), and Tennessee Technological Regional Library (Cookeville). Seven regions - 41 counties (1947).

The regional library program continued under the supervision of the Department of Education until 1951 when the legislature provided for the creation and establishment of the State Library and Archives Commission for the State of Tennessee. This Commission was responsible for the State Library, the Archives, and the Library Extension Services throughout the State.

Local administrative agencies could contract with this Commission and, in the early years, many of these agencies were State colleges. The need for regional library boards soon

became evident and in 1955 legislation was passed authorizing the creation of such boards (PA 1955, Ch. 88, Sec. 1; 1971, Ch. 73, Sec. 1). They were empowered to enter into contracts with the State Library and Archives Commission.

The organization of these boards was gradual and it was not until 1959-60 that all regions were operating under the administration of their own library board.

After the establishment of the State Library and Archives Commission, there was a gradual shift in emphasis on school-centered to community-centered public library services. It became evident that a study was needed of the relationships of school and regional libraries. The role of each needed to be more clearly defined. So it was, that in 1953 a Conference of Regional Librarians, the Regional Libraries Consultant, State Library and Archives, the Supervisor of School Libraries, State Department of Education was held to study this relationship.

Recommendations were:

1. That school and regional libraries should cooperate and coordinate to provide the best library service possible with the available funds.
2. Regular visits to schools by bookmobiles was not recommended.
3. Community libraries should be set up in easily accessible locations.
4. School personnel, county library boards, and the regional librarian together should develop and

implement a policy concerning school use of regional library facilities.

These recommendations were approved by the Commissioner of Education and the State Librarian and Archivist and separation of public and school libraries was achieved.

BLUE GRASS REGION

With TVA building more dams and expecting library service to the construction workers and their families, many regional library centers were formed to assist in serving these patrons. The following is an endeavor to show the process by which each of the twelve (12) regional libraries evolved.

During 1946, the counties of Franklin, Lawrence, Marshall, and Warren formed a region known as the Middle Tennessee State College Region. In 1947, three (3) counties were added to this region. They were Coffee, Rutherford and Wilson. In succession the following counties were added to MTSC Region: Bedford added in 1949; in 1951, Maury County, and in 1953 Moore joined.

In July 1954, Lawrence, Marshall, and Maury counties were transferred to a new region at Columbia, later named Blue Grass Regional Library.

As these three counties were being transferred to Columbia, a new county was being added to Middle Tennessee State College Region - Grundy County.

The MTSC Region was now composed of the following eight (8) counties: Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Moore, Rutherford, Warren, and Wilson.

At the time the three counties were transferred from MTSC Region to the Blue Grass Region, three counties were

transferred from the Austin Peay Region (later called Warloto Region) to form the new Blue Grass Region at Columbia. These counties added to the Blue Grass Region were Hickman, Lewis, and Perry.

In October 1955, Giles County came into the Blue Grass Region, with Wayne County joining in 1956. Completing the present nine (9) counties, Williamson County joined the region in 1968. The Blue Grass Region was composed of the following counties which make up the present day structure of the region: Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, Perry, Wayne, and Williamson.

The new region was set up by Miss Mary Nelson Bates of the State Library and Archives who acted as Librarian until the arrival of Miss Mary Melton in October, 1954. The following have served as Directors:

Mary Melton	October 1954 - June 1955
Elizabeth Cole	July 1955 - June 1960
Patty Myers	September 1960 - June 1964
Irma Harlan	July 1964 - July 1971
Glenna Patton	August 1971 - June 1975
Joy Mowery	May 1975 - April 1981
Julie Fiedler (Acting Director)	April 1981 - September 1981
Lisa deGruyter	September 1981 - July 1985
Janice Walter (Acting Director)	July 3, 1985 - October 15, 1985
Lynette S. Sloan	October 15, 1985 -

CANEY FORK REGION

The Caney Fork Region, established July 1, 1957, had six (6) counties at the beginning of the region.

Grundy and Warren counties were transferred from the Highland Rim Region (formerly Middle Tennessee State College Region). Bledsoe and Van Buren counties were transferred from the Upper Cumberland Region (formerly Tennessee Technological Region) to become a part of the Caney Fork Region. Marion and White counties received services through Library Services Act funds for a two-year demonstration.

At the end of two (2) years, Marion and White counties appropriated money to continue their regional services.

Sequatchie County received LSA funds on July 1, 1959 for a two-year period and in 1961, Sequatchie County appropriated funds to continue library service.

Cumberland County became a demonstration county for two years, with the county court appropriating money in 1963 to continue the service.

Eight counties comprise the Caney Fork Region: Bledsoe, Cumberland, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, Van Buren, Warren and White. The following have served as Regional Directors:

Mary Little	July 1, 1947 - April 30, 1984
Faith Holdredge	May 1, 1984 -

CLINCH-POWELL REGION

Clinch-Powell Region began in 1946 as a part of the State Regional Library system but there were libraries in the area before 1946. The Norris Library (Anderson County) was in service in the 1930's, due to the support of TVA. Through local effort, the Clinton Library (Anderson County) was established in 1941.

The services formerly rendered by Anderson County libraries were expanded to Campbell, Morgan, Scott, and Union counties in 1946, operating as Clinch-Powell Regional Library. LaFollette and Caryville (Campbell County) and Lake City (Anderson County) were opened, attached to the Anderson County Library Board, administrative body for the region.

Miss Emma Suddarth was first employed in 1944 as librarian for Anderson County, later becoming the first Clinch-Powell Regional Director.

In 1955, a three-year grant was received from the Ford Foundation and the American Library Association. This grant was for a "Library Community Project in Adult Education." Two communities were studied under this grant, LaFollette for two years and Oakdale for one.

In July 1956, Claiborne County voted to become a member of the Region; this brought the number to six (6) members. In 1961, Scott County failed to appropriate funds for service, so

no service was extended to them until 1965 when a Demonstration Project was set up for the county. After the completion of the project, Scott continued to be an active member of the Clinch-Powell Region.

The Region was now composed of Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Morgan, Scott and Union counties. This is the present make-up of Clinch-Powell Region.

The Directors who have served the Clinch-Powell Region are as follows:

Emma Suddarth	April 1946 - November 1952
Helen H. Kittrell	December 1952 - August 1969
Larry Nix	August 1969 - June 1971
Barbara Dyer (acting)	July 1971 - July 1973
Rene Jordan	August 1973 - March 1976
Barbara Dyer	February 1976 - November 1980
Linda Hurst	February 1981 -

FORKED DEER REGION

During the 1960's, all of the West Tennessee counties, except Shelby, received library service from two regional centers consisting of eighteen counties making up the Reelfoot and the Shiloh Regions. The workload and the long distance from the Kentucky line to the Mississippi border necessitated an additional region.

In 1965, Miss Mary Nelson Bates of the Public Libraries Section of the State Library and Archives worked with setting up a new region: the Forked Deer Regional Library in Trimble, Dyer County. This first year was spent in purchasing and processing books, setting up an office with proper equipment and supplies, purchasing vehicles, etc.

One year later, July 1966, three counties were transferred from the Reelfoot Region to Forked Deer Region: Lake, Dyer and Lauderdale; Tipton County was transferred from Shiloh Region.

Haywood and Fayette counties, having been demonstration counties for Shiloh Region, were added to Forked Deer in 1967.

Crockett County voted the required appropriation in 1968 and was admitted to the Forked Deer Region. When Crockett County joined the region, this completed the statewide participation in library service for all of Tennessee's ninety-five counties. Forked Deer was now composed of Crockett, Dyer, Fayette, Haywood, Lake, Lauderdale, and Tipton

counties. These make up the present day Forked Deer Region. In order to be centrally located, the Regional Center moved from Trimble to Halls, in Lauderdale County, in August 1981.

The following have served as Regional Directors for Forked Deer Region:

Matty Jackson	1965 - 1978
Betty Jean Goff	1978 -

FORT LOUDOUN REGION

In 1939, the Tennessee Valley Authority entered into an agreement with the Department of Education and the counties in the area of the TVA dams being built, to provide library service to members of the construction crews and their families. This was actually the beginning of regional library service as we know it. The first area was that of the Watts Bar Dam in East Tennessee.

Four counties were included in the construction area - Rhea, Meigs, Roane and Loudon. No county in this area had a local library large enough for the authorities to contract with, so a three-way agreement was made between TVA, the Tennessee Division of Libraries, and the Knoxville Library Board (Lawson McGhee Library).

In 1940, Congress authorized TVA to construct the Douglas and Fort Loudon Dams. In the Summer of 1942, Blount and Monroe counties were added to the Watts Bar, or Loudon County region. The Region was now composed of Blount, Loudon, Meigs, Monroe, Rhea and Roane counties.

Three counties joined the Fort Loudoun Region later, making the total the nine counties which make up the Region as it is today. They were McMinn (1952), Polk (1954), and Bradley (1955). The nine counties served by the Fort Loudoun Region were: Blount, Bradley, Loudon, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Polk,

Rhea and Roane. (Blount County withdrew from the program in 1952 and rejoined the Region in 1968).

Since the county libraries were small and the boards unable to administer the regional library program, an administrative agency was designated to perform this duty. In the beginning, the Lawson McGhee Library (now Knox County Public Library) administered the program, from November 1939 through December 1945. The Loudon County Library Board assumed the responsibility in January 1946 and continued through June 1955. At this time, July 1955, the Fort Loudoun Regional Library Board was established and became the administrator, serving until the present.

Directors who have served the Region are as follows:

Lucille Nix	November 1939 - June 1941
Supervisor:	July 1941 - June 1945
Mary Eleanor Wright	May 1941 - July 1943 (Watts Bar Project)
Dorothy Sharpless	July 1941 - September 1947 (Fort Loudoun Project 1941- 1943 6 counties 1943 - 1947)
Lucile Deaderick	October 1947 - September 1952
Mary Melton	August 1953 - October 1954
Florence Biller	October 1954 - January 1958
Marion Jacobs	July 1958 - May 1964
Marie Middleton	June 1964 -

HIGHLAND RIM REGION

The Middle Tennessee State College Region (later called Highland Rim Region) was established in March 1946. Miss Mary Nelson Bates was named Regional Director with the Region being made up of four counties: Franklin, Lawrence, Marshall, and Warren. Housing for the office was provided by the college, this consisting of one small room in the old college library. Books were mailed to the county libraries.

In 1947, three counties joined the Region: Coffee, Rutherford, and Wilson. The Regional Library now served seven (7) county libraries, sixty-one community libraries, twenty-four of these being in rural schools. Books were delivered to the stations by taxi.

In 1948, five (5) additional community libraries were added, making a total of sixty-six (66) community libraries.

Bedford County joined the regional organization in 1949, bringing the total counties to eight (8). In 1951, Maury County joined the Region, increasing the number to nine (9) counties. Moore County joined the Region in 1953, making a ten (10) county region.

In July 1954, Lawrence, Marshall, and Maury counties were transferred to form a new region in Columbia. However, another county, Grundy, was added to the MTSC regional system.

Warren and Grundy counties were transferred in 1957 to form the new Caney Fork Region.

Lincoln County (1957) Trousdale County (1961) and Cannon County (1963) became members of the Middle Tennessee State College Region (now Highland Rim) making the nine (9) counties which today comprise the Highland Rim Region: Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, Franklin, Lincoln, Moore, Rutherford, Trousdale and Wilson.

The following have served as Directors of the Highland Rim Regional Library:

Mary Nelson Bates	1946 - 1952
Maureen Williams	1952 - 1955
Syd Shinn	1955 - 1962
Janet Smith	1962 -

NOLICHUCKY REGION

When the Watts Bar construction was completed, the next location for TVA dams was up river. The Cherokee Dam Area Regional Library was organized in July 1941, with three counties. They were Grainger, Hawkins, and Jefferson. In October 1941, Hamblen County joined the Region. The Region was formed under a contract similar to that which controlled the Watts Bar Regional Library. Once again, TVA furnished funds for library service for its employees and again the service was administered by the Lawson McGhee Library in Knoxville.

In February 1942, the Cherokee Camp Library closed. March 1942, the Douglas Dam area library was organized with the former Cherokee Dam area counties transferred to Douglas Dam and two new counties added. The two new counties were Cocke and Sevier. Six (6) counties now served as Cherokee and Douglas area regional libraries. They were Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Hawkins, Jefferson and Sevier. These same six comprise the Nolichucky Region of today.

In 1943, the State Department of Education assumed the former responsibilities carried on by TVA, a contract was signed by Lawson McGhee to continue as administrator, and regional service in East Tennessee continued without a break.

The State's contract with Lawson McGhee Library as administrator of the regional library program terminated on December 31, 1945.

In December 1945, the area of Cherokee and Douglas Regional Libraries became the Nolichucky Regional Library. Hamblen County was chosen the administrative agent for the State. Through the Regional Director, they provided direction for the program, continuing until the Nolichucky Regional Library Board was organized in 1954.

Regional Directors who served the Nolichucky Region were:

Lucille Nix	1941 - 1943
Mary Eleanor Wright	1943 - 1947
Dorothy Sharpless	1947 - 1973
Mildred Erwin	1973 - 1982
Anne Kraus	1982 -

REELFOOT REGION

At the time the regional library program in East Tennessee was developing through the Tennessee Valley Authority, a similar growth was beginning in West Tennessee. The Kentucky Dam Regional Library (later Reelfoot Regional Library) was organized with quarters furnished by the University of Tennessee Junior College in Martin.

In December 1941, the first regional librarian began work in West Tennessee. The first library was opened at Dover, Stewart County, in February 1942, and in the same month, bookmobile stations were opened in Stewart County and in Henry County. In March 1942, the Benton County Library was established and the Houston County Library opened.

By the end of the fiscal year - June 30, 1942, there were twenty-one (21) service points in four (4) counties. The service was supported by TVA and by local funds.

In fiscal 1942-43, three (3) additional counties joined the region: Decatur, Humphreys, and Perry. A field office was opened in Waverly to serve counties east of the Tennessee River.

Seven (7) counties now comprised the Kentucky Dam Region (later named Reelfoot Region). In spite of the good beginning, Henry County dropped out of the region, leaving six (6) counties.

In fiscal 1943-44, two new counties joined the region, Hardin and Weakley, with Henry County rejoining the region, making a total of nine (9) counties.

In 1945-46 fiscal year, Obion and Gibson counties joined the region, bringing the total to eleven (11) counties.

TVA's support of the regional program ended in fiscal 1946-47, with the Kentucky Dam Region name changed to the University of Tennessee Junior College Region, Martin. Henry County again dropped out of the regional program, failing to raise local funds.

With the beginning of a new fiscal year, 1947-48, major changes occurred. On September 15, 1947, Houston, Humphreys, Perry and Stewart counties were transferred to the newly formed Austin Peay State College Region (now Warloto Region).

A new regional headquarters was set up at Cossitt Library (Memphis) to serve Hardeman, Lauderdale, Shelby and Tipton counties.

Seven (7) counties remained under the University of Tennessee Junior College Region, but only four of those were served from Martin. They were Benton, Gibson, Henry and Obion. Henry County had rejoined the regional system but Weakley County had failed to raise funds and was no longer a member. A new field office opened in Jackson to serve Crockett, Decatur, and Hardin counties.

By 1948-49, Weakley County had rejoined the region, bringing the number of counties served from Martin to five (5). These five were Benton, Gibson, Henry, Obion and Weakley counties.

Henderson, McNairy, and Madison counties joined the region and were served from the Jackson office.

In January 1949, the Cossitt Library Region (Memphis) was closed, Shelby County dropped out, and Hardeman, Lauderdale, and Tipton counties were transferred to the U.T. Junior College Region (Martin) to receive bookmobile service from Jackson.

Dyer County joined the University of Tennessee Junior College Region in fiscal 1949-50 but Crockett County dropped out.

Benton County was transferred to the Austin Peay State College Region (now Warrenton Region) in order to participate in a joint TVA project with Humphreys County.

In 1950, the region was renamed the West Tennessee Regional Library with administrative duties for the thirteen (13) county region consolidated at Martin. Bookmobile service was given to seven (7) counties from the branch office in Jackson. Carroll County joined the region and McNairy County dropped out.

Service from Martin was given to eight (8) counties: they were Carroll, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lauderdale, Obion, Tipton, and Weakley.

Bookmobile service from Jackson included the following five (5) counties: Decatur, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, and Madison. For the next six (6) years, the same counties remained in the region.

In 1952, the University of Tennessee Junior College became the University of Tennessee, Martin Branch. Gibson County Library was separated from the school circulating library and moved into rented quarters.

In 1956, a decision was made to divide this large region, thus forming a new region with headquarters in Jackson (Shiloh Regional Library). Counties remaining in the University of Tennessee, Martin Branch Region, were Carroll, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lauderdale, Obion and Weakley.

On June 30, 1957, association with the University of Tennessee, Martin Branch ended after sixteen (16) years.

In July 1957, the Regional Center was moved from the University campus and the region renamed - Reelfoot Regional Library.

In fiscal 1959-60, Lake County joined the region as a demonstration county, making eight (8) counties. In 1961-62

fiscal year, Lake County appropriated funds at the end of the demonstration period to become a permanent part of the region.

Forked Deer Regional Library was set up in 1965 with four (4) counties transferred from Reelfoot Region: Lake, Dyer, Lauderdale and Tipton counties.

In May 1966, service to Benton County was transferred from Warioto Region to Reelfoot.

Reelfoot Regional Library now served Benton, Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Obion, and Weakley counties. These are the counties presently being served by the Reelfoot Region.

Directors who have served the Reelfoot Region are:

Olive Weaver	December 1941 - September 1944
Augusta B. Richardson	1941 - 1944 Sub-headquarters at Waverly)
Louise Meredith	March 1943 - July 1944 (Sub-headquarters at Waverly)
Mary Vick Burney	October 1944 - October 1945 (Librarian at U.T. Junior College, Martin supervised the region)
Edwin C. Osburn	October 1945 - June 1947
Sara Louise Hanlin	July 1947 - June 1948
Matty Jackson (Acting)	Summers 1949, 1950
Rosemary Taylor (Acting)	1949 - 1950
Melba W. Wash	1950 -

SHILOH REGION

The forerunner of Shiloh Regional Library was the field office of the Reelfoot Region established in Jackson. Counties served from Jackson were Crockett, Decatur, and Hardin, beginning in the fiscal year 1947-1948.

In 1948-1949, three additional counties joined the Jackson field office. They were Henderson, McNairy, and Madison. This brought the number of counties served by the Jackson office to six (6).

In January 1949, the Cossitt Library Region (Memphis) was closed and Hardeman, Lauderdale and Tipton counties were transferred to the University of Tennessee Junior College Region (Martin) to be given bookmobile service from Jackson.

The year 1950 again saw a change in the name of the Region. The University of Tennessee Junior College Region became the West Tennessee Regional Library. McNairy County withdrew from the Region and the administrative duties for the remaining thirteen counties were consolidated in Martin with the branch office in Jackson providing bookmobile service to five counties. For the next six (6) years, the same counties remained in the region.

In 1956, under the provision of the new regional library law, the Shiloh Regional Library was founded to serve the southwestern counties of the State. The name for this region

was borrowed from the Shiloh National Military Park located in Hardin County, one of the two original counties of which the region was composed. The Shiloh Region was now composed of Madison, Henderson, Decatur, Hardin, Hardeman, and Tipton counties.

In 1957, Haywood County joined the Shiloh Region, followed by Chester County in 1961 and McNairy rejoined the region. Fayette County joined during fiscal 1965-66.

The last major change in the regional program in West Tennessee was the establishment of the Forked Deer Region in 1966, with headquarters in Trimble. Three counties were transferred from Shiloh Region to partially make up the new region: Tipton, Haywood and Fayette. The Shiloh Region was composed of the seven (7) counties which are now in the region: Chester, Decatur, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, McNairy, and Madison.

Directors who served the Shiloh Region (including field office in Jackson) were:

Helen Lockhart	1953 - 1969
David Warren	1969 - 1972
Anne Thurmond	1973 - 1984
Linda Hay	1984 -

UPPER CUMBERLAND REGION

The Upper Cumberland Regional Library had its beginning in 1945 when Miss Martha Parks, Director, Division of Libraries, Tennessee Department of Education, and Mrs. Maude Terry of Cookeville visited various county courts and civic groups acquainting the people with the possibilities of establishing regional library service.

As a result of Miss Parks' and Mrs. Terry's involvement, four counties met the required matching funds and in the Spring of 1946, the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute Region was organized. The college was designated the administrative agency by the State Department of Education and the Institute assumed an active role in the formation of the region. The four participating counties were: Smith, DeKalb, Putnam and White.

In July 1946, Overton and Cumberland Counties joined the program and a regional librarian was employed. The regional library was located in a small room in the Tech Administration Building.

Jackson County joined the Region in July 1947, with Pickett County joining in September of that year.

By 1948-49, White and Jackson Counties had dropped out of the region and Van Buren joined the program. The following seven (7) counties composed the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute

Region: Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, and Van Buren.

On September 16, 1949, the regional library moved into the basement of the new Tennessee Polytechnic Institute Library, one of several moves.

Bledsoe County joined the region in 1952 making the total eight (8) counties.

In keeping with a state-wide policy of naming the various regions, the name Upper Cumberland Region came into being in 1954. However, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute continued as the administrative agency until 1956 when the regional headquarters were moved into separate quarters. At the time of the move from TPI, the Putnam County Library Board assumed the administrative duties until a regional library board could be organized.

The area served by the Upper Cumberland Regional Library had remained stable since 1952, but in 1956 Pickett and Cumberland counties were unable to acquire the matching funds. Service was not discontinued immediately, the hope being that the counties would secure funds somewhere. By the end of the year, Pickett County had dropped out of the program and Cumberland County was being transferred to the Caney Fork Region which was being formed. Two other counties were soon to be transferred to the new Caney Fork Region. They were Bledsoe and Van Buren.

At this time, 1957-58 fiscal year, ground work was being laid in Macon and Fentress counties for these areas to become a part of the Upper Cumberland Region as demonstration counties.

In June 1957, the Upper Cumberland Regional Board had its organizational meeting prior to assuming the administrative duties formerly performed by the Putnam County Library Board. By October of 1957, library service was begun in Macon and Fentress counties as a demonstration.

The year 1959 ended the two-year demonstration period for Fentress and Macon counties. These two counties voted to appropriate funds for the continuing library service. As Fentress and Macon counties assumed financial responsibility for their libraries, Jackson and Clay counties joined the region as demonstration counties, bringing the total number of counties to eight (8). Pickett County joined the Region as a Demonstration County in 1961. These nine counties now comprised the Upper Cumberland Regional Library: Clay, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam and Smith. At the present time, these same nine counties make up the Upper Cumberland Regional Library.

The next important development began in 1964. The Library Services Act was expanded to include construction of library buildings on a matching basis. Fentress County became the first county in Tennessee to qualify for funds under this Act. The new library was opened to the public in April 1966.

This was followed by new buildings in Overton, DeKalb, Jackson and Smith Counties. In May 1969, the Regional Center moved into new quarters.

The following counties in the Upper Cumberland Region had new library quarters, many of them being constructed with Library Services and Construction Act grants:

Fentress	March 1966
Overton	March 1967
DeKalb	September 1967
Jackson	May 1968
Smith	February 1969
Macon	March 1972
Putnam	February 1974
Clay	March 1974
Pickett	November 1975

Two counties have had renovations and/or new additions to the existing quarters during the present Library Services and Construction Act grant period. They are Overton and Putnam, both completed in the Fall of 1985.

Regional Directors who have served the Region are:

Alberta Cameron	1946 - 1947
Helen Qualls	1947 - 1956
Julia Boyd	1956 -

WARIOTO REGION

The Austin Peay State College Region (now Warioto Region) was organized on September 15, 1947, with four counties transferred from what is now Reelfoot Region. They were: Stewart, Houston, Humphreys, and Perry counties. The U.T. Junior College Region, located in Martin, had grown too large to give adequate service so a new region was organized to take care of the extra load. These four counties had not had a regional librarian nor book service for a period of six months; therefore, the organization of a new region was welcomed with enthusiasm.

In October 1947, two new counties qualified for regional service: Robertson and Sumner. During fiscal 1947-48, the following counties comprised the Austin Peay State College Region: Houston, Humphreys, Perry, Robertson, Stewart and Sumner.

In fiscal 1948-49, three new counties became members of the region. They were: Dickson, Hickman and Montgomery. This brought the number of counties served by the Austin Peay State College Region to nine (9). They were: Dickson, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Perry, Robertson, Stewart, and Sumner.

As a result of the TVA contract, Benton County was added to the region in fiscal 1949-50. This brought the number

served to ten (10) with the additional county added to those comprising the region in 1948-49.

The counties served by the Austin Peay Region remained the same during fiscal 1949-50. In 1950-51 fiscal year, the Johnsonville Steam Plant project was begun in the area, resulting in additional personnel being added to the Austin Peay Region to assist in the extra work. The TVA contract benefited the Region in several ways: one additional trained employee was hired to classify and catalog all books processed by the library; the addition of an extra county increased the overall appropriation for the area; an additional bookmobile was transferred from the West Tennessee Regional Library (Martin); and additional books were purchased with TVA funds. Furniture and equipment were purchased with TVA funds for the county libraries in Humphreys and Benton counties. A library was established in the temporary recreation building on the job site at New Johnsonville. Counties served remained the same ten (10) as the previous year.

Fiscal 1951-52 saw Lewis County qualify for regional service. This increased the number of counties served to eleven (11).

In 1952-53, there was no change in counties served.

In 1954, Hickman, Lewis, and Perry counties were transferred from the Austin Peay State College Region to the new region, Blue Grass at Columbia. This eliminated thirty service points from the Austin Peay Region. Counties served

from the Austin Peay Region now were: Benton, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart and Sumner.

Fiscal 1954-55 counties remained the same as the previous year with eight counties.

The name of the Region was changed to Warioto Regional Library Center in fiscal 1955-56. The region was composed of the same eight (8) counties as the previous year.

From 1956-57 through 1965, no changes were made in the counties served. In June 1966, Benton County was transferred to the Reelfoot Region. Seven (7) counties remained in the Warioto Region. They were: Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart and Sumner.

In fiscal 1967-68, Cheatham County was added to the Region. This brought the number served to eight (8), the present number comprising the Warioto Region. They are: Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart and Sumner.

Directors who have served the Warioto Region from its inception are:

Margaret Williams	June 1947 - May 1949
Julia L. Graden	June 1949 - August 1951
Mary Eleanor Wright	July 1951 - September 1957
Julia G. Martin	October 1957 -

WATAUGA REGIONAL LIBRARY

Regional Library service in the Watauga Region began on September 11, 1942, with the signing of a contract to provide library service to TVA employees in the Watauga and South Holston areas. The agreement was between the Mayne Williams Library, Johnson City, the Tennessee Department of Education, and TVA.

Books were purchased by the librarian of Mayne Williams Library and processed at night. However, the contract with TVA was terminated in a short time, since work on the Watauga and South Holston dams was postponed because of World War II. The processed books were taken to East Tennessee State College.

The East Tennessee State College Region was established in August, 1946. Service was provided to Sullivan, Johnson, Washington, and Unicoi counties. The Regional Center occupied one room in the basement of the college library.

During fiscal 1947-48, Carter and Hancock counties were added to the Region. The following six (6) counties comprised the Region: Carter, Hancock, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties. These six counties made up the East Tennessee State College Region (later Watauga Region) until fiscal 1953-54 when Unicoi County was no longer a part of the Region.

In 1955-56, the name of the Region officially became the Watauga Region. In August 1956, the regional headquarters moved from the college because of crowded conditions.

In 1957-58, Greene County was added to the Region and Unicoi County rejoined the Region in fiscal 1959-60. In November, 1958, trustees from four counties met and established the first Watauga Regional Library Board. The Region was now composed of seven (7) counties. They are the same today as in 1960: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties.

Directors who have served the Watauga Region are:

Eva Leonard	August 1946 - October 1948
Mary Sue Odom (Wilson)	October 1948 - September 1951
Samuel Sherwood	October 1951 - July 1953
Helen Freshour	August 1953 - October 19, 1953
Katheryn Culbertson	October 19, 1953 - November 30, 1961
Elizabeth Morris Roberts (Acting)	December 1961 - April 23, 1962
Sarah Elizabeth Stafford (Acting)	May 23, 1962 - October 1963
Olivia Knowles Young	November 15, 1963 - January 16, 1970
Novella I. Quillen	January 2, 1970 - September 15, 1980
Kathryn H. Bumgardner (Acting)	September 15, 1980 - April 30, 1981
Joy A. Mowery	May 1, 1981 -

CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The City of Chattanooga was awarded \$50,000 on December 23, 1902, by the Carnegie Fund to erect a public library. The next three years were spent in choosing a site, building and equipping the new library. The building was completed in the Spring of 1905 and on July 17, 1905, the library was officially presented to the people of Chattanooga. However, it was not until December of 1905 that the library began to function and to circulate books to the public. Securing books had been a problem from the beginning and it was only through the generosity of interested citizens that books became available for public use.

In 1909, the library made its first move toward expansion. The people of the county were seeking library service for the rural communities and, noting this, the Library Board directed its secretary to frame an enabling act whereby the County Court would be empowered to appropriate funds to the Chattanooga Public Library for the maintenance of county library service. With a small initial grant, the library became a pioneer in the South in striving to make its resources free and accessible to every citizen in the city or county.

Although the main library was open to all citizens of Hamilton County, this was not enough service for the rural communities. With the size of the county, one central book collection was too far removed for many people to make use of it. This condition called for the establishing of branches

throughout the county and so the idea was conceived and developed to locate book deposits in school buildings with the library being made accessible to the community through an outside entrance. This plan was followed (1913) and it was possible to locate branches in the school building. Also, in 1913, the long delayed Negro Branch was opened in the Howard Elementary School building. This branch was recognized and enlarged in 1923 and relocated in Howard High School.

In 1920, the first branch for white people in the city was organized and in successive years three more county branches were established: Ooltewah in 1921, Birchwood in 1922, and South St. Elmo in 1923.

Times then were prosperous. Library appropriations were increased in the years 1925, 1926, 1927. The library entered into a program of expansion not dreamed of earlier. The Richard Hardy Branch was established in 1925; Sam Conner Branch in 1926; and A.M. Holiger Branch in 1927.

The Chattanooga Public Library was chosen, in 1929, as one of the ten demonstration libraries in the South to benefit by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The purpose of this fund was to make library service accessible to everyone in urban and rural sections, white and black.

The experiment was to cover a five year period with local appropriating powers contributing annually a sufficient sum to meet the Rosenwald grant. The five-year offer was later

extended to seven and an impressive program of expansion was carried out.

By the end of 1933, six Negro and twenty-eight white branches were operating in the county, a bookmobile had been purchased in which a County Field Agent carried books to schools in outlying districts, and a county extension service filled in all places the other did not reach.

In the city besides the main library, there were four Negro branches and a Negro extension service operated by a librarian who carried books to Negro elementary schools. There were five white branches for school and community service, two school branches, an extension department for white elementary schools and a Government Documents Department. Also the main library had become so crowded it was necessary to move the county work headquarters and the Government Documents Department into the Memorial Auditorium.

In 1929, a long time resident of Chattanooga, Adolph S. Ochs, proposed the idea that a combination of the library services of the community and its university could be realized by housing the two collections in the same building, this building to be erected on the university campus.

Although new and startling, this idea was recognized as worthy by the authorities of both the Public Library and the University. Ten years later (1939) through the Public Works Administration, the municipalities of Hamilton County and Chattanooga, the directors of the Public Library, and the

trustees of the University of Chattanooga joined in bringing into being Mr. Ochs' vision.

On April 6, 1940, the new Chattanooga Public Library Building was formally dedicated.

The combination of public and university libraries in one building was a unique experience in library cooperation. The Chattanooga Public Library and the University of Chattanooga were about the same age in their terms of service in the community. The Library Association of Chattanooga organized in 1887, became the Chattanooga Public Library in 1905. The Chattanooga University, founded in 1886 was officially changed to the University of Chattanooga in 1906. During the same period of years, these two institutions worked side by side for the educational well-being of the community.

At this time, in the public library system, there were fifty-one branches, serving both school and community, white and black, city and county, an extension service to classrooms and other agencies; and a bookmobile traveling over the county leaving books where there were no permanent collections.

The joint venture between the public library and the university continued for thirty-six years.

In July 1948, the City Commission and the County Council entered into an agreement whereby the city agreed to allow

county residents to use the main library or any agency in the city limits without fee. The Chattanooga Public Library turned over to the county all books and equipment located in the county school libraries which had been, up to this time, served by the Chattanooga Public Library and the Hamilton County Department of Education. By the end of the 1940's, all branches in the public schools had been phased out.

In 1969, the University of Chattanooga became a State University with certain standards to be met for the library. Also, the school grew so rapidly it became necessary to have a larger library for the use of students. A decision was made in 1973 to construct a new public library building in the downtown area to be known as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library. The new library was constructed in the heart of the city's rejuvenated downtown area and dedicated on October 17, 1976.

At the present time, there are three branches in the Chattanooga-Hamilton County library system. They are Northgate Branch, Eastgate Branch, and South Chattanooga Branch.

The following Directors served as head of the Chattanooga Public Library:

Margaret S. Dunlap	1905 - 1923
Nora Crimmins	1923 - 1936
Adelaide Rowell	1936 - 1941
Aubry Lee Graham	1941 - 1943
Adelaide Rowell	1943 - 1946
Elizabeth Edwards	1946 - 1966
Kathryn Arnold	1966 - 1986
Miss Jane E. McFarland (Interim)	1986 -

KNOXVILLE/KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

By 1817, the frontier settlement of Knoxville had attained a population of nearly 1,000 and the town had been incorporated. Various enterprises for civic improvement had been inaugurated and interest in a public library began to be manifested. A document has been found which indicates that a library either had existed or was projected in Knoxville around the turn of the century (1801).

The first library in Knox County about which any facts are known however was announced in the KNOXVILLE REGISTER of January 11, 1817. "It is with much pleasure we notice a subscription has been set on foot for establishing a Public Library at this place..."¹ There followed an account of the subscription library organized by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia in 1731 which set the pattern for most of the early libraries in the United States. Between 1800 and 1825, the Knoxville Library Company was organized and the library opened. The Knoxville Library was the third in Tennessee. The Nashville Library Company was incorporated in October 1813, along with a bill being passed in 1815 incorporating the Dickson County Library Company at Charlotte.

¹Knox County History Committee, East Tennessee Historical Society, Mary U. Rothrock, editor. Knoxville, East Tennessee Historical Society, 1946. "The French Broad-Holston Country; a History of Knox County, Tennessee."

Most of the subscribers bought one \$5.00 share in the Knoxville Library Company. Reverend David A. Sherman, a graduate of Yale who had come to Knoxville to serve as principal of the newly-opened Hampden Sidney Academy, bought four shares and became the first librarian at an annual salary of \$20.00. The first purchase of books was in the amount of \$200.00, these being brought to Knoxville by wagon.

With the passage by the Legislature on November 15, 1817, of an act incorporating the Knoxville Library Company, everything was in readiness for its operation. The following notice appeared: "Any person disposed to join the Library Company can have the opportunity by paying to the treasurer, five dollars; or by making a donation to the library, to the amount of \$10.00, in such books as the standing committee shall approve."

By September 1, 1818, a printed catalog of the library was ready and subscribers were urged to apply for it on any library day. On January 9, 1821, the paper reported that the Constitution had been amended so that "officers and students of East Tennessee College and Hampden Sidney Academy shall have privilege of drawing books same as members or paying six and a quarter cents for every volume so drawn."

The last mention of the Knoxville Library Company in the newspapers was in the REGISTER of March 5, 1824. Indications are that the Company was having financial difficulties and the

Knoxville Library Company may have ceased to exist soon after that time.

For the next four years, it must be assumed that most of the books read in Knoxville and Knox County came from private libraries. With no public library in existence in 1830, A.W. Elder apparently sought to respond to the public need by establishing a commercial library. The REGISTER of April 28 announced: "Knoxville Reading Room: A. W. Elder proposes to establish in this place, a Public Reading Room, to be furnished with many of the principal newspapers and literary and miscellaneous works and Reviews, published in the United States. The Reading Room will be opened on the 15th of June, provided he can get subscribers sufficient to defray the expenses. The subscription price will be \$6.00 per annum -- payable quarterly. Those persons wishing to become subscribers will please leave their names at the KNOXVILLE REGISTER office or at the Post Office." Apparently, Mr. Elder did not succeed in this venture.

Meanwhile, interest in a library revived, and in 1832 the Knoxville Lyceum assumed the responsibility for its promotion. The Lyceum had as its object the promotion of the intellectual and moral interests of the community.

Reporting the second annual meeting of the Lyceum, the REGISTER of February 29, 1832 announced that preparatory measures were adopted for the purpose of connecting a Library and Reading Room with this institution.

On March 14, 1832, the REGISTER's editor declared: "We witness with much satisfaction the increased interest manifested by this association (the Lyceum) to insure its permanency and usefulness. Besides the periodicals already subscribed for, there will be added about 30 newspapers, from every quarter of the United States..." The reading room, which was located on Gay Street, was open as late as March 20, 1833.

As far as investigations show, the next Knoxville Literary Club was the Junto. This club was organized in 1838, but no proof has been found that the Junto actually sponsored a library.

The next library known to exist was sponsored by the Young Men's Literary Society, organized in 1842. One of its members, Dr. F. A. Ramsey, was elected librarian. No further record of this library was found until 1852, when on February 25, the Legislature passed an act providing that the Young Men's Literary Society's name should be changed to the Knoxville Library Association. This library functioned as late as 1855.

Operating at the same time with the library of the Young Men's Literary Society was the one incorporated in January 1844, as the Mechanic's Library Association of Knoxville. This was incorporated, patterned after the Mechanics' Library Association of Nashville and similar groups were incorporated in Lincoln County and Pulaski, Tennessee.

A few years later, the volunteer fire companies throughout the State were active in promoting libraries. According to an act of 1856, The Fountain Fire Company and Niagara Fire Company, of Knoxville were incorporated and empowered to establish and own a library.

In 1865, another effort was made to provide library benefits by an organization not associated typically with library development. This was the Knoxville Turners' Association, incorporated among other things, to establish and sustain a Reading Room and a Library.

The last ventures do not justify the name of "public" libraries since they were planned primarily for the benefit of the members of the sponsoring groups. They are historically important because they show the perseverance with which the residents of Knoxville clung to the purpose of maintaining a library for public use.

In the years following the Civil War, Knoxville enjoyed a period of expansion and prosperity. There was an increasing interest in education and a general rise in the standard of living. The spread of popular education added an impetus to the development of libraries.

In 1873, a group of citizens met in March to plan a reading room and, from this time on, a library has been in continuous existence, although under different names and sponsorships. The committee stated that \$600.00 was needed to

organize the library and make it self-supporting for a year. After a year, with the collection of dues and private donations, it was expected that the library would be self-sustaining. Membership was \$5.00 per year with the members paying 25¢ per month dues.

A New Yorker, Miss E. T. Morgan, became the first librarian of the Knoxville Library and Reading Room Association. Even though the membership fee was dropped to \$1.00, new subscribers were added very slowly.

On April 1, 1879, a meeting was called to consider changing the existing private association into a public library. The response at the meeting was so favorable to changing the status to a public library, that the proposal passed. The new charter was adopted and the Knoxville Library and Reading Room Association became the Public Library of Knoxville, an incorporated institution.

After several moves, a permanent building was erected at Gay and Vine Streets to be used as a public library. This building was the result of Colonel Charles McGhee's generosity. The deed of trust executed for the library building stipulated that the library should be named in memory of his daughter, Mary Lawson (McGhee) Williams. Trustees were selected to direct the new Lawson McGhee Library and on August 21, 1886, the trustees met in the almost-completed library building and elected the Rev. Thomas W. Humes as librarian. The building was formally opened on October 29, 1886.

From 1886 to 1892, the membership increased slowly but steadily and in 1888 the \$1.00 fee for new members was abolished, the only charge a monthly 25¢ dues.

The librarian, Dr. Thomas W. Humes, died in January 1892. The trustees decided it was time for a trained librarian to be employed. In September Miss Mary Louise Davis, a graduate of the New York State Library School, became the first trained librarian.

Miss Davis resigned in 1896, and her assistant, Miss Mary Nelson filled the vacant position until late 1916. In November 1904, fire had destroyed the building. The trustees empowered the library committee to procure temporary quarters as soon as possible. A month later the residence at the southwest corner of Prince (now Market) Street and Commerce Avenue was rented as temporary library headquarters. The building committee was authorized to negotiate for leasing the Gay Street building and to proceed with the rebuilding as soon as practical.

The trustees let the contract for the new building on May 11, 1915. The new library was constructed at a cost of \$62,000.

The old library closed on December 16, 1916 and the new Lawson McGhee Library opened on January 10, 1917, free to the public. The Board of Library Trustees employed Miss Mary U. Rothrock as librarian, a graduate of the New York State Library School who was at that time working in the Cossitt Library at

Memphis. Beginning her employment on November 1, 1916, she served until 1934 when she resigned to become Specialist in Library Service for the Tennessee Valley Authority. She was succeeded by Miss Helen M. Harris, also a New York State Library School graduate, who served until 1958.

At the time the new city library was being constructed, plans were underway for securing a separate building for a free library for Negroes. A gift of \$10,000 was obtained from the Carnegie Corporation to erect a building on a lot provided by the city. The building at Vine Avenue and Nelson Street was dedicated May 7, 1918, the Free Colored Library of Knoxville. The Murphy Branch, in the Mechanicsville neighborhood, was opened in 1930.

The Board of Trustees on October 9, 1918, passed a resolution authorizing the librarian "to cooperate with school libraries with a view to increasing their usefulness and extending the influence of Lawson McGhee Library..." On November 21, 1918, the city library took over the administration of the library at Moses School. In the next few years, the libraries throughout the school system were assumed by the Board of Library Trustees in cooperation with the Board of Education. This joint operation continued until 1936, when the Board of Education assumed full responsibility for all school libraries.

Calvin M. McClung, a library trustee for many years, died March 12, 1919. His valuable and extensive private library

devoted to the history of Tennessee and the South was given to Lawson McGhee Library by his wife. Since the presentation ceremony on June 15, 1921, the McClung Historical Collection has become nationally known and has attracted to Knoxville many students of history and genealogy.

The librarian's report to the Board of Library Trustees in 1922 pointed out the need for branch libraries. The first branch was opened in 1925 in a tiny bungalow in Park City.

The Lawson McGhee Library was opened to the residents of Knox County through a contract with the County Court in 1928. The following year the Rosenwald Foundation selected the Knoxville library as one of eleven in the South to demonstrate the value of unified county-wide library service to white and colored citizens. With a grant of \$5,000 a year for a four-year period, bookmobile service to all parts of the county was started. At the close of the demonstration period, the County Court contracted with the Board of Library Trustees to continue service to county residents.

In November 1939, the Tennessee Valley Authority contracted with the State Department of Education as sponsor and the Board of Library Trustees as administrator to provide library service for TVA employees and their families at Watts Bar Dam. Similar contracts were made as construction moved to Fort Loudoun, Cherokee and Douglas Dams. By the time TVA construction was completed, library service in thirteen East Tennessee counties was well begun, and since 1943 the service

has been carried on with State aid by the counties concerned. The successful demonstration of regional library service set the pattern for regional development throughout the State. The thirteen counties served were Blount, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Hawkins, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Meigs, Monroe, Rhea, Roane, and Sevier.

Upon completion of the dam in East Tennessee, the transfer of the regional work from the TVA and Lawson McGhee Library administration to that of the State Department of Education, Division of Libraries, and local library boards was completed. The counties in the East Tennessee area were reorganized as two regional libraries to conform to the State regional library plan, and to provide for the direction of the program, as far as possible, on the local level. Hamblen and Loudon county library boards were to administer service in their respective areas in the future.

From 1943-1967 the Library was called the Knoxville Public Library System. In 1967, by consolidation it became the Knoxville-Knox County Public Library System. When Knoxville withdrew all financial support in 1981, the county moved to have the city's name stricken from the title. For several years, as far as county perception went, the library was known as the Knox County Public Library System.

From 1928 to 1946, service to Knox County was by contract with the city public library. In 1946, a suit was brought challenging the source of funding for library service on

grounds of double taxation for city residents. The Tennessee Supreme Court ruled in favor of the suit and there was no county service from 1946 to 1949. In 1949, a Knox County Library Board was formed, under the Knox County Schools Department, with Miss Mary U. Rothrock as Director. Miss Rothrock served from 1949 to 1955, being succeeded by Miss Emma Suddarth who was librarian from 1955 to 1967. In 1967, by action of the County Court and City Council, the two libraries were consolidated as the Knoxville-Knox County Public Library System.

The following branch libraries now operate in Knox County:

Burlington	Service since 1927 - present. Building opened in 1946 with an addition completed in 1964
Carter	Service since 1962 - in house trailer in 1982
Corryton	Service since 1950 - in community building in 1973
Farragut	Opened in 1929 - present building opened in 1966 - reopened after fire in 1982
Fountain City	Opened in 1929 - present building occupied in 1964
Halls	Service since 1956 - rented space in shopping center 1974
Karns	Opened in 1956 - moved in community building in 1960
Mascot	Opened in 1928 - occupied "old jail" building in 1956

Millertown	Service since 1952 - moved into community building in 1963
Murphy	Opened in 1930 - rented space in MLB Center, 1980
North Knoxville	Service since 1927 - present building opened in 1963
Norwood	Service since 1955 - present building opened in 1964
Powell	Service since 1942 - rented space in shopping center in 1979
Sequoyah	Service since 1950 - present building opened 1961
South Knoxville	Opened in 1927 - present building moved into 1964
West Knoxville	Service since 1957 - present building opened in 1965
South Gate and West Haven	Rental sites in shopping centers closed 1983

Directors of the Lawson McGhee (Knox County Public Library) are:

Dr. Thomas Humes	1886 - 1892
Miss Mary Louise Davis	1892 - 1896
Miss Mary Nelson	1896 - 1916
Miss Mary U. Rothrock	1916 - 1934
Miss Helen M. Harris	1934 - 1958
John F. Anderson	1958 - 1962
Donald C. Potter	1962 - 1965
Carlton C. Rochell	1965 - 1967

E. Caswell Perry	1968 - 1969
Miss Lucile Deaderick	1970 - 1978
Ms. Margaret Dickson (Interim)	1978 - Aug. 1979
R. Paul Bartolini	1979 - 1985
Ms. Margaret Dickson (Interim)	Aug. 1985
Mrs. Patricia Watson	1985 -

MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION CENTER

In 1848, the reading room of the village newspaper, "The Eagle," was opened to the people of Memphis. This was the beginning of many starts for a free public library for the people of Memphis. In 1877, the Odd Fellows Hall and Library Association established and supported a library open to the public. It was a struggle to keep the library open but it was continued until 1900.

Frederick H. Cossitt moved to Clarksville, Tennessee from Connecticut in 1826, at the age of fifteen, to live with his uncle. He learned the uncle's business and represented him in several markets. In 1842, Mr. Cossitt opened a dry goods business in Memphis which was highly successful, and lived in Memphis until the early 1850's when he moved to New Jersey. In 1859, Mr. Cossitt moved to New York City but kept his business interests in Memphis until 1861. He was successful and influential in both the financial and commercial life in New York.

During this time, Mr. Cossitt kept in close touch with his friends in Memphis, visiting there often. He mentioned to a friend that he intended to make a substantial gift to the city of Memphis, with a possibility that the money would be for a library. However, before anything could be made legal for the new library, Frederick Cossitt died. This occurred in September 1887.

His plans for Memphis were not mentioned in his will, the only record of his intentions being in correspondence with a friend, stating his intent to give a library to Memphis. His daughters wished to honor their father's plan but legal complications arose when a son and daughter died a few months after their father's death. The remaining daughters each gave money from their private funds, with a son-in-law giving a like amount for his wife who had died.

Mr. Cossitt had left a list of Memphis businessmen whom he wished to administer the proposed library, and on March 8, 1888, the entire \$75,000 was delivered to the businessmen to be held in trust until plans for a public library were complete.

The directors selected by Mr. Cossitt for the library were among the leading businessmen of the city. A meeting was called and the group organized, electing a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. A charter was granted by the State of Tennessee on April 6, 1888, under the corporate name of Cossitt Library.

It was decided to use the entire gift of \$75,000 for a library building. The city promised to furnish "working expenses" for the library and gave a lot overlooking the Mississippi River at Front and Monroe Streets. Architects submitted designs, with Mr. L. B. Wheeler of Atlanta being awarded the contract for the building. Four years later, on April 12, 1893, the building was dedicated. This building served Memphis for sixty-six years.

Since no funds were available for books, the building stood empty until the beginning of the next year. In the meantime, the library had been the recipient of several substantial gifts. Valuable collections of books, as well as cash, were donated. Among the gifts of books were rare items and materials on Andrew Jackson and early Americana.

The first librarian, Mr. Mel Nunnally, was appointed on December 13, 1893, with the library being opened to the public shortly thereafter. Mr. Nunnally served five years, resigning in 1898.

Mr. Charles Dutton Johnston succeeded Mr. Nunnally on September 1, 1898. His first task was to secure funds for the library budget and put the institution on a sound financial basis. In 1903, a bill was passed by the Tennessee Legislature providing a three cent tax on each \$100 of assessed value of city property. Some years later this was raised to four cents, and years later (1931) it was reduced to three cents.

As soon as funds permitted, Mr. Johnston began establishing neighborhood branches. Store buildings were rented for this purpose, some branches located in school buildings. In 1905, in an arrangement with the Board of Education, books and services were provided in some public schools. Under Mr. Johnston's guidance, the library program expanded rapidly. In 1924, shortly before a new wing was to be completed on the library building, Mr. Johnston died.

Mr. Jesse Cunningham, from the Public Library at St. Joseph, Missouri, succeeded Mr. Johnston on March 1, 1925 and served until December 31, 1958. Under his administration, the library made its greatest progress in serving the Memphis area.

A major advance under the new administration was a grant from the Julius Rosenwald Fund on a contract with the Shelby County Board of Education and the Cossitt Library for Shelby County libraries. Aid continued for several years and the services consisted of school libraries, bookmobile service, and one community branch. When the Rosenwald aid expired, the contracts were cancelled and the County Board of Education took over the administration of the school libraries.

A few years later, a contract between the Public Library and the Shelby County Commissioners set up a public library system in the county with branch libraries in all incorporated and unincorporated towns and deposit stations in many communities. This system became a Regional Library with State and Federal grants-in-aid.

With the rapid growth of the City of Memphis, the library system needed desperately to be expanded. The library administration set up a building program in the 1940's, involving the expenditure of two and one-half million dollars and brought Memphis to a top ranking position in the library world. This building program included the Highland Branch, the Main Library on Peabody Street, the Randolph Branch, the Whitehaven Branch in the county, and the new Cossitt building.

Service to Negroes had begun under Mr. Johnston with a branch at LeMoyne Institute. This was supplemented by school stations and with the Rosenwald grant the service was extended to the entire county. A branch opened on Beale Street serving the public there until a new building was purchased for the Vance Avenue Branch (1939).

The Cossitt Library could no longer serve the needs of the latter half of the twentieth century clients. In August, 1958, the original building was wrecked and a new building constructed. The new unit continued as the "Cossitt Library" with emphasis placed on the development of a notable reference and research center, as well as general reference and technical services.

In the 1950's and 1960's, the building program set up in the 1940's reached its zenith. The following highlights the new/renovation building program:

1951	Highland Branch completed
1953	Whitehaven Library opened in the Methodist Church
1954	Millington Library opened in the City Hall building
1955	Main Library at South McLean opened. All the main services, except reference and a small circulating collection, were transferred from Cossitt Library
1956	Germantown Library opened in an old church
1957	Randolph Branch building completed

1958	Front of original Cossitt Library razed and the "New Cossitt" built and joined to the Annex
1960	Highland Library additions completed
1961	Frayser Branch completed North Branch completed Millington Branch started in a community center Goodwyn-Institute Library consolidated with Cossitt Library, becoming the Cossitt-Goodwyn Library
1962	South Branch started in a renovated store building
1964	Poplar-White Station Library completed
1965	Collierville Branch completed
1966-67	Parkway Village Branch completed Raleigh Branch completed Millington Branch completed Whitehaven Branch addition completed
1967-68	Arlington Branch completed Levi Branch completed Bartlett Branch completed Germantown Branch completed South Branch completed
1972	Shelby State Community College began serving as a public library
1975-80	Bartlett Branch renovated Cherokee Branch completed Gaston Park Branch completed Hollywood Branch completed

Mr. Cunningham retired and Mr. C. Lamar Wallis was employed December 1, 1958, to fill the vacancy. Most recently Mr. Wallis had been City Librarian, Richmond, Virginia Public Library (1955-58). Prior to this, he was Chief Librarian,

Rosenberg Public Library, Galveston, Texas (1947-55). Mr. Wallis began his career teaching in the public schools of Mississippi and teaching at Tulane University.

Mr. Wallis came to Memphis at the time of the building program expansion. He guided the library through the peak years of the 1960's and 70's, where the growth of the new and renovated buildings was phenomenal.

One of the most unique services to be offered was the contracting to the Shelby State Community College, in October 1972, for the junior college to serve as a public library branch. Staffing, materials selection, and cataloging were to be handled by the public library with costs shared in proportion to use by the public as compared to use by students and faculty.

Early in the 1920's, service had been extended to the elementary schools. The schools were to provide a room and one-half of the funds for books in return for the Public Library's selecting, ordering, cataloging the books and providing a part-time librarian. This contract with the school system lasted until 1965 when the Board of Education assumed responsibility for the elementary school libraries then being operated by the Public Library.

In January 1975, the county government voted to grant revenue sharing funds to the library to establish a central information and referral system. Two consultants were hired

(June 1975) to train the staff in I&R and to direct the program through the two-year grant period. In November 1975, the information and referral service formally began at the Main Library and in all branches and stations. This has been one of the most successful ventures of the library, the service increasing at about 12 or 13% annually.

In March 1980, the West Tennessee Talking Library began operation. The radio station broadcasts to the blind and physically handicapped, covering a fifty (50) mile radius of Memphis. The station is housed in the Main Library on McLean Avenue.

Mr. Wallis, Director, retired in 1980 after twenty-two years of service, with Robert B. Croneberger succeeding him. Mr. Croneberger served in several capacities in the Library of Congress from 1962-1970. From 1970-1974, he was Deputy Director of the Detroit Public Library. From Detroit, Mr. Croneberger came to Memphis (1975), being promoted in 1976 to the newly created position of Deputy Director. He continued as Deputy until 1980 when he was selected Director of the Memphis and Shelby County Public Information Center. He resigned from this position, December 1984, to become the State Librarian and Archivist for Tennessee.

Mr. Croneberger was succeeded in Memphis by Ms. Judith A. Drescher, formerly Director of the Champaign, Illinois, Public Library and Information Center. Previous to this, she had served in other libraries in Illinois and Ohio.

Directors of the Memphis Public Library have been:

Mel Nunnally	1893 - 1898
Charles D. Johnston	1898 - 1924
Jesse Cunningham	1925 - 1958
C. Lamar Wallis	1958 - 1980
Robert B. Croneberger	1980 - 1984
Judith A. Drescher	1985 -

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

The public library movement in Nashville dates back to 1813 [some thirty (30) years after the city's founding] when the Tennessee General Assembly passed "an act to incorporate the Nashville Library Company." As with most libraries of that time, it was a subscription library. Seven directors were appointed to select staff.

The early records are sketchy but evidence points to a great deal of interest. In 1823 the General Assembly passed an amendment to the original Nashville Library Company Act authorizing a lottery to raise up to \$5,000 "for the purchase of books for the use of said library." A second amendment passed in 1826 appointing commissioners to promote and administer the lottery. In March of 1825 a "Catalogue of Books in the Nashville Library" was published, a copy of which still exists. This catalog contained the names of the directors and the librarian and the Rules of the Nashville Library.

In 1841 a second library, the Mechanics Library Association, was organized. In 1844 it merged with the Nashville Library Company to form the Mechanics Institutes and Library Association. This library continued to give service for twenty (20) or more years.

About 1850 Captain William B. Stockell, of the Nashville Fire Department, succeeded in establishing a library for the "fire-fighting laddies." This was located in an old engine

house in the midtown area. The duration of this library is unknown.

In 1855 a Young Men's Christian Association was organized in Nashville. It opened a small library that was open to the public daily, featuring a book collection of some 400 volumes, a collection of the leading newspapers and periodicals of the day. This library did not last through the Civil War. However, it was reorganized in 1867 but was soon suspended after a few months because of the Reconstruction era.

A Mercantile Library Association was organized in 1860 but passed out of existence in 1863.

The first library to be organized after the Civil War was that of the Nashville Library Association (not to be confused with the earlier Nashville Library Company). It was organized at a meeting held in the Common Council Room on the night of June 15, 1871. This library was known as the Nashville Library and was located in the old Bank of Tennessee Building (Third Avenue North and Union Street). By December 1871, the Nashville Library could boast a collection of over 4,000 volumes.

In 1876, at a public meeting of prominent Nashville citizens, the advantages of a good library were set forth and a call issued for support and the donation of books. The management of the Nashville Library was then turned over to the Young Men's Christian Association. The library was open daily

from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The reading rooms were open to every young man but circulation was restricted to members of the Y.M.C.A. In 1888 the library was moved to 327 Church Street and passed out of existence in 1894 when the building was destroyed by fire.

The efforts and attempts to establish libraries for the public in Nashville were many, with at times, more than one library operating at the same time. The present library system actually began in 1885.

In 1885 an engineer and surveyor, Memucan Hunt Howard, gave \$15,000 to found a library in Nashville. The library was housed in one room at Watkins Institute. Watkins Institute was a night, adult education school founded by a wealthy Nashville builder, Samuel Watkins. Watkins Institute exists today as a day and night school for adults. A State charter for the library was secured providing for a board of directors and officers, the library opened in 1887 and became known as the Howard Library. The bookstock consisted of some 7,500 books purchased at a cost of \$10,000, as well as having some gifts. The bylaws of the library contained many pages of rules and regulations, which among other provisions, excluded from the Library "persons intoxicated or those using tobacco; also no loafing, no lounging, no dogs, and no children under seven (7) years of age."

For eleven (11) years the Howard Library was a reference library only and during the panic of 1893 almost closed its

doors through lack of funds. Gifts from citizens kept the library open but in 1896 the directors voted to close the library. This action was rescinded, however, when the directors were successful in promoting a library bill in the Tennessee General Assembly authorizing "cities of twenty thousand or more population to establish and maintain free public libraries and reading rooms."

Up until this time, the authorization for cities to use tax money for the support of libraries, there had been no legal authority to use tax money for libraries. The City of Nashville, acting under this new law, appropriated \$2,500 for the Howard Library for the year 1898.

In 1899, the directors provided a circulating collection for home use based upon a fee of \$2.00 for a readers card. By 1901, the city's annual appropriation had been increased to \$5,000 and the Howard Library was made the city's first free circulating library. The increased appropriation made it possible to pay a salary to the librarian who had served several years without pay.

In this same year, 1901, the directors and members of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce approached Andrew Carnegie for funds for a new library building. Mr. Carnegie offered \$100,000 for a building provided the city appropriate 10% of that amount annually for the operation and maintenance of the library. The site, at Eighth Avenue and Union Street, the

former gardens of the home of President and Mrs. James K. Polk, was donated for the new library.

A charter for the "Carnegie Library of Nashville" was granted on November 12, 1901. The library opened in 1904, all of the Howard Library books being transferred to the new Carnegie Library building.

Miss Mary Hannah Johnson, librarian, began binding the city newspapers in 1901, and several years later the NASHVILLE AMERICAN gave the library a priceless collection of old Nashville newspapers, about 400 bound volumes in all, which formed the nucleus of the present collection. It dates from 1813 and is one of the finest such collections in the nation.

In 1905, Miss Johnson instituted the first children's story hour in the city. Through her efforts, the Tennessee State Library Commission was established. She also organized the Tennessee Library Association and was the first secretary-treasurer and honorary president. Early, she saw the need for branch libraries and mentioned them in her ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1909. She initiated a request to Mr. Carnegie which resulted in his gift of \$50,000 in 1912 for the North Branch and Negro Branch buildings. Under her direction, the bookstock grew from 9,000 in 1901 to 70,000 volumes in 1912.

Miss Johnson's successor, Margaret M. Kercheval, established four branch libraries between 1912-1920. A South Nashville Deposit, which became the South Branch, was opened

October 29, 1914 in the old Montgomery Bell Academy Building in South Park where the Board of Park Commissioners provided a room and a library attendant. Service was continued at this location until 1942, when the building burned and the library collection of some 6,000 volumes was destroyed.

Also in 1914, a room for the blind was opened. Work was begun on the branch buildings made possible by Mr. Carnegie's gift in 1912. North Branch was opened in 1915 and the Negro Branch in 1916.

The branch program as envisioned by Miss Johnson also called for a library in East Nashville. Mr. Carnegie again gave \$25,000 and stipulated that the City of Nashville appropriate \$2,500 annually for the support of the library. The Nashville Railway and Electric Power Company donated the site for the new branch and East Nashville Branch opened for service in 1919.

In 1931, a Business Branch of the Carnegie Library opened in the old Chamber of Commerce Building. This branch served all members of the Chamber of Commerce. The Business Branch was moved to the main library in 1937, having outgrown its original quarters.

In 1934, the Board of Directors voted to change the name from the Carnegie Library of Nashville to the Nashville Public Library. The change was to call attention to the fact that the library is a public, tax-supported organization.

In 1950, the directors of the Nashville Public Library entered into a contract with the Davidson County Court which enabled the library to give free service to Davidson County patrons living outside the City of Nashville.

By 1948, the black population had shifted to such an extent that the Negro Branch was no longer the center of population. Consequently, the property was sold and a new branch constructed in Hadley Park. The new branch, known as the Hadley Park Branch, was opened in April 1952.

The library board through the years had been an independent board and the library was not considered a part of the administrative organization of the City of Nashville. In March 1959, the library became a fully operating department of the city government.

A study of the library system, completed in late 1960, recognized the need for a new main library building to replace the old Carnegie building and additional branches were needed for the suburbs. While the study was being completed, work was underway on the remodeling of a community house in a park in West Nashville. This library opened in October 1961 as the new Richland Park Branch.

In September 1962, the Nashville Public Library opened the first library reading room ever to be established in a municipal airport. Another milestone was reached December 1962 when WPLN (FM), the educational broadcasting service of the

Nashville Public Library, went on the air. This was the second public library in the nation to operate a radio station.

After the city and county combined governments, in 1963, into one government, branches could now be located in the more populated suburban areas without regard to city limits. Soon, the Goodlettsville Library and the Old Hickory Library both came into the library system, officially becoming the Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County.

An exhaustive study was made of the needs of the library system. Recommendation was made to construct a new main library building and in 1966, the new library building was opened.

Three more branches were opened after funds were made available in 1965: Thompson Lane Branch opened in 1965, the Donelson Branch in 1966, and Edgehill Branch in 1967.

Three more new branches were opened in the late 1960's, Goodlettsville Branch in 1968, Green Hills Branch in 1969, and Inglewood Branch in 1969. In rapid succession, several additional branches were opened. The Storefront library in 1972, Bordeaux Branch in 1975, Looby Branch in 1976, Madison Branch in 1977 and Bellevue Branch Library in 1984.

The library is now broadcasting to the blind and visually handicapped, using a subcarrier frequency of the library's radio station WPLN-FM.

The Nashville Public Library provides library service and information for the deaf, and agencies serving the deaf. This is an on-going project serving the hearing impaired statewide. The project utilizes teletypewriters and telephones to convey news of national and local interest. All TTY items are prepared for a fifth-grade reading level.

As new vistas open, the library will be prepared to serve the population of Davidson County, whatever their needs.

The list of Nashville Public Library Directors includes forerunners of all the public libraries in Nashville. They are:

Jevis Cutler	1825-
Joseph S. Carels	1887-1901
Mary Hannah Johnson	1901-1912
Margaret M. Kercheval	1912-1920
G. H. Baskette	1920-1927
Harold F. Brigham	1927-1931
F.K.W. Drury	1931-1946
Robert S. Alvarez	1946-1959
Margaret Benson (Acting)	1959-1960
David Marshall Stewart	1960-1985
Caroline Stark	1985-

TENNESSEE REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE
BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

The Tennessee Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped was established in 1970 to serve the citizens of Tennessee who could not read, hold, or turn the pages of regular print books. Through the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Tennessee Library provides, free of charge, books and magazines recorded on record and cassette, books and magazines transcribed into braille and large print books. Playback equipment (record and cassette player) is also provided free of charge.

Prior to 1970, the blind and handicapped received their talking books from the Cincinnati, Ohio, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. This was funded through the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

The Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, in an unpublished statement points out that when a state has 1,500 or more users of the Talking Book Service, that state should establish a library of its own. Tennessee started planning for this library as early as 1967. Miss Lillias Burns, at that time Consultant in the Public Libraries Section of the State Library and Archives, visited the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and other libraries for the blind and

physically handicapped, gathering ideas on exactly how an operation of this kind should be administered. Money was appropriated by the State Legislature for the program in 1968. Some of the equipment was purchased and Miss Francis Ezell transferred from the Upper Cumberland Regional Library as Miss Burns' assistant. The proposed operation required a building of approximately 20,000 square feet and a building of this size could not readily be acquired.

In 1969, Miss Burns accepted a position with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped as Head of Book Selections. Under the guidance of Elizabeth Cole, Director, Public Libraries Section, and Dr. Wilmon Droze, State Librarian and Archivist, Miss Ezell began hiring staff the latter part of 1969.

A building of 28,000 square feet was found at 5200 Centennial Boulevard. And after much painting and patch work, the building was ready for occupancy and a staff of six moved into the building in February 1970. Trailer trucks loaded with boxes of talking books, braille books, and playback equipment arrived from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Shelves were set up, books unpacked and placed on the shelves, reader files were transferred from the manual system used by Cincinnati to the manual files to be used by Tennessee.

Finally, in April 1970, the first books were mailed out from the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically

Handicapped. In June 1970, the official opening and ribbon cutting was held. Mr. Bob Bray, Chief, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Lillias Burns represented the Library of Congress, along with many dignitaries from the Tennessee State Government.

The library was housed in the quarters on Centennial Boulevard until 1979. At this time, it was moved to 729 Church Street, in an old building formerly occupied by the Gold and Silver Company and Sears Roebuck.

By 1979, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped was supporting a patron base of nearly 5,000. Through an evaluation at that time, and available statistical data, it was estimated that more than 150,000 Tennesseans were eligible for Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped services. The evaluation clearly mandated a need for program expansion. One of the most pressing needs was for the automation of routine functions. The manual systems that were initially developed to handle basic functions of establishing and maintaining routine services had become so paper and labor intensive that little progress was being made.

A seed grant from the Federal Government made it possible for staff from the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Development and Extension Services Section and the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to explore alternatives and study automation developments within the network of NLS libraries. After careful study, the initial

recommendation to automate library functions was further refined to specify the development of a custom program by the State of Tennessee Information Systems Service Division.

With extensive planning and cooperation, programming began in 1980 with the application transfer beginning in January 1982. The first online circulation in the Summer of 1983 signaled the official transition from manual to online. During the conversion, manual and automated systems ran simultaneously to ensure that service to patrons was never interrupted. The system consists of more than 60 programs, batch and online, with 40 plus user screens. On site hardware consists of nine (9) CRT's, four (4) OCR scanners and an addressable Telex printer.

Improved statistical reporting allows Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped staff to assess usage patterns and to make more informed decisions about collection development and training of staff for better collection utilization. A statistics poll in early December 1984 showed 5,526 patrons had books checked out on the system with a total of 37,007 books in circulation on that day.

In 1982, the State Library and Archives, including the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, was transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of State where it is at present.

In 1984, when the lease on the Church Street building expired, space was vacated in the State Library and Archives Building to house the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. It is assumed that this will be the permanent home of the Library.

A new professional staff member, Mary Lou Hart, was employed in the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped on August 1, 1984 as "Coordinator of Automated Services." Currently, the Bible, braille and large print are being put online and the magazine module was activated this past Summer with the NLS merge of magazine files.

At the present time, the staff consists of a Director of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and sixteen (16) support staff.

The goal of the Library is to have every eligible person in Tennessee using the services available.

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