

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

EXHIBITING

THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY

DURING

THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1, 1871.

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WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1871.

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The past year has been marked by a large and gratifying increase in the number of books in the Library of Congress, the additions having been greater than those of any one year in its history, with a single exception. On the first of December, 1870, the aggregate number of volumes, as enumerated for my last annual report, was 197,668, besides about 30,000 pamphlets. On the first of December, 1871, the enumeration shows a total of 236,846 volumes of books, and about 40,000 pamphlets. Of this aggregate, 28,302 volumes belong to the law department of the Library.

The whole number of volumes added during the year was 39,178, besides about 9,000 pamphlets. These accessions were derived from the following sources:

	<i>Books.</i>	<i>Pamphlets.</i>
By purchase .....	8,851	1,860
By copyright. ....	5,640	3,471
By deposit of the Smithsonian Institution.....	1,186	2,924
By presentation.....	366	480
By exchange .....	65	340
By transfer from the Patent Office, (copyright books,).....	23,070	.....
	39,178	9,075
	39,178	9,075

It will be perceived that the largest item of increase is from the removal of copyright books from the Patent Office to this Library, provided for by act of July 8, 1870. These accessions, although consisting largely of school-books and the minor literature of the last forty years, embrace many valuable additions to the store of American books, which it should be one object of a national library to render complete. Among them are the earliest editions of the works of well-known writers, and the number of duplicates of books already in the library, although large, bears a much smaller proportion to the whole number received than was apprehended. Most of the volumes received from this source are already catalogued.

The number of volumes received through the operation of the copyright law has been largely increased during the year. The following is

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a summary of the number and designation of copyright books and other articles received :

Books.....	5,599
Periodicals and pamphlets.....	3,401
Musical compositions.....	5,085
Dramatic compositions.....	70
Photographs.....	769
Prints, engravings, and chromos.....	4,571
Maps and charts.....	331
Total number of articles.....	<u>19,826</u>

The increased efficiency of that provision of the law requiring the deposit in the Library of Congress of copies of every publication secured by copyright, cannot fail to attract attention. The actual number of books deposited (excluding duplicates and periodicals) is over three thousand, while in no former year has the aggregate exceeded two thousand volumes. The accessions from this source may be expected to increase in number as well as in value with the rising development of American literature; and the wisdom of a provision which secures to the Library of the Government a complete representation of the literary product of the country, as it comes from the press, must be apparent to all.

The results of the copyright law, as respects the registration in the office of the Librarian of Congress, will be made the subject of a special report to Congress, covering the calendar year 1871, and that portion of the year 1870 which commenced with July 8, the date of the enactment of the new law of copyright. It may here be stated in brief, that the whole number of copyrights entered during the year ending December 1, 1871, was 12,688; that the amount of fees received for the same period and paid into the Treasury by the undersigned, was \$10,187 15; and that the working of the system by which the record of copyrights and all business connected therewith is transferred to one central office in Washington appears to give uniform satisfaction to the authors and publishers of the country.

The constant and rapid growth of the Library under my charge renders it necessary to call the attention of the committee to the emergency which will soon compel the provision of more room for books. The large additional space provided by the construction of the two wings opened in 1866 was soon nearly filled up by the almost simultaneous acquisition of the Smithsonian Library as a deposit, and the Force Historical Library, by purchase, together with the annually growing accessions of new books by copyright and by purchase. Since the last session, I have had constructed and placed in the galleries about one hundred cases of shelving of light materials, as a necessary though temporary expedient, to accommodate the overflow of books in the alcoves, and to prevent their accumulation upon the floors. More than seven thousand linear feet of

shelves have thus been added, besides opening a room beneath the Library for the storage of duplicates, and the expense of both these improvements has been kept within the appropriation of \$1,000 made for the purpose at the last session. But this provision, though affording temporary relief, is totally inadequate to accommodate even two years' growth of the Library, and the question recurs, where are we to look for more room? The old hall of the House of Representatives has been suggested, and it would be feasible to line the walls of that considerable space with alcoves, without encroaching upon the use of the hall as a thoroughfare, and a gallery for statuary. But the utmost gain of shelf-room from this source would, at most, accommodate only from three to five years' growth of this great collection, at the end of which time we should be confronted by the same problem, besides the disadvantage of breaking up the library into supplementary divisions, more or less remote from the central hall. There is now no suitable space for the transaction of the heavy copyright business of the Library, and the records of copyright of the whole United States, numbering several hundred volumes in folio, are stored in a remote room in the basement of the Capitol, at much inconvenience and loss of time for reference. The large and often complicated business involved in the receipt of masses of books from all quarters, the heavy receipts of copyright books, periodicals, and other articles by the daily mails, and the preparation for the bindery and receipt from it in return of thousands of volumes; all these operations constantly going on are, from necessity, huddled into a narrow space in that part of the Library which should be kept clear for the public. The want of a reading-room for periodicals has also long been felt by Congress, but there is no space in the Library nor in the Capitol where so much as a tithe of the numerous and important journals, magazines, and reviews which are received could be arranged for ready use and reference.

These facts, with the added reflection that this Library, now closely approaching a quarter of a million of volumes, will, in twenty years, exceed half a million, and must in time become one of the largest collections of books in the world, suggest the expediency of a separate building, designed expressly for its accommodation and for the copyright business of the country. Should this be determined upon, it would still be expedient to retain in the central hall of the existing Library a sufficiently complete collection of books for a library of reference, to include copies of all the leading writers in science and literature, as well as a full library of jurisprudence. The halls of the two wings might be appropriated as reading-rooms for periodicals, for the use of Congress, and the alcoves and galleries, with their spacious fire-proof and numbered shelving, would serve admirably for the orderly arrangement of the archives of the Senate and House of Representatives, now so inadequately provided for. That the entire Capitol building will, at no distant day, be required for legislative purposes, is apparent.

If, however, it should not now be deemed expedient to build a separate edifice for the Library, there is an alternative which would retain the whole collection in the Capitol, while making provision for its increase, for at least a quarter of a century to come. This could be accomplished by extending the west front of the building, the entire central projection of which is now occupied by the Library, from sixty to one hundred feet. This would afford space for library accommodation at least equal to that afforded by the present halls, while large rooms could be constructed underneath the extensions for the rapidly-accumulating copyright archives and material, the necessity of some provision for which is imperative. A spacious reading-room for periodicals might also be secured, while the western front of the Capitol, so conspicuous from the most thickly-settled portion of the city, might be made to assume for the first time an architectural appearance worthy of so noble a structure. The whole subject is commended to the early attention of the committee.

A deficiency of warmth, which has been experienced in the Library ever since the heating arrangements designed for its benefit have been utilized for warming other rooms and passages in the building, demands speedy remedy. It is recommended that additional radiators be placed immediately below the windows, near which much of the work of the Library is necessarily performed, and that an appropriation of two thousand dollars be asked for that purpose.

The unexpended balances of funds under charge of the Joint Committee on the Library are as follows, including undrawn balances in the Treasury, as well as those in the hands of the disbursing agent:

Fund for increase of Library.....	\$7,047 60
Fund for contingent expenses of Library.....	1,445 18
Fund for expenses of exchanging public documents.....	154 91
Fund for cases, stairway, &c., in Library.....	7 14
Fund for ornamenting the Capitol with works of art.....	3,292 01
Fund for portraits of the Presidents of the United States.....	1,950 00
Fund for a naval picture by W. H. Powell.....	500 00
Fund for salaries, &c., in Botanic Garden.....	8,327 08
Fund for improving Botanic Garden and greenhouses.....	5,542 70

The work of preparing for the press the new general catalogue of the Library, arranged by authors' names, still goes forward, but less progress has been made with it than was hoped, owing to the necessity of employing so large a share of the Library force upon the unusually heavy additions of the year, which it was deemed more important to catalogue at once than to proceed to print another catalogue of the older portion of the Library. The annual catalogue of additions for the year 1870 was completed last April, and is now distributed to members. In consequence of the change in the copyright law, and the fact that all accessions from that source are now accounted for by the calendar year, it is deemed expedient to go to press with the annual catalogue on the first of January hereafter, instead of December 1st, as heretofore, thus em-

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bracing in each annual supplement the books added during the entire year, from January to December, inclusive.

A. R. SPOFFORD,  
*Librarian.*

Hon. L. M. MORRILL,  
*Chairman of Joint Committee on the Library.*

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