

STATE LIBRARY OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

FISCAL YEAR 1997

JULY 1996 – JUNE 1997

Annual Report of the Board of Trustees

To the Governor and to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled:

The Trustees of the State Library make this their eighty-seventh annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, under provisions of Chapter 5, Section 37 of the General Laws (Tercentenary Edition).

Trustees of the State Library
July 1, 1996-June 30, 1997

By Virtue of State Office Held:

Thomas F. Birmingham
President of the Senate
Designee: Robert Cawley

Thomas M. Finneran
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Designee: Representative Marie J. Parente

Appointed by the Governor:	Date of Appointment
Frances Burke 2 Hubbard Street, Canton, MA 02021	January 14, 1982
Andrea Gordon 163 Gun Hill Street, Milton, MA 02186	June 1, 1991
Robert H. McClain, Jr. 9 Walnut Street, Boston, MA 02180	May 3, 1988

DRAFT

Annual Report of the State Librarian

This year has been a time of transition for the State Library. On January 4, 1997, State Librarian Gasper "Gus" Caso retired. He had worked at the Library since 1957 and had been State Librarian since 1982. During his tenure, many changes took place in the ways libraries operate. Technological advances were implemented in great numbers at the State Library, materials were acquired in a wide variety of formats, and change was everywhere. Through all of the years, however, Gus always focussed on the most important aspects of a library, its staff and its users. The Board of Trustees, the Library staff and his many friends in state government wish him well in his retirement.

On February 26, 1997, Stephen A. Fulchino became the new State Librarian. A graduate of Bowdoin College with a master's degree in library science from the University of Chicago, Mr. Fulchino was the Director of the Swampscott Public Library before coming to the State Library.

Several other personnel changes took place this year. Mary Micarelli, a technician in the Special Collections Department, retired in January, 1997. Margaret Critch, a cataloger, resigned in December 1996 to accept a position at the O'Neill Library at Boston College. Jennifer Varney was hired as a technician in the Serials Department in April 1997, and Mary Bicknell was hired full-time in June 1997 as a librarian and archivist in the Special Collections Department. Jennifer Bradley started working in May 1997 as a cataloger in the Technical Services Department. The Library's Board of Trustees also lost a member, as Andrea Gordon, appointed to the Board in June 1991, resigned in June 1997. A librarian herself, Ms. Gordon's experience in the field was always helpful to the Board in their discussions of library policies and operations.

Several administrative changes occurred during this fiscal year. With the passage of the FY1997 budget, the Library found itself combined with the Purchasing Department and the Bureau of State Office Buildings in a newly formed agency, the Operational Services Division. Since the three agencies had little in common, and since statutes governing the operation of the Library remained unchanged, the situation among the three departments was somewhat anomalous. The budget for fiscal year 1998 reverses this situation and makes the State Library and the Bureau of State Office Buildings into separate agencies again.

Another change which affected the Library was the creation within the Executive Office for Administration and Finance of the Central Business Office. Created to help smaller A & F agencies in administrative matters such as purchasing, personnel and computer systems, the CBO staff brings a level of focussed expertise to these matters that a small agency such as the Library could never achieve on its own. In a change in the way libraries in Massachusetts are grouped together, the State Library became part of the newly-created Boston Regional Library system. The new regional system, made up of public, school, academic and special libraries, will expand certain services to all members

of each region. It will give better interlibrary loan and a back-up reference service for its members. It will also provide access to various specialized databases and give the member libraries increased power in their negotiations with library vendors.

Technological innovations continued throughout the Library. The cards were pulled from the card catalog for those items now accessible through the on-line catalog and several of the card catalog units were removed from the main reading room. Circulation of library materials began using the module available from C/W MARS; a new user database was created and new library cards were issued to all holders. New ways of providing interlibrary loan service were explored; some member libraries of the Boston Library Consortium are now scanning materials and sending them to other libraries digitally. The State Library hopes to be able to do this soon. A CD network was installed, better workstations were purchased, and new telecommunications protocols were put in place. Planning began for mounting a web page for the State Library itself; all of the departments within the Library are thinking about what types of information to present to remote users and how best to convey that information.

Several projects completed by the Cataloging Department made more of the Library's unique collection accessible. The early regulations of Massachusetts state agencies were recataloged, and work started on adding records for the city and town document collection to the on-line catalog. Tapes for records of federal documents received by the Library were also added to the catalog, giving much better access to that part of the collection. Members of the Reference Department produced a flowchart of the state budget process and updated the handout on tracing a Massachusetts law.

Access to the Internet was improved this year, and its provision made the Library a popular place with users. Through a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Library's on-line catalog provider, C/W MARS, was able to improve the type of Internet access it offers to its member libraries. Public workstations in Reference and Special Collections were upgraded so that true graphical access would be available for Internet users. During National Library Week, an "Internet Open House" was held to encourage use of this resource. Key sites were selected by reference staff members and were demonstrated throughout the week. C/W MARS also offers a more user-friendly interface to its on-line catalog. Called Everybody's Catalog, it provides easy searching across many different access points. Electronic information in the form of specialized and commercial databases also opened new access points for staff and patrons. The State House News Service files for the legislative sessions of 1995-1996 and 1997-1998 were made available electronically and other databases were added either by subscription or through the Library's membership in various consortia and networks. As the push for electronic publishing of many materials, especially those issued by the federal government, continues, concern is growing about guaranteeing long-term access to these resources. The Library is also beginning to examine the issue of collecting and maintaining access to the growing number of state documents which appear only on the state's website. Maps compiled on demand from GIS data are also part of this problem; a way will need to be found to integrate this type of production into the traditional paper map collection.

The Library received legislative papers from Representatives Barbara Gray, Sally Kerans, Paul Kollios and Edward Teague at the end of the 1996 legislative session. Materials documenting the political career of Robert Hahn were received from his family after his death. Mr. Hahn had served in the Legislature from 1960 to 1965, was chair of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee, and held other civic and political positions. Items were added to the collection of former Senator Arthur Chase and to the papers of the Doric Dames. The Library also started receiving videotapes of the Senate sessions in November, 1996. Since we already receive videotapes of the House sessions, this now provides complete coverage of the formal legislative sessions for each year. A unique collection of documents was received from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; the documents were submitted as part of the testimony at hearings concerning proposed regulations to disclose ingredients in cigarettes and other tobacco products.

De-selection was also part of the Library's activities this year. In the federal documents collection, a project began to weed pre-1990 reports of the General Accounting Office. Outdated law serials were reviewed and replaced with new titles or editions. A project continued in the social science collection, with titles in transportation and public utilities being reviewed.

The physical plant of the Library continued to cause problems throughout the year. All of the internal elevators in the Library were closed down due to various violations which prevented them from passing their state inspections. This caused considerable inconvenience for staff and users both. As part of its ongoing effort to improve environmental conditions for materials housed in its vault, the Library hired a consultant to evaluate the situation there and to produce a report and recommendations. The vault was inspected, its usage and problems discussed, and the performance of its environmental control systems tested. It is hoped that the report resulting from this survey will serve as a springboard for obtaining funding to address the problems in this area. On a more positive note, several flat plan files were purchased for the Special Collections Department, giving adequate room for the first time to store properly the department's many oversized maps, plans and photographs.

This year's winner of the Performance Recognition Award was Tina Vegelante. Responsible for the interlibrary loan and circulation functions of the Library, as well as serving at the Reference Desk, Ms. Vegelante was honored at a ceremony in October.

The Director and members of the Library staff continued to be active in various committees in Boston and statewide. The Special Collections Librarian served as Chair of the Statewide Committee on Preservation and Access and continued as a member of the Committee for a New England Bibliography. Staff members attended meetings of the Massachusetts Geographic Information Council, the Boston Map Society, and various Boston Library Consortium committees. Mary Bicknell spoke at the fall orientation session of the Doric Dames. Naomi Allen of the Reference Department served as President of BOGGL, the Boston Organization of Government Librarians, and Mary Ann

Neary, the Head of Reference Services, was elected Vice President of the Association of Boston Law Librarians for 1997-1998.

Library materials were used in a wide variety of ways. Several books and maps on Massachusetts geology were included in an exhibit at the Commonwealth Museum entitled, "Granite: Enduring Legacy of Massachusetts." The Special Collections Department worked closely with the House Historian to provide images of State House plans, copies of which will hang in two large hearing rooms in the building. The Library itself began a series of displays this year in its own exhibit cases. The first display focussed on events in 1897 in the State House, the Legislature, the city of Boston and the world beyond. Among the happenings featured were the opening of the Brigham extension of the State House, the construction of the Boston subway system, the visit of President William McKinley to Boston, the Klondike gold rush, and the appearance of "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" in the *New York Sun*. Preparations began for the celebration of the bicentennial of the Bulfinch State House in January 1998. The Library's extensive collection of pictures, pamphlets and memorabilia concerning the State House began to be used a great deal in anticipation of this event.

In the next fiscal year, we look forward to introducing more users to the Library's resources through the development of a web page and the addition of more records to our catalog. We anticipate the further use of technology to enhance our mission of access to and preservation of the unique and varied collections which the Library holds.

Statistical Report

Use Statistics

Number of library users	26,004
Number of materials used	21,036
Number of materials circulated	2,115

Interlibrary loan

Materials loaned by State Library	925
Materials borrowed by State Library	130

Technical Services/Cataloging

Number of items cataloged	2,233
Number of serial titles purchased	1,410
Number of serial titles received but not purchased	518
Total number of serial titles received	1,928

Library Collections

Volumes added during year	2,233
Volumes withdrawn during year	117
Total of increase to collection	2,116
Number of monographs purchased	2,064
Number of federal documents received	14,131
Number of state documents received	2,666

Conservation of Library Materials

Number of items receiving in-house treatment	1,033
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Total number of materials in Library as of June 30, 1997 (All formats)	835,926
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