

the reduction in circulation which we have experienced: (1) restrictions on travel especially important in the case of Annapolis which is fairly difficult to reach under the best of circumstances, (2) amateur genealogists and historians have found other activities directly related to the war effort especially in civil defense and Red Cross organizations which restrict the time for research, (3) academic historians and students of history who are preponderantly young and male have been called into the various armed services at an ever accelerating rate. On the other hand, there has been a slight increase in postal inquiries and a large increase in the use of records by other state offices either in person or by telephone. We must look forward during the next year to further decreases in visitors and perhaps a growing volume of inquiries by mail and telephone.

Total number of visitors exclusive of tourists and of governmental officers who consult the records of their own departments.....	726
Total number of visitors for 1940-1941.....	994
Total circulation of materials	3,751
Total circulation of materials for 1940-1941.....	5,137

Of the total decrease in circulation over one-third was in the recorded Wills, indicating that genealogy is to be accounted the heaviest loser because of war conditions.

The total number of postal inquiries concerning Maryland records or history was 657 this year as compared with 516 for the previous year.

In addition to the extraordinary reasons for a decline in circulation of the records themselves, it should be noted here that the tremendous increase in our index cards has made it possible for many researchers to abandon the use of records altogether. No record can be made of visitors who confine their research to the Index Room.

The geographical distribution of researchers who have come to the Hall of Records indicates again the difficulties of travel, only twenty-three states were represented this year as compared with forty-three the previous year. In addition, there were visitors from Canada and Czecho-Slovakia.