

The number of visitors, however, is not nearly so accurate a measure of our work as the number of items circulated. This figure increased from 10,698 to 12,045. A visitor may or may not take any of the time of an attendant, a document circulated certainly does. There was also a modest increase in the number of written queries answered from 1,317 to 1,467.

The kinds of records used fall into two classes. The use of materials primarily of genealogical interest, probate and land records, remains fairly constant from year to year; the use of other materials may vary widely; for example, a student of seals who appeared here last year caused the circulation of original wills to soar; an author who is preparing the biography of a Maryland governor could not come so often last year as before and so the circulation of executive papers dropped.

A curious observation: when the Land Office moved in September 1958, it left behind the Abstracts of Deeds which occupy the whole first deck of the stacks. During the course of the eleven months following, the records were called for less than a dozen times and they were used about that many times again by the members of our staff. It should be noted though that the Land Office did remove the abstract volumes for St. Mary's and Calvert Counties, covering the periods when the original records of these counties do not exist.

There were approximately 150 requests for information received by telephone which required some search of our records. A large number of these requests came from other agencies of government.

RECORDS MOST FREQUENTLY CIRCULATED

<i>Record Series</i>	<i>Times Circulated</i>		
	<i>1958-59</i>	<i>1957-58</i>	<i>1956-57</i>
Wills	1167	1220	1106
Accounts	672	768	640
Baltimore County Land Records	623	587	574
Testamentary Proceedings	602	756	640
Anne Arundel County Land Records	575	584	455
Church Records	522	355	313
Wills, Original	428	48	82
Charles County Land Records	424	242	236
Inventories	366	376	335
Charles County Wills	292	251	186
Prince George's County Land Records	257	171	206
Baltimore County Wills	213	237	224
Cecil County Land Records	206	100	24
Inventories and Accounts	186	216	218
Frederick County Land Records	158	144	250
Dorchester County Land Records	127	116	85
Anne Arundel County Wills	121	91	97
Provincial Court Judgments	121	117	159