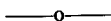


general supervision over the Library and appoints the Director and other employees; except the State Librarian, who is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate to serve for the term of the Governor.

The Library consists of a legal section of approximately seventy thousand (70,000) volumes, and a reference section of approximately fifty thousand (50,000) volumes. The reference section contains many rare books, maps and documents, including the subscription edition of the four elephant folio volumes of Audubon's *Birds of America*, and the most complete file now in existence of the early issues (1745-1838) of the *Maryland Gazette*, bound volumes and microfilm copies of the *Baltimore Sunpapers* from 1837 to date, as well as other early newspapers and periodicals. In addition, the Library possesses an almost complete set of the United States Documents, serial number series, dating back to the Continental Congress.

The Law Library, which contains all State, Federal and many foreign court reports, session laws, codes, legal texts, compendiums, legal periodicals and other legal reference material, is an essential and integral part of the operation of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, and furnishes legal, reference and research material and facilities to the Court, Judges, Lawyers, State Departments and officials, and the general public. The Library is designated as a U. S. Depository Library. All State officials and agencies are required by law to place one copy of all of their reports and other publications in the Library. The Library is the distributing agency for the session laws, journals, Maryland reports and the annotated code of Maryland.

	1955	1956
Appropriations		
General Fund		
Operation of Library	\$28,772	\$28,214
Md. Reports & Code Supp.....	7,875	9,450
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Total	\$36,647	\$37,664
Staff: 4.		



COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE

Harry L. Harcum, Commissioner, 1959
Malcolm W. Waring, Administrative Assistant

Hall of Records, Annapolis Telephone: Colonial 3-3451

The Commissioner of the Land Office is appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, to hold office during the term of the Governor (Const. 1867, Art. VII, sec. 14). The Land Office keeps records pertaining to boundaries of land, including records of all warrants, certificates and patents for land from the settlement of the Province of Maryland in 1634, or abstracts of deeds from 1786 to the June 1, 1949, and abstracts of mortgages and releases from 1900 to June 1, 1949. Every clerk, after he records any deed, mortgage, release of mortgage or lease of real estate must make or have made a 35 mm. microfilm copy of every such record and transmit it to the Commissioner of the Land Office at the end of each year. The Commissioner hears and determines all disputes which may arise concerning the validity of surveys. The Land Office is now engaged in making, filing, and recording plats for current subdivisions of land; copies of such plats are sent to the Supervisors of Assessment upon