

The following new equipment was added: a Griswold 35 mm. film splicer, a stainless steel print washer, a Recordak enlarger, a Recordak Film File cabinet, and a work table. Several presses no longer needed in the repair room are now in use in the photostat room for repair work for the Land Office as well as for pressing photostat prints.

AIDS TO RESEARCH

When County records are transferred to the Hall of Records they must be made available as soon as possible since there are usually many research projects in progress which should not be interrupted any longer than necessary. Often, however, local custodians insist on retaining indexes, if there are any, and if there are no indexes at all, the problem at the Hall of Records becomes serious since we do not permit researchers in the stacks and they are therefore very much more inconvenienced than they were in the local depositories where they had ready access to all the records. The Hall of Records finds it necessary, therefore, to concentrate as much as possible on finding media for new county material, sometimes to the neglect of other materials which are badly in need of it. During the last two fiscal years we have resorted to all sorts of measures in order to hasten this type of work, photostating current indexes, copying or rehabilitating discarded ones, making new indexes where none had existed before.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY TESTAMENTARY PAPERS. Original papers of the Orphans' Court, 1778-1820. Indexed by the name of the decedent except in the case of Guardian papers where the name of the ward is used. 13,000 cards.

BALTIMORE COUNTY DEEDS. Index retained at Baltimore City Courthouse; during the fiscal year 1939-1940 a dilapidated outmoded index which covered the record through 1798 was copied through the letter "W". During the last fiscal year this copy was completed and a new index from 1798 through 1800 was made in order to cover the whole period of the records at the Hall of Records. 200 pages.