

there were 726. For the first year since the opening of the Hall of Records there was not a single visitor from a foreign country and only twenty-two states were represented. There is little doubt that this narrowing of the hinterland of the Hall of Records may be attributed for the most part to the difficulties of travel.

The table below listing the records most in demand during the past year is self-explanatory. However, several items calls for comment. It will be seen that almost the total circulation to searchers who visited the research room may be described as genealogical rather than historical, although to be sure, there is no fast and sure line of demarcation between the categories of records or between the two disciplines. This is another indication that the study of history, at least of academic history, has been adjourned for the war while genealogy, since it is practiced for the most part by persons not subject to military call, is rapidly recovering from the depression caused by the first impact of Pearl Harbor and the enormous civilian mobilization of the first years of war.

The more than normal increase in the use of the Testamentary Proceedings reflects the increased availability of this series due to the filing last year of the card index to all names in the record. The use of the Gist Papers must be attributed to the publication of the Catalogue, and the "Black Books" were used while the other divisions of the "Rainbow Series" were neglected because of the appearance last year of the Calendar to the "Black Books." The Deed records of Somerset and Frederick Counties were more frequently used than before, but since these series are being brought to the Hall of Records piecemeal and not in chronological sequence, we shall have to wait for another year in order to determine how much sought after they really are.

	1943-44	1942-43
Wills	700	372
Testamentary Proceedings	504	143
Accounts	462	261
Deeds, Baltimore County.....	301	195
Inventories	279	155
Inventories and Accounts.....	216	131
Deeds, Anne Arundel County.....	195	120
Deeds, Prince George's County.....	127	60
Judgments, Provincial Court.....	66	44
Testamentary Papers, Anne Arundel County.....	58	43
Wills, Original	58	23
Wills, Anne Arundel County.....	57	21
Balance Books	47	39