

of the war on research, showed a precipitate drop to 3,751 items. This was followed by the low point of 1942-1943 when the number was 2,051; but that year consisted of only nine months as the State moved the beginning of its fiscal year from October 1 to July 1. The next two years yielded totals of 3,515 and 3,530.

The present year, which started after the German surrender in Europe and witnessed, after only two months, the end of the conflict in the East, also brought with it the relaxation of restrictions on travel by public conveyance and the lifting of gasoline rationing. It also restored some of the leisure for intellectual pursuits which the war had suppressed. Toward the end of the period, demobilization had reached the point where a few graduate students in Universities were beginning to make inquiries. It is hoped that the young men who once made Maryland a source of study will again find interest in it. Their work will be facilitated by the concentration and servicing of records which have gone on at the Hall of Records during the period when time could be spared from the chores of circulating records. In any case, the circulation for 1945-1946 jumped to 5,959 items, almost twice that of any of the last four years and over 15 per cent greater than the previous high year.

The number of visitors also increased, from 748 to 1,045. Due to the fact that during the early years of the Hall of Records everyone who entered the building was asked to register and then counted, whereas now only those persons who actually use our records are considered, we shall never approach again the very large figures for visitors which will be found in the earlier reports of the Archivist. Our visitors this year came from twenty-seven states, the District of Columbia and Canada. They used almost all of our record series. The table which follows lists those series most often called for:

	1945-46	1944-45	1943-44
Wills.....	1,052	601	700
Accounts.....	883	409	462
Testamentary Proceedings.....	692	434	504
Inventories.....	503	256	301
Deeds, Frederick County.....	464	68	13
Deeds, Baltimore County.....	382	230	301
Inventories & Accounts.....	264	118	216
Deeds, Anne Arundel County.....	222	197	195
Deeds, Prince George's County.....	218	132	127
Court Records, Charles County.....	185	1	..
Judgments, Provincial Court.....	124	79	66