

	1945-46	1944-45	1943-44
Balance Books	91	60	47
Deeds, Charles County	83	6	..
Deeds, Somerset County	81	7	17
Wills, Original	78	46	58
Wills, Charles County	75	80	38
Court Records, Prince George's County	71	20	7
Testamentary Papers, Anne Arundel County ..	62	155	58
Wills, Original, Anne Arundel County	57	35	30
Laws, Recorded	50	2	..
Wills, Anne Arundel County	43	38	57
Revolutionary Papers	33	17	11
Court Records, Baltimore County	26	16	10
Comptroller's Records	22
Accounts, Frederick County	20	15	4
Total circulation for 1945-46		5,959	
Total circulation for 1944-45		3,530	
Total circulation for 1943-44		3,515	

The number of items circulated in the public Search room is not an altogether accurate gauge of the time which the staff must devote to this purpose. A scholarly, indoctrinated researcher may use ten times as many records but require only a tenth of the time which must be devoted to a novice, inept at using indexes and incapable of reading seventeenth-century clerkly handwriting. It is easier to know how much more time was devoted to responding to postal inquiries when they have increased in numbers, for in that case the researcher is always a member of the Hall of Records staff and skilled in the research techniques which our records demand. It is, therefore, important to note that inquiries to the number of 814 were answered by mail during the year. This number, again, is the largest in our history and compares with 711 for the previous year which had in its turn been our busiest. It should be noted that only those letters are counted in this group which require reference to our records, to printed materials in our possession, or to lists of materials and analyses of records which are to be found in other depositories and to which the researcher may be referred. These inquiries came from forty-two states, the District of Columbia, Ireland, Canada, Postmaster New York, and Fleet Postoffice San Francisco.