

furnished to correspondents in forty-five states, the District of Columbia, and six foreign countries. Of the total number of letters sent, 1,007, a little over one-half had to do with genealogical matters; the rest were devoted to historical, legal, and archival subjects. Eighty letters were addressed to Maryland governmental agencies in reply to inquiries dealing with the care of records. During the course of the year, governmental agencies, both state and local, began to ask many of their questions over the telephone. In the past no account has been kept of this form of circulation, but in the fiscal year 1948 such a record will be kept and the results given to you in the annual report for that year.

The total number of letters written in response to inquiries having to do with the records in our custody is given below for the last three years:

Fiscal Year 1945	711
Fiscal Year 1946	814
Fiscal Year 1947	1,007

AIDS TO RESEARCH

In spite of the handicaps imposed by the inexperience of those members of our staff who are normally engaged in indexing, very good progress was made in this work. We were fortunate, too, in acquiring from the Legislative Reference department the handwritten first cards of an index to Maryland Laws for a period of over one hundred years. Finally, we were able to add to our growing collection of County Deed Indexes those of Dorchester and Queen Anne's Counties by photostating the originals. We are especially grateful to the Judges and Clerks of Court of these Eastern Shore Counties for their kindness in permitting the removal of these much-used indexes from the vaults of the several courthouses.

In my last annual report to you I recorded as complete the fourth and fifth publications of the Hall of Records Commission. Unfortunately, I did not anticipate the delays in printing which