

visitors was noted in my last annual report, thus reversing a trend of increases year after year excepting only the war years. There are several possible causes which suggest themselves. The entire past fiscal year was again a war year in spite of the lack of a formal declaration; and again young men who might have begun their graduate work in history and government are being called to service in the armed forces and in the expanded war-time civilian agencies in Washington.

From time to time, we learn from correspondents of their use of our more important series which we have deposited in microfilm copy at the Library of Congress, the Huntington Library, the Utah Genealogical Society and the British Museum. We cannot, of course, guess what the circulation of these films is, but it must be increasing from year to year as their presence becomes known. It is also worth noting that within the past few years many genealogical studies of Maryland families have found their way into print thus saving descendants of these families from pursuing independent searches. Finally, as the years go by, more and more documented family lines are filed in the libraries of the various patriotic societies so that instead of tracing a whole family line, new candidates for membership need only prove a connection with an established line. Perhaps the time is not far off when our genealogical materials will become increasingly less conspicuous in the tally of documents circulated.

The number of visitors for the last three fiscal years is as follows:

Fiscal year 1949	1,308
Fiscal year 1950	1,143
Fiscal year 1951	1,050

The circulation of documents continued at a very high level although a slight decrease from the previous year is to be noted. Among the materials circulated during the year and included in the figures given here below were 551 reels of microfilm, a slight increase over the previous year and a large increase over any other year.

Documents Circulated Fiscal Year 1949.....	6,733
Documents Circulated Fiscal Year 1950.....	7,244
Documents Circulated Fiscal Year 1951.....	6,961

Although we maintain an exact record of all materials requested, we do not feel that it is worthwhile for this report to list the names of the