

Of this total there were 807 reels of microfilm as compared with 616 reels for the previous year. While we are, of course, pleased to see this continuing growth in circulation, we are also aware of the fact that more and more of the time of our staff is required for this kind of work and, consequently, less time is available for the preparation of finding aids and research. Microfilm is especially time-consuming because there are very few searchers who are able to use the readers unassisted.

When the Hall of Records opened in October 1935, it had in its vaults the old court records of which the Court of Appeals had been custodian. Shortly thereafter, the records of the Prerogative Court, the colonial probate court, were transferred from the Land Office, and by 1939, when the present Archivist took office, parts of the historic records of Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties had been added. How much our collection has grown since that time will be indicated by the variety of records listed here below. This list includes those series which have been called for twenty times or more — it did not seem practical to list those which had been used less frequently.

<i>Record Series</i>	<i>Times Circulated</i>		
	1952-1953	1951-1952	1950-1951
Wills .....	1139	1059	923
Testamentary Proceedings .....	855	899	812
Accounts .....	821	713	781
Inventories .....	455	377	412
Baltimore County Land Records .....	421	304	200
Inventories and Accounts .....	286	236	213
Anne Arundel County Land Records .....	267	208	147
Prince George's County Land Records .....	225	210	143
Charles County Land Records .....	215	103	155
Frederick County Land Records .....	175	95	151
Provincial Court Judgments .....	143	157	153
Charles County Wills .....	133	81	165
Anne Arundel County Wills, Original .....	132	47	73
Testamentary Papers .....	117	101	96
Anne Arundel County Testamentary Papers .....	113	65	126
Somerset County Land Records .....	103	97	163
Balance Books .....	96	107	95
Talbot County Land Records .....	89	70	7
Anne Arundel County Wills .....	79	47	73
Dorchester County Land Records .....	79	95	147
Prince George's County Wills, Original .....	78	55	31
Wills, Original .....	76	54	53