

CIRCULATION

The figures on the number of searchers coming to the Hall of Records in person during the year showed a slight decline from 1954, as the following table indicates:

Fiscal year 1953	1,133
Fiscal year 1954	1,404
Fiscal year 1955	1,354

These figures do not include seventy schoolchildren and thirty-nine archival students.

Similarly, the circulation loss apparent in a tabular comparison of three fiscal years is slight. The totals are as follows:

Fiscal year 1953	8,225
Fiscal year 1954	8,433
Fiscal year 1955	8,006

Counted in the totals mentioned are 1,211 reels of microfilm, indicating both an increase in microfilm holdings at the Hall of Records and the growing acceptance by patrons of the use of microreaders over the years. Perhaps comparisons here are useful:

Reels circulated in 1953	807
Reels circulated in 1954	849
Reels circulated in 1955	1,211

Originally, account was kept of relative circulation so that the most popular records might be arranged in the stacks on shelves most easily accessible to the Research Room. Thus, the list of books used twenty or more times a year was evolved. A glance at the list below indicates little change in the use of basic probate material—wills, accounts, and testamentary proceedings—but a rapidly growing awareness of the value of other types of records, some of which had not been readily available in previous years, either in the counties or on microfilm at the Hall of Records.