

CIRCULATION

The number of searchers coming to the Hall of Records remained fairly constant as the figures for the last three fiscal years show:

1953-1954	1,404
1954-1955	1,354
1955-1956	1,360

These figures do not include school children accompanied by their teachers, nor the hundreds of unregistered tourists who visit our exhibits but do not use any of our records.

In spite of the increase in the number of searchers, the year showed a net decrease in the number of items circulated:

1953-1954	8,433
1954-1955	8,006
1955-1956	7,726

These totals include 852 reels of microfilm, a loss from last year of 359 reels. It is difficult to know why there was a decrease in the use of microfilm, composed mainly of land and probate records after 1850, while the use of records of the earlier period increased.

Many searchers, too far distant to come in person, must rely on correspondence with the Hall of Records staff. In 1956, North and South Dakota and Rhode Island were the only states from which we received no queries. Inquiries were received from Great Britain, Canada and Japan. The total of correspondence increased by about ten per cent in the year.

1953-1954	1,318
1954-1955	1,287
1955-1956	1,451