

CIRCULATION

The number of searchers and the quantity of material circulated increased during the year, as did the use of microfilm and the number of letters of inquiry. The tables below, covering three fiscal years, show the exact amount of the increase which has been especially striking in the case of items circulated at the Hall of Records.

Number of Searchers		
1954-1955	.....	1,354
1955-1956	.....	1,360
1956-1957	.....	1,502

Items Circulated		
1954-1955	.....	8,006
1955-1956	.....	7,726
1956-1957	.....	9,714

Microfilm is always included in the total of records circulated. However, since its use demands much more time on the part of our Search Room staff, a break-down is instructive.

Reels Circulated		
1954-1955	.....	1,211
1955-1956	.....	852
1956-1957	.....	926

Queries came by mail from every state except Maine, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Vermont. There were also letters from abroad.

Letters Answered		
1954-1955	.....	1,318
1955-1956	.....	1,287
1956-1957	.....	1,482

As in past years, a list has been kept of records used twenty or more times. The increased use of church records is clear, 313 as against 139. *Baltimore County Accounts*, little used in 1955-1956, *Somerset County Judgments*, *Caroline County Land Records*, and *Frederick County Judgments* all have been in more frequent demand recently. A few records, such as the *Baltimore City Tax Books*, were not previously available but have been asked for frequently in the past fiscal year.

The use of our records by the public is, of course, only a part of their total use: it would be impractical to list the records consulted by our staff in answering queries and in our daily work.