

The microfilm security program for the land records has been improved and simplified by legislation eliminating the marginal notation of mortgage releases. The legislation codifies for statewide application the procedures used in those counties recording only on microfilm.

Under the former abstract system, all short-form mortgage releases were abstracted by the Clerk and forwarded to the Hall of Records annually. This system was particularly troublesome — we were not sure that our files were complete because the mortgages are not released in order, and there was always the possibility of clerical error entering the system. A courthouse disaster would have made it very difficult for us to relate the abstracts to the original mortgages.

In the current system, the short release is recorded as a separate instrument in the current recordings with a rider identifying the released mortgage. The new procedure requires one additional step in title searching in those counties continuing to record in books, but data processing indexes are now used in practically all counties, and the index entries can be arranged in various ways to speed up title examination. The General Index entry now provides access to both the original mortgage and to the release, and the security microfilm is arranged numerically.

### RECORDS MANAGEMENT STATISTICS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1970

Records Retention Schedules established or revised for State Agencies .....	42
Records Retention Schedules established for County, Bi-County, and Municipal Agencies .....	3
Total number of records series controlled by the above schedules .....	386
Records transferred to Record Center (cubic feet) ..	6,462
Requests for records or information from records in the Record Center .....	3,925
Records destroyed (cubic feet) .....	14,451