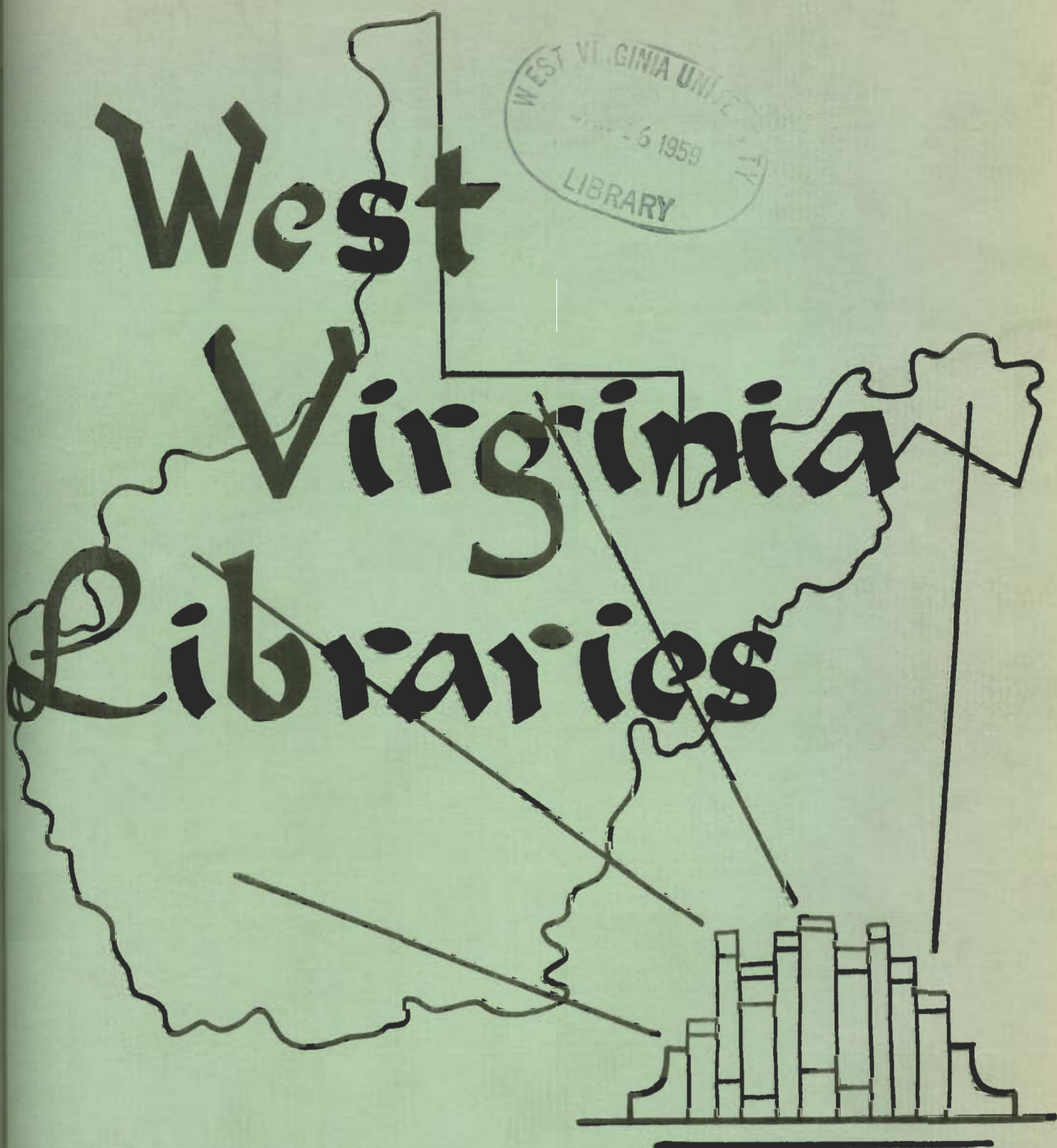


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# West Virginia Libraries

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY  
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LIBRARY



# WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

VOLUME 11 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY DECEMBER  
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER THE LIBRARY SERVICES ACT  
AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE 1959-60 FISCAL YEAR

BY

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West Virginia Library Commission

The 84th Congress, in the closing days of the session, passed the epoch making Library Services Act, Public Law, 597, which provides for "the extension of public library service to rural areas without such service or with inadequate service." As is the usual case with all federal laws, Regulations were set up which appeared in the Federal Register, (December 6, 1956), and Amendments to the Regulations were in Ibid., v.22, No. 45 (March 7, 1957), p. 1433 and Ibid., v.22, No. 75 (April 18, 1957), p. 2711. Copies of the Law and the Regulations are available from your Congressman or may be examined in public, college, and university libraries which include such materials in their collections.

The funds received as a result of the passage of the act are administered by the library agencies of the several states and territories. In Subpart A of the Regulations (Federal Register, December 6, 1956) appears the following definition:

"...State agency means the state library administrative agency charged by state law with the extension and development of public library services throughout the state."

West Virginia Code, Chapter 10, Article 1, 640 (14) defines the West Virginia Library Commission as that State administrative agency "charged with the responsibility for the extension and development of public library service throughout the state." The Code, Chapter 18, Article 10, 1872 (1) (11) authorizes the West Virginia Library Commission to "accept federal funds for library purposes."

THE STATE PLAN

In Subpart B "State Plans" of the Regulations (Federal Register, December 6, 1956) appears the following stipulation:

"A basic condition to the certification of Federal Funds to a State for further extension of public library services to rural areas is a state plan ... [Which] shall constitute a description of the library extension programs in which the State expects Federal financial participation."

The State plan includes an overall five year plan and an amendment is submitted each year which describes the plan for the given fiscal year. Copies of the West Virginia State Plan for Use of Federal Funds Under Public Law 597 are available from the West Virginia Library Commission in limited quantities for libraries, legislators, and state officials.

First of all, it must be remembered that the life of the Library Services Act (Public Law 597) is five years, July 1, 1956--June 30, 1961. Section 3.1 of the West Virginia State Plan outlines the general aims and policies of the program for the five year period:

- I. Continue Commission's program of developing large units of service: working towards a specific service plan for a specific area per year which can include, in addition to county or regional library development or demonstration, a cooperative plan among existing libraries, or non-served areas and existing libraries.
- II. Enlarge our present concept of loan service to small libraries to include additional books, advisory services, and strengthening of library philosophy and techniques.
- III. Expand centralized ordering and processing of books and other library materials for present and future regional collections and lending services."

#### THE 1956-57 PROGRAM

The first allotment to West Virginia under the Library Services Act was for one-half of the first fiscal year or January-June 1957. That Congress appropriated only \$2,050,000. West Virginia's federal allotment for the six months period was \$40,000.

Two projects were approved for the six months:

1. Centralized ordering and processing of books for Harrison-Uphsur Regional Library and for state-wide service. A specific project under state-wide service was basic reference collections for small libraries.

Sixteen libraries were chosen to receive these reference collections. Selection of the libraries by the Library Commission was based on the fact that they were receiving some tax support and on the assumption by the Library Commission that none of the sixteen would fall below the base financial support which they received in the 1955-56 fiscal year. (This was important because State and local libraries cannot drop below financial support received during the base year--1955-

56--if the Library Commission is to continue to be eligible for federal funds.) A total of 2,689 reference books was purchased; an average of 168 volumes per library.

In connection with the purchase of books, the first allotment was also used for additional personnel in the processing department. During the 1957 fiscal year approximately \$45,000, in state and federal funds, was spent for the purchase of books under the plan for rural library service.

2. The second project was the preparation of a film "Books, Lots of Books," produced by WCHS-TV Station for the Library Commission at cost. The Library Commission members, staff, and a West Virginia regional library were filmed in the actual process of developing a regional program. The Library Commission is using the film as a first interpretation of regional libraries, when groups or counties show signs of interest in better public library service.

(The attached map shows the Library Commission's plan for fourteen potential regional libraries, followed since 1952, which will include every county, and is completely adaptable to the Library Services Act.)

In addition, the pamphlet, "What Is the West Virginia Library Commission Doing?" was revised. Wide use of the pamphlet was made by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Junior Woman's Club in their state-wide projects of public library promotion.

#### THE 1957-58 PROGRAM

Congress appropriated \$5,000,000. West Virginia's federal allotment was \$109,000. The state appropriation for the Library Commission was \$99,000 with \$64,746 of this amount being used by the Library Commission for matching for the federal allotment.

In addition to the \$109,000, the Library Commission received a supplementary federal allotment of \$6,917. After two states did not qualify for their allotments, their shares were redistributed among the states which could match for more federal money. Therefore, the Library Commission had a total budget of \$214,917 for the 1957-58 fiscal year. Of this amount, \$180,663 was available for use under the plan--rural library service, (state and federal), and \$34,254 state funds were available for nonrural service.

Beginning with the 1957-58 fiscal year, the Library Commission found it feasible to consolidate all its activities under the Library Services Act into one project, "Strengthening the State Agency." Since all segments of its programs focus on the ability of the Library Commission to afford leadership, and establishment grants in services, strengthening the State Agency amounts to stronger public libraries all over the state.

