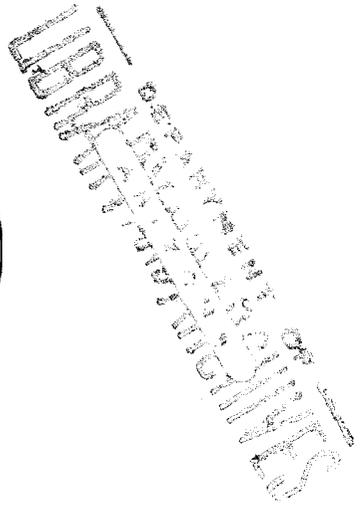

REPORT OF THE
Arizona State Law and Legislative
Reference Librarian

*from June 10, 1915
to December 30, 1916*



GON P. GRONIN, Librarian

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Phoenix, Arizona, December 30, 1916.

To the Hon. Geo. W. P. Hunt,
Governor of the State of Arizona.

Sir:

It not being time to submit my biennial report by law, but the session of the legislature being imminent, I deem it advisable to set forth the condition of the State Library, its progress and success, together with its limitations, possibilities and great potential values.

The State Library, with a Law and Legislative Reference Bureau, was created by the Second State Legislature, and became operative June 10, 1915.

LAW LIBRARY

Special effort has been made to bring this department up to the high standard required.

Upon assuming the duties of librarian the writer found nothing by which he might be guided. There were no records of any character to indicate the financial or other condition of the department: no catalogue or other index of books; no record of exchanges if any existed; in fact, nothing of a character to aid or assist in the labor to be undertaken. It was ascertained that a Minute book of the former librarian was in existence, but repeated demands on the gentleman and others presumed to have the custody thereof have proven fruitless, and same has never been surrendered to the custody of the writer.

The first work of the department was the segregation, classification and cataloging of the Law Library, the ascertaining of missing laws and law reports, and the acquisition thereof. Being in a measure unfamiliar with the work, procedure was necessarily slow; but on November 1, 1915, the first complete catalogue of the Arizona State Law Library since 1905 was issued, following the latest method of double index and cross reference, of the approximately fifteen thousand volumes contained therein. Many of the Statutes, Codes and Session Laws of the various states were found incomplete, and have subsequently been secured either by outright gift to the library or by exchange.

In the meantime a system of exchange was effected whereby we are now receiving the statutes, laws, law reports, bulletins and departmental publications of each state in the union, all territorial and insular possessions and all the Canadian provinces.

From various sources, believed by the writer to be authentic and truthful, it is stated that Arizona has today one of the best State Law Libraries in the country, containing as it does, full and complete State reports—excepting some of the old, rare and out of print editions of the States of the Old Colony, and some few others; the statutes, codes and session laws now in force in the several states and territories, the full West and Shepard Reporter systems, all standard publications and works pertaining to case law, both American and English, and the most modern, up-to-date text books, which last increases as the march of progress necessitates.

The accessions to the library in all its departments have been really wonderful, increasing from a few each week in the summer of 1915, to the grand total of 8,648 on December 28, 1916—fully 90 per cent of which increase being by gift or through exchange. One of the most prolific sources of increase is the Federal Government. The library having been made a federal depository is the recipient of the printed results of the best brains in the world—each department of the government contributing, and in addition special congressional publications on vital subjects from time to time.

That the Law Library is appreciated by the Bar of the State is manifest by its constant use as a workshop by the members thereof, and by the number of volumes loaned in the course of a year. Not alone to the lawyers of Phoenix and Maricopa County is its utility available, but also to the members of the legal fraternity and the bench in the most distant counties to whom we are constantly sending law books on request. In another section will be found a statement of the books loaned during the period covered by this report.

No purchase of law books are now made except on competitive bids, resulting generally in a 15 per centum reduction from regular prices.

BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

"I urge the establishment of a Bureau of Legislative Research. The benefits to be derived from such an institution cannot be computed. The need for it will become apparent to each of you as your legislative work progresses. You will want data on a large variety of subjects and find yourselves without the means of securing it, etc. It is to supply this want that the Bureau of Legislative Research is proposed. Not only will the members of succeeding legislatures find such a Bureau's value to far outweigh its cost; not only does the Governor's office and every other executive office feel its need almost every day in the year, but it will prove of ines-

timable value to the public—a ready reference on all subjects of legislation” Governor’s Message, March 18, 1912.

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

“The need for and the wisdom of such a department should be apparent to every thoughtful man. * * * * It will not be an expense, but an economy, in that it will save the time of the legislators, provide them with a fund of information they cannot otherwise acquire, make for better, more workable, more uniform laws, prevent conflicts and repetitions, and keep the State in the forefront of progressive legislation.” Governor’s Message, February 3, 1913.

BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

“Without being driven to experimentation with a subject of such grave importance as legislation, we are happily enabled to profit by the experience of a number of states, which have established and operated advantageously an important governmental adjunct variously designated as a Bureau of Legislative Research, a Legislative Reference Bureau. * * * * The duty of such a bureau as is well known to your honorable body, and as has been partially suggested in the foregoing paragraphs of this Message, is to collect from all available sources, and to classify, catalogue and file authentic information concerning every conceivable governmental subject; the purpose of such endeavor being, of course, to place the facts thus garnered at the service of the public, of State Legislatures and all other departments. * * * *” Governor’s Message, January 11, 1915.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

It has been said that a Legislative Reference Bureau is a department of state where information on ANY SUBJECT can be had on five minutes’ notice. It is the aim and paramount ambition of the writer to bring the Arizona Reference Bureau up to the standard set by some of the older and more advanced states, notably Connecticut, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Indiana and New York—though many others could be cited. The work of a librarian has long been recognized as a profession, many of the colleges and institutions of higher learning throughout the country specializing in that particular branch. The writer has visited, observed and studied in several of the leading libraries and reference bureaus in the east, briefly it is true; but taken with study and active work as librarian deems himself competent to inaugurate and advance the work yet to be accomplished before the Legislative Reference Bureau is what it should be—a place where information on ANY SUBJECT can be had on five minutes’ notice.

In the general library of the State—in other words, the material for the building of the Reference Library—are approximately

one hundred thousand volumes. These embrace every known subject and are the accumulation of years. Law, war, art, science, history, research on land and sea, statistics, medicine, in volumes massively bound, editions de luxe, paper and pamphlets—a collection impossible to replace and which money could not duplicate. Indifference, perhaps, but for **some** reason, however, the lawmakers of the State and former Territory have neglected and failed to provide a proper place for the assembling, classification and arrangement thereof; and today it—the library—is stored in the four or five small rooms under the eaves on the top floor of the Capitol building. All available shelf space is utilized, and the books are now stacked three and four feet high on the floor.

In the department of the Law Library the writer has segregated as far as the limited space available will allow such material as may be called for at the coming session of the legislature, having endeavored to ascertain in advance what subjects are liable to be a matter of possible legislation.

Since the existence of the Reference department has become known the librarian has been the recipient of queries on almost all known subjects, and nearly every mail contains quests for information which the environment of the writer makes impossible of ascertaining otherwise than through well known channels of public information.

The various departments at the capitol, county and city officials throughout the State have also been quick to realize the importance of this department as a source of ascertaining information on all subjects, and are availing themselves thereof.

NEWSPAPERS

No department of the State Library is of greater benefit to the general public, or more regularly consulted, than the newspaper files. The shelf space in the newspaper room has been extended to its utmost capacity, until now, there being no longer shelf or floor space, it is found necessary to stack the recently bound volumes in the halls of the top floor of the Capitol. The back files are regularly consulted by state and county officials, bankers, lawyers and business men—for legal publications pertaining to the distribution of estates. Appreciating the importance of COMPLETE files a systematic check is maintained and at frequent regular intervals missing numbers are secured and the files completed.

As an evidence of the volume of work accomplished since assuming the duties of the office of librarian the following table is submitted:

ACCESSIONS

Added to the Library from June 10, 1915, to date:

Bound volumes	1,621
*Paper and Pamphlets	7,027
Total accessions	8,648

Classified as follows:

By purchase	1,444
By gift	573
Through exchange	6,631
Total	8,648

Distributed through exchange:

Total number of Arizona State publications, including Sessions Laws, Arizona Reports, the various departmental reports and special publications, transmitted to the various exchanges from June 10, 1915, to date	2,445
Number of law books and other publications borrowed from the library from June 10, 1915, to date	1,605
No books or publications lost or stolen.	

*Including Maps, Magazines and Miscellaneous Matter.

Immediately upon assuming charge, accounts unpaid and past due were received in such numbers as to preclude the possibility of payment from the appropriation, which specifically stipulated was to be for the fiscal years 1915-16 and 1916-17, although some few hundred dollars were expended before the volume of the obligations was manifest.

These outstanding and unpaid accounts, entirely for the purchase of law books, aggregate the sum of \$4,335.62, for which a deficiency appropriation bill is respectfully urged and recommended.

All bills on account of contract with the West Publishing Company, the Shepard system, continuations of current law and reports, etc., have been met and paid when due, and no obligations have been assumed beyond the limitations of the appropriation.

A detailed statement of disbursements is passed until the biennial report to the Governor, as provided by law.

Following is fiscal statement in brief, as of December 30, 1916:

REPORT OF THE STATE LAW AND

Refund June 10, 1916, (returned to General Fund, but subsequently transferred to Library Fund May, 1916)	\$ 353.94
Refund—Books	17.50
Refund—Overcharge on freight	1.26

From Clerk of Supreme Court:

June, 1915	\$216.20
July, 1915	145.00
August, 1915	376.50
September, 1915	177.10
October, 1915	296.65
November, 1915	451.75
December, 1915	217.95
January, 1916	179.25
February, 1916	205.20
March, 1916	446.95
April, 1916	268.30
May, 1916	315.00
June, 1916	204.90
July, 1916	329.05
August, 1916	201.50
September, 1916	321.10
October, 1916	609.80
November, 1916	441.00
December, 1916	242.35
Total	\$6,018.25
Balance on hand December 31, approximately	250.00

RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of years ago by legislative enactment all the old, and now priceless, newspaper files were given into the custody of the Arizona Pioneer Association and removed to the city of Tucson. As the State Library is the proper place for the care and custody of these old records it is respectfully recommended that appropriate legislation be enacted for their return to the Capitol.

Being the recipient of valuable historical works from many of the sister states, and having received many requests for our "Farish History of Arizona" in exchange, it is respectfully recommended that appropriate legislation be enacted authorizing the State Historian to issue to the librarian a number of "The History of Arizona" adequate for such purpose.

Possessing a law and general library, priceless in value and impossible of duplication, the attention of the Governor and the Legislature is invited to the present deplorable condition thereof. The

State University is the proud possessor of a magnificent library building, while the State Library, containing more volumes and of greater wealth than all other departments of state combined, is practically homeless. Crowded into the present Law Library and the chambers of the Supreme Court judges, and several of the other departments of State, the Law Library is scattered. In five of the small rooms under the eaves of the Capitol, and in the halls and corridors, the general library is packed. All available shelf room is utilized and it has become necessary to stack many thousands of volumes on the floors, inviting destruction by insects and fire. An investigation of conditions by the legislature will, I am satisfied, convince it of the necessity of making provisions for the proper housing of the library. It is, therefore, respectfully recommended that the sum of \$50,000 or so much thereof as may be deemed necessary, be, by proper legislation, appropriated for the erection and furnishing of a suitable building, or annex to the Capitol, for the uses and purposes of the State Library and State Supreme Court.

A deficit existing from a former administration of a sum totaling \$4,335.62, many of which items extend back to the year 1913, it is respectfully recommended and urged that this sum be appropriated for the liquidation of said obligations.

Many improvements are possible and are contemplated—aside from the mandatory duties of the librarian—but are now impossible under the existing lack of space and facilities, but will be inaugurated when additional room is had, when the State Law and Legislative Reference Library will in truth be a department of State ~~when~~ *where* information on any subject can be had on five minutes' notice!

Respectfully submitted,

CON P. CRONIN,

State Law and Legislative Reference Librarian.

