A survey of the first 25 years of The Georgia Librarian yields not only a few articles concerning special libraries and their unique needs but also many news items and announcements of interest to the study of special libraries in Georgia. This publication is an excellent source of information about manuscript collections and other special materials acquired by libraries. The Georgia Librarian is a good place to find something of the development and history of special libraries in the state.

The earliest reference to special libraries was found in the March 1966 issue which was a report of the biennial conference of the Georgia Library Association held in Augusta. Safford Harris, chairman of the Special Libraries Section, reported that the section was formed ten years earlier at the biennial conference held, coincidentally, in Augusta. Thus we are aware that special recognition of this group of libraries was given by the organization in 1955. This same issue noted the dedication of the new state archives building in October 1965.

A comprehensive article by Linda Johnston, "Special Libraries in Georgia," appeared in the March 1971 issue of The Georgia Librarian. This is the only article printed which defines and illustrates the variety of special libraries in Georgia. A reprint of this article is included as a part of this special anniversary issue.

Health science libraries are featured in two articles during the 1980s. Thomas G. Basler and Samille J. Smoot report in The Georgia Librarian (vol. 22, no. 2, May 1985) on the nationwide Biomedical Communications Network and its effects on resource sharing and interlibrary cooperation. Anne Page Mosby’s article "Fees for Services in Georgia Health Services Libraries" reports on a survey of a growing trend to charge fees for health science libraries’ services. This appeared in The Georgia Librarian (vol. 25, no. 2, summer 1988).

The May 1987 issue featured special collections at the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Georgia State University, the Atlanta Historical Society, the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, and the Georgia Historical Society. These articles describe the holdings of each of the libraries and give information about their histories and organizations as well. Editor James Dorsey wrote in his editorial, “These rich collections constitute what one observer has called the real ‘jewels in the crown’ of our library holdings.”

In 25 years The Georgia Librarian has served its small special libraries constituents in many ways, as well as bringing the subject of special libraries to the attention of the entire library profession.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN GEORGIA
by
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Special libraries are so called because of their functions. Many special libraries exist as service units within organizations having non-library objectives. Then too, special libraries are developed because of special collections within a larger library system. Some special libraries deal with special types of material while others deal with a special type of clientele.

This type of library is one of the fastest growing groups in the nation. The war years saw a notable expansion of existing libraries as well as the organization of new ones, particularly in the chemical and other scientific and technological fields; in both the administration and engineering aspects of transportation, especially aeronautics, and in all divisions of federal service.

By 1952 there were enough special libraries in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, and the Carolinas to form a chapter of the Special Libraries Association. This group grew so rapidly that the other southern states soon formed their own chapters. Thus, today only Georgia and South Carolina are in the South Atlantic Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, along with some members in other states who requested membership in this chapter.

Special libraries in Georgia fall into several general categories:
(1) Those connected with private business and industry
(2) Federal agency libraries
(3) Those affiliated with agencies of the state, cities or counties
(4) Hospital libraries
(5) Those which are connected with educational institutions
(6) Libraries sponsored by private organizations

This article contains information about some of the libraries in each of these groups.

Business and Industrial Organizations

The Atlanta Journal — Constitution Reference Department is located at 10 Forsyth Street N.W. in Atlanta. This Reference Library was established in 1945 to serve primarily the newspaper writers. The public may use the library only with special permission. The Library’s collection consists of 250 vertical file drawers.

At 3445 Peachtree Road N.E. is located the Cities Service Company, Metals and Chemicals Group, Industrial Chemicals Division Planning and Development Library. This library was established for Cities Service employees in 1965. The library has 465 volumes, receives 95 periodicals, and has 15 vertical file drawers.

The Coca-Cola Company has two libraries: the Marketing Information Center and the Technical Information Center. The Marketing Center was established in 1968, primarily for the use of the Marketing Division of Coca-Cola. Generally this is more of an information storage and retrieval center than a library. Most information is related to the soft drink industry. The Library has a semiautomated storage and retrieval system using the Jonkers Termatex equipment. The Technical Information Center of Coca-Cola, which was begun in 1966, serves the company’s technical personnel. There are 2,000 volumes in this library and a subscription list of 175 periodicals. The public may use the facilities through special arrangement. A complete set of Chemical Abstracts is available on microfilm.

The Federal Reserve Bank Library is on the fifth floor of the bank at 104 Marietta Street. This is one of nationwide system of libraries serving Federal Reserve personnel and also the commercial banks which are members of the Federal Reserve System. This library was established in 1938. The book collection, as might be expected, is strong in economics, statistics, money and banking, international trade. There are over 28,000 volumes, as well as 56 vertical file drawers of material in these and allied fields. The public is welcome to use all publications in the reading room, but may not take these out.
The First National Bank of Atlanta has had a library to serve bank personnel since 1960. All phases of commercial banking are featured in the book collection and in the 165 periodical subscriptions. The library keeps a checklist of subjects the bank's 50 officers are interested in and sends material regularly to them.

The Georgia Power Company Library, located 270 Peachtree Street in Atlanta, was begun in 1956 and serves primarily the employees. Its over 7,000 volumes feature materials on electric power, engineering, Georgia history.

Possibly the largest special library in the state is that of the Lockheed-Georgia Company at Marietta. The Scientific and Technical Information Department has ten professionals and twelve nonprofessionals on the staff. The library, established in 1955, serves the engineering, marketing, production, and research personnel at Lockheed. A complete collection of engineering and other reference material consisting of over 30,000 technical books; 2,000 journal subscriptions; 15,000 internally-generated reports; over 100,000 externally-generated hard copy technical reports; and over 200,000 externally-generated technical reports in microfiche form is available to personnel via the various mission-oriented information centers, situated throughout the Company. These information centers, most serving specific groups with specialized requirements, are: Nuclear; Development Test; Engineering; Marketing; Management; Research; Test Laboratories; and Science Technology.

One of the oldest special libraries in the state is located at Retail Credit Company, 1600 Peachtree Street, Atlanta. The purpose of this library, established in 1910, is to encourage and aid in the personal and professional development of the employees. The book collection of 10,000 volumes consists primarily of material on management, marketing, economics, insurance, and personal development. The annual circulation of books to company employees in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico is approximately 15,000. The company history material and a collection of over 300 telephone directories add very much to the interest of this library.

A small, but interesting, library is that of Scientific Atlanta, Inc. at 3845 Pleasantdale Road. The major field of interest in the library is antennas and antenna instrumentation. The library contains 1,100 volumes, 72 periodical subscriptions, and serves the engineering and technical staff of the company.

Southern Bell maintains a Public Relations Reference Library in the Hurt Building, Atlanta, for the use of the company’s public relations personnel. This collection features material on: sociology, political science, economics, public utilities, science, management, advertising and public relations.

It will be interesting to watch the growth of Thiele Kaolin’s Library at Sandersville. This library was begun in 1965 and concentrates mostly on publications relating to the clay industry.

Federal Agency Libraries
The Center for Disease Control Library on Clifton Road in Atlanta has for over twenty years, been one of the leading special libraries in our state. A staff of ten serve the needs of the C.D.C. personnel in their research on all types of diseases and how they are transmitted. The library has over 44,000 volumes and subscribes to 750 periodicals.

There are three libraries, connected with the armed forces, at Albany. They are the: Center Library, Special Services Section; Technical Library, Repair Division, at the Marine Corps Supply Center; and Naval Air Station Library. The Center Library was established in 1954 and has 14,000 volumes.

The Post Library, Atlanta Army Depot, at Forest Park, reports approximately 13,000 volumes and serves both armed forces and civilians.

Since 1917 there has been a special library at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning. The staff consists of five professionals and six nonprofessionals. The collection of 160,000 volumes includes: maps, microfilm, microfiche, instructional materials, government publications, army regulations, field manuals. It is not open to the public except military dependents.

The Federal Aviation Library in East Point is well worth a visit. It serves, for the most part, the F.A.A. employees and others in the aviation industry. The materials are available for use in the library. This library is six years old and now boasts of 12,000 technical reports and 301 periodical subscriptions.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development Library in only two years has built up a collection of 10,000 volumes, many of them law books. The staff is strengthening the collections in sociology, real estate, planning, urban renewal, housing, and other related fields. The H.U.D. library system is the only system in the U.S. using the U.D.C. (Universal Decimal classification.)

The HumRro Division no. 4 Library at Fort Benning serves the research staff of HumRro Division 4 and military personnel of U.S. Army Infantry Human Research Unit. Since 1954 this library has built up a collection of 14,000 volumes, which are available to the public as well as to the military personnel.

Several years ago some of the members of the Special Libraries Association took a trip to Augusta where they visited the U.S. Army Military Police School Library. The members, in touring the police school, learned about lie detectors, fingerprinting, and riot control. The library has 13,500 volumes and was established in 1959. The materials are principally in the fields of criminology, police science, penology, psychology, and social science.

The Main Post Library at the U.S. Flight Training Center at Fort Stewart has a collection of 35,000 volumes. This collection features material in military science, aviation, and technology.

The Savannah District Corps of Engineers Library was set up as a Model Technical Library for the Army in 1968. The primary mission of the library is to develop, formally and systematically, a "modern, highly effective technical information facility" to serve the needs of the Savannah District employees. The material is available on loan to other government agencies.

The U.S. Department of Commerce maintains a Business Reference Library at 75 Forsyth Street in Atlanta to serve the needs of businessmen in the Southeast.

The Veterans Administration Hospital Library was established in 1945. It is now located at 1670 Clairmont Road in Atlanta and has 15,000 volumes. The library serves the doctors, professional personnel, and patients. Actually there are two libraries—a patients' library and a medical library which are adjacent, but physically separated.

State — City — County Agency Libraries
Many libraries which are supported by an agency of state, city, or county government serve a specialized need or clientele. We shall mention a few:

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a part of the Public Library Services Unit of the Georgia Department of Education. Everyone who is qualified for this service is encouraged to enroll him or herself in the program. The library has 4,000 titles in Braille, 3,300 talking book titles, 2,500 titles on tape, and 800 titles in large type. The headquarters for this valuable collection is located at 1050 Murphy Avenue S.W., Atlanta. All material is available and it is free.

The Atlanta School of Art Library is part of the University Center and is used by students and faculty of the school. The library has a collection of 7,200 volumes.

Fernbank Science Center was established in 1967 as part of the DeKalb County School System. The library of the center contains a reference collection in the fields of astronomy, biology, outdoor education, and horticulture.

The Fulton County Law Library is almost as old as Retail Credit’s library. It was established in 1913 for the use of practicing attorneys, law students, and Court House officials.
There are available over 11,000 volumes which the public may use in the room.

The Georgia Department of Archives and History was founded in 1918 and is used by genealogists and others seeking information on Georgia history. There are 9,000 volumes and 2,870 prints and pictures available in the Search Room.

Currently there are six professional medical libraries operated under the aegis of the Georgia Department of Public Health. Each varies in the types of collections held and the services offered. Each hospital library is generally tailored to meet specific needs of the individual institutions. The libraries are:

- Southwestern Hospital Library - Thomasville
- Georgia Mental Health Institute Library - Atlanta
- Battey State Hospital Library - Rome
- Central State Hospital Medical Library - Milledgeville
- Gracewood Hospital Library - Gracewood
- State Health Department Library - Atlanta

The Library of the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens edits the Quarterly News Bulletin of the Museum. This small library relies on the large art collection of the University of Georgia for much of its materials.

The Georgia State Library has a staff of five professionals and six nonprofessionals. This library was established in 1831 to serve the state government officials and their staffs. The material may be used by the public in the library only.

Private Hospitals

Valuable libraries are located in many of the hospitals in our state. These are maintained for the use primarily of the medical staff and the schools of nursing. A few of these libraries are:

- Medical Library, Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta, founded in 1930.
- Saul's Memorial Hospital, Piedmont Hospital, Atlanta, begun in 1963.
- Russell Bellman Library, Saint Joseph's Infirmary, Atlanta, established as two libraries in 1945, but combined into one library in 1965.
- University Hospital Medical Library, Augusta was begun in 1956.

Educational Institutions

In addition to the general college or university libraries, a number of educational institutions maintain libraries which concentrate on special collections to serve special groups. These libraries contain some of the most priceless collections in our state.

Established in 1828 the John Bulow Campbell Library at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, has 80,000 volumes, 600 tapes, 210 periodical subscriptions for the use of the Seminary students and their families.

At Emory University there are several outstanding special libraries serving the students and the faculty. The impressive list of these libraries is as follows:

- Dentistry — Shepherd W. Foster Library - established in 1917, has 12,000 volumes.
- Law — Emory University School of Law Library - established in 1916, has 73,000 volumes.
- Librarianship — There are 25,755 volumes in this collection.
- Medical — A. W. Calhoun Medical Library - founded in 1923. The library of 80,000 volumes is headquarters for the Southeastern Regional Medical Library program. This library has a staff of twenty.
- Theology — The library was begun in 1914 and now has 87,237 volumes.
- Mercer University can boast of two fine special libraries: Walter F. George School of Law, Macon - Established in 1900 this library now has 49,700 volumes.

H. Custer Naylor Library of Mercer's Southern School of Pharmacy is located in Atlanta. This library consists of 7,000 volumes and was established in 1952.

Private Organizations

Some special libraries of interest are those which are sponsored by private organizations.

The Atlanta Historical Society has an important collection of archival material at 3099 Andrews Drive, Atlanta. The library was begun in 1926.

The Atlanta Region Metropolitan Planning Commission in the Glenn Building has, since 1965, been building up a collection of reports and information relating to the function of the Commission.

The Georgia Historical Society Library, Savannah, was founded in 1839. The library of 20,000 volumes is available to genealogists and researchers in Georgia history. The Society publishes the Georgia Historical Quarterly.

The Southern Regional Education Board Library is located in Atlanta. The collection, which was begun in 1948, is a concentration of materials on higher education, especially in the South.

The Peachtree Presbyterian Church Library has built up a collection of 7,914 volumes. The members of the congregation are the prime users of the library.

The special libraries in our state face a challenging future. They are called upon every day to prove their worth. The motto of the Special Libraries Association, “Putting Knowledge to Work,” is foremost in the minds of the administrators as they seek to organize and put into use the materials at their command.