

Submitted to
Mrs. Margaret D. Davies, State Director
Professional and Service Division
by
Nancy C. Blair, Supervisor
Statewide Library Project
Columbia, S. C. - October 15, 1940

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INTRODUCTION

The South Carolina Statewide Library Project, Work Projects Administration, aims to extend library service to unserved rural and urban people through the use of certified labor that is especially trained and technically supervised by trained librarians.

It is serving somewhat in the capacity of a state library agency in that it has been able to initiate library services, coordinate services, set up standards, stimulate development of services by assisting in the purchase of bookmobiles and by loaning project-owned books, supplement services of existing libraries, offer a cataloging and book selection service and supply the supervision of a professionally trained staff.

The need for such a program is reflected by the library situation in the state. The South Carolina Library Board is inadequately supported and therefore cannot supply the necessary leadership. Without this stimulus, the development of libraries has been slow. In 1935 at the inception of the South Carolina Library Project there were but four county libraries serving 57,000 borrowers and 49 town libraries giving inadequate service to 700,000 urban persons, leaving approximately one million persons without library service.

Economic and social conditions also have a direct bearing on the establishment of adequate library service. South Carolina embraces 30,989 square miles with a population of 1,738,765 according to the 1930 census. Seventy eight and seven-tenths per cent (78.7%) of the population is rural; 46% Negro, and 14.9% illiterate.* A further exami-

nation reveals that 50.6% of the population is under 20 years of age.**

When the shifting rural population, composed chiefly of tenant farmers and sharecroppers, the high per cent of Negroes with separate institutions for this race and the high ratio of children to adults is considered along with the low per capita annual income of \$100 - \$200,*** the problem of library service as well as other cultural, educational and social agencies is clearly indicated.

The preceding resume is presented, not as an indictment or an apology, but as a background for a clearer understanding of the accomplishments and future plans of the Statewide Library Project.

* R. B. Vance, Human Geography of the South (Chapel Hill, University of N. C. Press, 1932) p. 21.

** H. W. Odum, Southern Regions of the United States (Chapel Hill, University of N. C. Press) p. 474.

*** American Library Association, Equal chance (Chicago, A.L.A. 1936) p. 10.

PERSONNEL

In order that employment on the Library Project may be of greatest benefit to the worker, the project and the sponsor, a network of training radiating from the office of the State Supervisor has been evolved.

STATEWIDE SET-UP

STATE SUPERVISOR

Administratively and technically responsible for the project.
Interprets project to the state.
Responsible for all training courses.

ASSISTANT STATE SUPERVISOR

Under general supervision of the State Supervisor assists in organizing, planning and coordinating the work of the Project.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Administratively responsible for project within district.
Interprets project to the district.
Sees that technical instructions are carried out by Assistants.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Technically responsible for:

1. All book repair training within the district
2. All publicity training within the district
3. All extension (bookmobiles) training within the district
4. All training in the use of library tools within the district

AREA PROJECT SUPERVISORS

Administratively responsible for project within her area.
Interprets project to the counties in her area.
Sees that technical instructions, given by the Assistants, are carried out.

Supervision and training are supplied by 7 professional librarians and 13 district and assistant district supervisors who are qualified by previous library experience or in-service training. In addition there are from 10 to 20 area supervisors as employment warrants, each in charge of two or more counties. Manuals of instruction in library procedures, extension, publicity and book repair have been prepared to assist the supervisors and keep their instructions uniform.

Workers attend a monthly class for training in their particular type of work. They are instructed in clerical procedures so that they may relieve librarians of routine duties and that they may keep the work in libraries and on bookmobiles up to standard when they are sole operators of such units. To improve the morale of the workers, the importance of the project and its place in the whole program has been stressed; to broaden their viewpoints the history of library development has been reviewed; to increase their confidence an effort has been made to correctly interpret the program to the sponsor so that recognition may be granted in proportion to results accomplished.

There are many evidences of the value of the training classes. For instance: a county librarian asked to attend classes for her own benefit; one worker showed so much progress that the sponsor is paying for a summer course in library science for her; another worker became so interested that she has received enough credits in library science through summer courses to accept a position in a school library in the fall.

Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the fact that workers are not trained for professional service or to usurp positions now in existence. "No worker on the W.P.A. has taken the position of any one else or kept any one from being employed. On the other hand, the library project has led to the spending of more money, more employment and the training of people for private employment" says Miss Sara B. Askew, Secretary of the New Jersey Public Library Commission, in the Wilson Bulletin for May, 1940.

Loss of workers through quota reductions and on account of 18 months continuous employment has curtailed the work of the project on several occasions during the year. Letters from library and school officials requesting reassignment of workers attest the value of their services.

Since the beginning of the Statewide Library Project, 167 persons have been released for employment in private enterprise. Twenty nine (29) of these received employment since July 1, 1939.

RURAL LIBRARY DEMONSTRATIONS

The lack of adequate library facilities in the majority of counties in South Carolina has enabled the W.P.A. demonstrations to emphasize the county or the region, consisting of two or more counties as the logical and economical unit for operation.

In addition to furnishing workers and supervision, the project has at present a collection of 19,279 books which are on loan to the various demonstration county-wide systems. These books are used to stimulate interest, and the number on deposit varies according to need, use, and support. Another impetus toward permanently established county libraries has been W.P.A. assistance in securing bookmobiles. Thirty one (31) bookmobiles have become the property of the counties and one is still being rented by the project. Seven (7) of the county libraries initiated or assisted by W.P.A. are now legally established and supported by tax or appropriation, bringing the total for the state to 11. Of the remaining 35 counties, 25 have demonstration county libraries for which W.P.A. furnishes operators and technical supervision. Two demonstration counties have combined for library service. They shared equally in purchasing a body for a bookmobile and are planning an interchange of bookstock. A central committee is being organized to direct the service in the two counties. Plans for a W.P.A. Regional Library embracing three counties show definite signs of materializing.

The statistics for the 25 demonstration county libraries for the last fiscal year are:

Bookstock	121,996 (As of June 30, 1940)
Borrowers	85,443 (As of June 30, 1940)
Circulation	1,069,329 (July 1, 1939 - June 30, 1940)

COOPERATIVE CATALOGING SERVICE FOR LIBRARIES
(Revised March, 1940)

BULLETIN

WHAT THE COOPERATIVE CATALOGING SERVICE IS: A complete cataloging service made possible by the joint efforts of the University of South Carolina, South Carolina Department of Education and the Statewide Library Project of the Work Projects Administration.

WHAT IT OFFERS THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF SOUTH CAROLINA:

- (1) The services of a trained librarian.
- (2) A full set of catalog and shelflist cards delivered ready for filing.

COST OF SERVICE: 3¢ per title. Charge is made for material only.

EXTENT OF THE SERVICE: Only titles included in the following lists are cataloged:

A.L.A. Catalog
Buying List of Books for Small Libraries (A.L.A.)
Children's Catalog (H. W. Wilson Co.)
1,000 Books for the Senior High School
Standard Catalog for High School Libraries (H. W. Wilson Co.)
Standard Catalog for Public Libraries (H. W. Wilson Co.)
(South Carolina List for Elementary Schools) Books from these
(South Carolina List for High Schools) will be cataloged
if they are included in the standard catalogs above, as these
are our only sources of complete bibliographical information.

FORM IN WHICH ORDERS ARE TO BE SENT:

- (1) List each title on a 3x5 inch slip giving author, title, publisher and copyright date (date on reverse of title page), edition and accession number if book has been accessioned.
(See sample slip below)
- (2) Arrange these slips alphabetically by author.
- (3) Mail to: Cooperative Cataloging Service, WPA, Education Building, Room 235, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C.

DATE OF DELIVERY: On receipt of order sender is notified of approximate date of completion.

PAYMENT FOR SERVICE: Checks or money orders should be made payable to Mr. James H. Hope, State Superintendent of Education, Columbia, South Carolina.

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SPECIAL BOOK SELECTION SERVICE INAUGURATED

The Cataloging Department is now equipped with standard book selection aids making it possible for the department to assist in compiling lists for buying.

In submitting requests for this service state amount to be spent, proportion of adult and juvenile desired, as well as amount of fiction and non-fiction. In case of juvenile books state grade levels.

The department will also be glad to check lists submitted by schools against standard lists and to offer additional suggestions when requested.

* * * * *

Sample Slip

Petersham, Maude and Miska
The story book of coal
The John C. Winston Co.
9 th ed.
c-1935
564

During the fiscal year 14,152 books were cataloged. Of this number 9,101 were project-owned books, 4,766 were for schools, and 285 were for public libraries. Since the aid in book selection was offered in February, 1940 eleven (11) lists have been compiled for public libraries.

BOOK REPAIR

A book repair service is offered by the Statewide Library Project to public and public school libraries, and to libraries in tax-supported institutions. Quarters, equipment and supplies are furnished by sponsors and the Project furnishes workers and supervisors.

Mending supervisors have succeeded in centralizing mending units in most counties so that there is only one unit in a county or in some cases one unit for two or more counties. Since mending has been centralized a more standard product is obtained because more adequate equipment and better grades of material can be furnished at little or no increased cost, and closer supervision can be given. A recent survey of mending in four districts to check on costs and standards showed a uniformity for the entire state. Recognition of the quality of the mending service and its supervisors came when one of the mending supervisors was called at the suggestion of the Assistant National Director, to conduct a book repair institute in another state.

During the past year a total of 268,573 books were renovated according to the following types of libraries:

Public Libraries	Public School Libraries	Tax supported institutions
White 33,229	164,157	1,260
Negro 11,091	8,836	

The average cost per volume, including labor was \$0.35.

ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISHED LIBRARIES

In addition to cataloging, book selection and book repair services offered by the Project, many public, public school and public institutional libraries are availing themselves of the services of W.P.A. library clerks. In some small libraries where there is no librarian, library clerks are in full charge, and in many larger libraries hours of service have been extended. In school libraries where the teacher-librarian is in the library for only a few hours each day the library clerk keeps the library open the remainder of the school day, and full time school librarians are able to devote more of their time to professional duties because of the services of library clerks who attend to many of the routine duties.

The assistance given by library clerks covers a wide range of activities, including: preparing new books for circulation, typing and filing catalog cards, circulating and collecting books, shelving books, checking lists, assisting in bookmobile operations, etc..

The circulation was 1,204,403 from established libraries where the Project was responsible for over 50% of the work during the past fiscal year.

NEGRO LIBRARY SERVICE

During the past year the Library Project has continued to stress the importance of Negro library service. The collection of project-owned books for the use of Negroes has been enlarged and many titles by and about Negroes have been added.

In December, 1939 a Negro unit of the Orangeburg County Free Library was opened in the Negro Community House in Orangeburg. The work is done by W.P.A. library clerks under the supervision of the County Librarian. Any Negro in the county has the privilege of borrowing books from this unit, but no bookmobile service is given.

A public library for the Negroes of Darlington was opened in December, 1939. The service was made possible by the cooperation of the Darlington Library Society, the Darlington Public Library and the Statewide Library Project. The Darlington Public Library furnishes books, supplies and supervision while the project furnishes a clerk to assist the Negro librarian and has on loan a small collection of project-owned books.

The school is the unit of service which has been stressed because the Negro population is scattered and because illiteracy is high among the adults of this race. The Jeanes Industrial Teachers in several counties have been of great assistance by taking out deposits of books to schools in their counties.

Much work has been done through the Faith Cabin Libraries, which are aided by a man who is interested in the welfare of the Negro. W.P.A. clerks are placed in these libraries which serve the communities in which they are located.

During 1939 - 40, 42,893 volumes were made available to Negro borrowers by W.P.A. library clerks, who reported a circulation of 140,217. The highest number of units in operation during the year was 30 and this number was reduced to 19 on account of a quota reduction and because suitable workers could not be found to replace workers who were no longer eligible on account of 18 months continuous employment. Request for workers to open new units could not be filled for the same reasons.

Sponsors have not been able to open as many Negro libraries as are desirable because of the expense involved in maintaining separate units. Difficulties are also encountered in obtaining books adapted to the needs and reading level of many of the Negroes. It is encouraging, however, to note that established county libraries are striving toward a more complete service to the entire county.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Since the Library Project's activities are so closely interwoven with each section of the state it has been in a position to gather and compile information which no other agency has the facilities for doing.

The most far-reaching activity was the preparation of an exhibit and a motion picture for the 1940 annual conference of the American Library Association, which was held in Cincinnati, Ohio from May 26 to June 1. A screen showing growth of county library service in South Carolina between 1935, the date of the beginning of the Library Project, and 1939 with comparisons between the number of established county systems, bookstock, borrowers and circulation was prepared for Miss Edith Gantt, Specialist in Public Libraries, U. S. Office of Education, and was on exhibit in the county and regional libraries exhibit section.

A miniature bookmobile made by the W.P.A. Thrift Shop in Greenville, South Carolina and the motion picture "W.P.A. Rural Library Service in South Carolina" were on exhibit in the W.P.A. exhibit section. The picture gave a cross section of the types of services being given by the Library Project in the state with emphasis on county-wide extension service.

A reproduction of the screen showing county libraries in 1935 and in 1939 was on display at the South Carolina Association and aroused much favorable comment.

A report on present library facilities and proposed library plans for rural people in Newberry County was compiled for Miss Edith Gantt, Specialist in Public Libraries, U. S. Office of Education. The

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics is to use this information in studying local conditions and needs of Newberry County.

A summary of the library services offered to Negroes through the W.P.A. was prepared for Mr. S. L. Smith of George Peabody College for Teachers to be used in an article for the Negro Journal of Education.

For the second year the Library Project is cooperating with the South Carolina Home Economics Association in their reading program. The Library Project compiled and mimeographed the list and is making the books available on the bookmobiles in 11 counties.

The Library Project is cooperating with the W.P.A. Records and Research Project by checking American imprints located in various libraries over the state.

A deposit of project-owned books was loaned to the W.P.A. Recreation Program for their summer camp for underprivileged children at Cheraw.

At the request of Miss Wil Lou Gray, Supervisor of Adult Schools, State Department of Education, the project furnished workers for the library at the Opportunity School which was held at Clemson College during the summer of 1939.

COMMUNITY CASH CONTRIBUTIONS1939 - 1940

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TOTAL CASH RECEIVED</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>BOOK EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>
Abbeville	\$ 1,212.79	County Board of Education P. T. A. Abbeville Mill Grange County Council of Farm Women	\$ 387.63	\$ 992.13
Aiken	83.00	Schools	26.00	83.00
Allendale	455.75	Library Committee Schools	322.95	455.75
Anderson	1,424.88	County Board of Education Home Demonstration Club County Council of Farm Women Schools Library Association	1,043.03	1,424.88
Bamberg	541.00	County Delegation School	391.00	391.00
Barnwell	643.13	Library Committee Schools	598.45	643.13
Beaufort	270.83	Library Committee Schools	161.89	270.83
Berkeley	1,196.63	Library Committee County Board of Education Schools	861.43	1,196.63
Calhoun	850.00	County Delegation Schools	546.00	850.00

COUNTY	TOTAL CASH RECEIVED	SOURCE	BOOK EXPENDITURE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
Charleston	\$ 636.20	Schools Special Libraries	\$ 238.58	\$ 636.20
Cherokee	1,596.05	County Board of Education Town Council of Gaffney County Delegation County Council of Farm Women	1,100.82	1,561.05
Chester	1,000.00	County Delegation	628.00	928.00
Chesterfield	534.64	County Commissioners Cheraw Library Board Schools Town Council of Chesterfield Pageland Library Board	322.86	534.64
Clarendon	607.00	County Delegation Schools P. T. A.	263.00	607.00
Colleton	245.13	County Board of Education Schools	181.23	245.13
Darlington	1,523.82	County Board of Education Lamar Mother's Club Hartsville Library Board School Board Darlington Library Board	445.92	1,523.82
Dillon	465.44	County Board of Education County Tax Schools	272.13	465.44
Dorchester	215.18	County Board of Education Schools	154.65	215.18

COUNTY	TOTAL CASH RECEIVED	SOURCE	BOOK EXPENDITURE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
Edgefield	\$ 547.41	County Board of Education County Board of Commissioners Home Demonstration Clubs Schools	\$ 332.99	\$ 547.41
Fairfield	2,074.00	1% of County School Appropriation	986.00	1,282.00
Florence	861.05	County Council of Farm Women Schools County Board of Education	582.90	861.05
Georgetown	587.79	Private Donations County Board of Education Winyah Bay Society Town of Andrews	95.15	587.79
Greenville	2,778.57	School Trustees County Board of Education Greenville Public Library	815.31	2,778.57
Greenwood	142.98	County Board of Education P. T. A. Greenwood Public Library	25.00	142.98
Hampton	308.97	Library Committee Schools	286.56	308.97
Horry	1,477.13	County Board of Education Town Committee of Conway Schools	962.67	1,477.13
Jasper	37.90	Library Committee Schools	22.20	37.90
Kershaw	1,000.00	County Delegation	455.00	678.00

COUNTY	TOTAL CASH RECEIVED	SOURCE	BOOK EXPENDITURE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
Lancaster	\$ 7,600.00	County Board of Education (Tax)	\$ 3,913.00	\$ 6,100.00
Laurens	2,428.66	County Delegation Business League Home Demonstration Club	968.73	2,428.66
Lee	467.00	County Delegation Garden Club Book of the Month Club	335.00	467.00
Lexington	564.00	Fatesburg Woman's Club Schools	510.00	564.00
McCormick	1,048.13	County Board of Education P. T. A. Schools County Board of Commissioners	677.33	1,048.13
Marion	725.71	County Board of Education County Commissioners Library Board Schools	183.98	725.71
Marlboro	1,213.09	County Library Board County Delegation Schools	50.00	1,213.09
Newberry	2,413.97	County Board of Education County Council of Farm Women Schools County Board of Commissioners County Delegation	1,720.37	2,373.97
Oconee	1,150.81	County Board of Education Schools	580.10	824.71

COUNTY	TOTAL CASH RECEIVED	SOURCE	BOOK EXPENDITURE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
Orangeburg	\$ 8,576.00	County Board of Education County Library Board Schools	\$ 1,573.00	\$ 5,228.00
Pickens	2,565.19	County Board of Education County Delegation City Councils Pickens Library Association Entertainments P. T. A.	1,221.94	2,185.19
Richland	1,150.00	Individual Schools	185.00	1,150.00
Saluda	886.21	County Board of Education Schools County Council of Farm Women	414.79	636.21
Spartanburg	2,799.48	County Delegation Schools	1,227.67	2,799.48
Sumter	5,314.00	County Tax City of Sumter Schools	2,070.00	4,604.00
Union	771.29	County Board of Education County Delegation City Council Schools	301.45	767.61
Williamsburg	718.45	County Board of Education Schools County Commissioners	200.31	718.45
York	2,051.00	County Delegation Schools	1,243.00	1,616.00

COUNTY	TOTAL CASH RECEIVED	SOURCE	BOOK EXPENDITURE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
Bi-County (Colleton-Dorchester)	\$ 607.00	County Delegations Town of Harleyville	\$ 195.15	\$ 607.00
Total 1939-40	\$66,367.26		\$30,080.17	\$57,782.82
Total 1938-39	63,276.00			60,280.00
Total 1937-38	41,056.00			36,517.00
Total 1936-37	15,275.00			10,175.00

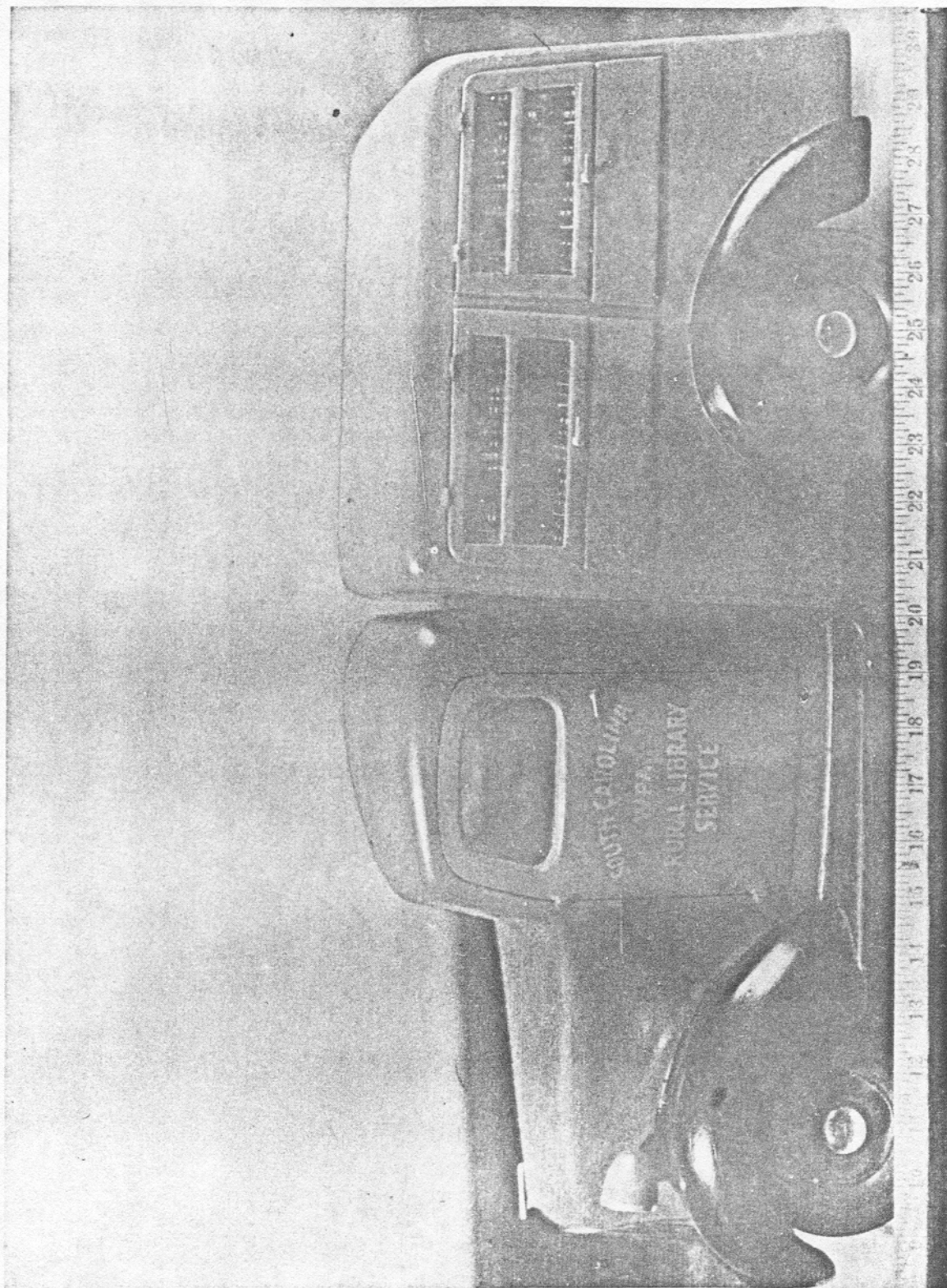
STATISTICAL REPORT
JULY 1, 1939 - JUNE 30, 1940

Books renovated	268,573
Books cataloged	14,152
Bookstock	448,570 *
W.P.A.	19,868
Sponsor	428,702
Borrowers	159,833 *
Circulation	3,413,949
Bookmobile stations	2,707 *
Bookmobiles	33
W.P.A.	2
Sponsor	31

* As of June 30, 1940. These figures vary as the number of units fluctuates due to reductions or increases in quota. Figures for June were also affected by closing of schools.

PLANS FOR 1940 - 41

1. To form a state advisory board to be consulted on matters of policy and methods of coordinating the work of the Library Project with other library agencies.
2. To make a statewide survey of the activities of the Library Project for the purpose of evaluation and for determining where support should be concentrated during the coming year.
3. To continue emphasis on regional library development.
4. To increase the professional staff.
5. To improve the training program and expand it to include training in supervisory duties.
6. To further consolidate mending units and supervision.
7. To increase library facilities available to near illiterates of both races.
8. To inaugurate a statewide campaign emphasizing American ideals and principles.



Model Bookmobile Exhibited at the 1940 Convention of the American Library Association, Cincinnati. Made by WPA Thrift Shop, Greenville, S. C.