

South Carolina, and Virginia reported that all state library materials were available for Negro use in the library reading-room but that Negro readers were not seated at the same tables with white readers. Tennessee's policy is practically the same, with the exception that only one table is reserved for the use of Negro patrons. Students wishing to use the library are asked not to come in crowds as the library can accommodate only three or four persons at a time.

No clear-cut statements as to state policy were received from either Florida or Georgia. In Florida, Negroes from the local state college had been given service in some instances, and on these occasions seats were furnished them in the main reading-room, but not at the same tables with white readers. The state librarian concluded his communication by the statement: "I have written at length to show you my personal stand in this matter and to make it clear that to give library service from general public libraries to negroes on the same basis as to whites is impracticable and unintelligent." This opinion would tend to indicate what the state policy is, at least, under the present administration. The following sentences from the Georgia state librarian's communication are also enlightening.

The State of Georgia has no general public library and the State Library is not such an agency. . . . Citizens of a municipality are expected to call upon the State Library only when the resources and services of the city library do not meet their wants. The State Library has only one large room open to the public. The Librarian exercises her best judgment as to the seating of the patrons. A few negro lawyers visit the State Library. . . . The Librarian tries to satisfy the needs of such visitors as in other cases if they have a legitimate call upon the highly specialized services of the State Library.

A definition of "legitimate" was not included.

All state library material was reported available to Ne-

groes in North Carolina, though the service is given in a separate reading-room. This arrangement, it will be recalled, is required by a North Carolina statute.<sup>2</sup>

The Texas State Library extends service to Negroes by mail when the request is from an individual. When the request, however, comes from a city in which a public library is located which gives service to Negroes, the books are lent through the local public library on the same basis as that library lends its own materials. No reading-room facilities at all are provided for Negroes in the state library itself.

This summary shows that five of the state libraries reporting make their facilities available to Negro readers in the state library. In each of these, however, the policy of separation of the races is in effect, though it is carried out only to the extent of placing Negroes at separate tables. Two libraries stated no definite policy in regard to the use of their facilities by Negroes, though on occasions Negroes have been served. The final library in the group reporting offered service to Negroes through the mail and through interlibrary loan but no direct service of any kind in the state library itself.

*Service from state library agencies.*—Service from state library agencies was little more impressive in 1938 than it was in 1926.<sup>3</sup> Service of some kind was offered by more states, but there was no evidence to show that state agencies, as a group, were actively engaged in attempting to change fundamentally the *status quo* of public library service for Negroes in the South. This does not mean that there were no evidences of intelligent and sympathetic understanding on the part of some state agencies or that the apparent inactivity was due to factors over which the

<sup>2</sup> See p. 42.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 91.

agencies had complete control. The point is made, however, that the contribution being made by state agencies was still negligible in terms of tangible results, such as the crystallization of progressive public opinion, the guidance of inexperienced workers, and experimentation in new and useful methods of service.

A short review of the practices during the year 1938 in regard to the use of state agency books by Negroes is pertinent here.<sup>4</sup> In Arkansas package and traveling libraries from the commission were not available to Negroes. In Florida the state library at one time had done a small amount of lending to the Negro group, but the practice had not been satisfactory from the standpoint of the state library since "one good-sized collection" was kept overtime and had not been given the best treatment by the school which borrowed it. Traveling and package libraries from the commission were not accessible to Negroes in Georgia because the department had never grown sufficiently large or been provided with adequate staff and appropriation to inaugurate such a service and to build up a duplicate book collection, which, it was reported, was customary in all southern libraries. Kentucky provided "several collections of books for the exclusive use of colored people." The extension division, which handles the service, also stated that if the demand warranted it, a proportionate part of the budget would be set aside for the regular purchase of books to be added to the collection.<sup>5</sup> In Louisiana there was no service for Negroes from the state agency, and Mississippi reported Negroes had received service only in

<sup>4</sup> When other sources are not cited, the facts reported were obtained through correspondence between Dean L. R. Wilson of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago and the various state library agencies.

<sup>5</sup> *Fourteenth Biennial Report, 1935-37, of the Library Extension Division* (Frankfort: State Journal Co., Printer to the Commonwealth, 1937), p. 31.

a few cases. This had been direct service to Negro teachers and students living in Jackson where the commission office is located. In North Carolina traveling libraries for Negroes were available. During the depression it was reported that many of the books in the Negro collection had to be discarded because of great use but that the collection was being gradually rebuilt. The commission also stated that the books were very much appreciated and had received good care but that there were not nearly enough to take care of the requests. The entire collection of the Oklahoma Library Commission was accessible to Negroes; no restrictions were imposed because of race. The service consisted of traveling libraries and the loan of books and other material to individuals. Texas seemed to have retrogressed since 1926, as no extension service was offered in 1938 by the library commission or any other state agency. The extension loan library, which operates the package library service, is a part of the state university, and it was established for the "white residents of Texas." In Virginia all facilities of the state agency, consisting of reading-room privileges, individual loans, traveling libraries, and reference services, were open to both white and Negro citizens on the same basis. Alabama had no state library agency, South Carolina had one in name only, and Tennessee provided no general state-wide service,<sup>6</sup> thus service for Negroes could not have been expected in these three states.

The review of state-wide library service for Negroes from state library agencies has shown that one-half of the ten states in the region, which maintain state library agencies, provide no service for Negroes. One state gives direct

<sup>6</sup> The Tennessee State Department of Education provides traveling libraries for public schools which are available to Negro schools on the same basis as to white schools.

MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COLUMBIA, S. C.

service to a few individuals who are residents of the city in which the agency is located. Two states provide separate collections for the use of Negroes, and the remaining two states maintain the same service on the same basis for both white and Negro groups. It is therefore apparent that state library agencies contribute comparatively little toward the provision of public library service for Negroes.

#### ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

On the local level four distinct types of library service to Negroes have been developed, which may be enumerated as follows:

1. Negro *branch* of the general public library
  - a) Municipal branches
  - b) County branches
2. Negro library *stations* of the general public library
  - a) Municipal stations
  - b) County stations
3. *Independent* Negro public libraries
4. Service to Negroes at the *main library*
  - a) Complete service
  - b) Partial service

These four types and their subdivisions will be discussed in the following section of the chapter. All these forms occur early in the development of service, except the library station, and all are in current use, though the Negro branch is far more widely diffused than any of the other forms. A more graphic representation of this fact is provided in Tables 4, 5, and 6. Taken together, the various agencies constitute a complete list, as far as discovered, of all places<sup>7</sup> in the thirteen southern states under discussion in which

<sup>7</sup> The headquarters library only has been listed for library stations, as locations are not necessarily permanent; and five library units operating through contracts with formally organized educational institutions have been omitted (see chap. viii, p. 178, for this information).

organized library service is available to Negroes through local public library agencies.

*Negro branch libraries.*—The branch library as a governmental form may be subdivided into two divisions—one composed of branches of municipal library systems, the other consisting of branches of county library systems. The only essential difference between these two types is that the main library under which the municipal branch operates is a unit which primarily serves the population within an incorporated area, while the county branch operates under a library unit designed to give service to a larger governmental area than the incorporated city or town. Service to this larger unit may be accomplished by three major types of county libraries: (1) libraries which are part of the county government; (2) libraries which are part of both the city and the county government; and (3) municipal libraries, or libraries, of other types, which serve the county by contract.<sup>8</sup> Examples may be found of county branch libraries for Negroes which operate under all three types.

A glance at Table 4 will show that, in number, the municipal branches are greatly in excess of the county branches even when service is considered from all types of county libraries. This, perhaps, is to be expected, as the municipal branch is the older type, certainly coming into existence as early as 1904,<sup>9</sup> with the possibility of an even earlier date; whereas county library branches for Negroes have practically all developed within the past decade.

In both municipal and county branches administrative policy is determined by the board of trustees and the head

<sup>8</sup> C. B. Joeckel, *The Government of the American Public Library* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1935), p. 264.

<sup>9</sup> Branch of the Rosenberg Library of Galveston, Texas (see p. 19).

TABLE 4

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF BRANCH LIBRARIES AND COUNTY  
LIBRARY STATIONS FOR NEGROES

State	Municipal Library Branches*	County Library Branches	Library Stations†
Alabama	Anniston Birmingham Mobile	Jasper (Walker County)	
Arkansas	Little Rock Pine Bluff	Pine Bluff‡ (Jefferson County)	
Florida	Jacksonville Lakeland Miami Orlando Palatka St. Petersburg Tampa		
Georgia	Atlanta (2) Macon	Atlanta‡ (Fulton County)	
Kentucky	Ashland Georgetown Henderson Louisville (2) Middlesboro§ Owensboro	Louisville‡ (Jefferson County)	
Louisiana	New Orleans Shreveport	Minden (19) (Webster Parish)	
Mississippi	Clarksdale (2) Meridian	Clarksdale‡ (Coahoma County)	
North Carolina	Charlotte Henderson High Point Kinston Rocky Mount	Broadway (Lee County) Charlotte‡ (Mecklenburg County) Henderson   (Vance County) Kinston   (Lenoir County)	Gastonia (Gaston County)

\* One unless stated.

† Headquarters library only.

‡ Service by contract with municipal library.

§ Middlesboro has not been included in any of the statistics in this study except this table as it was not established that service was available there until after the study was completed.

|| Serves both city and county.

TABLE 4—Continued

State	Municipal Library Branches*	County Library Branches	Library Stations†
North Carolina —Cont.	Salisbury Winston-Salem	Lexington (Davidson County) Sandford (Lee County) Thomasville (Davidson County) Winston-Salem   (Forsyth County)	
Oklahoma	Chickasha Muskogee Oklahoma City Sapulpa Tulsa		
South Carolina	Beaufort Greenville	Charleston (Charleston County) Columbia (Richmond County) Greenville‡ (Greenville County)	
Tennessee	Chattanooga Knoxville (2) Memphis (2) Nashville	Chattanooga (Hamilton County) Knoxville (Knox County) Memphis (Shelby County)	
Texas	Austin Beaumont (2) Corsicana Dallas Galveston Houston (2) Port Arthur San Antonio (2) Waco	Amarillo (Potter County) Austin‡ (Travis County) Beaumont‡ (Jefferson County) Gainesville (Cooke County) Midland (Midland County) San Angelo (Tom Green County) San Antonio ‡ (Bexar County)	Brady (McCulloch County) Corpus Christi Fort Worth Houston (Harris County)
Virginia	Charlottesville Danville Lynchburg Norfolk Petersburg Richmond Roanoke Salem Staunton Winchester		

librarian of the library system. In no instance is a Negro a member of the governing board, though there are a few examples of Negro advisory or supplementary boards, such as those of Georgetown, Kentucky; Kinston, North Carolina; Memphis, Tennessee; and Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Atlanta, Georgia, formerly had a Negro advisory board, but it was dissolved as it was felt that the suggestions of the board were not confined to the realm of advice.<sup>10</sup>

The powers which are granted to Negro advisory or supplementary boards vary. In some instances, such as Memphis, Tennessee, the board acts solely in an advisory capacity, has no power to decide or fix policy or any connection with the financial administration of the branch. In Georgetown, Kentucky, the Negro branch library is located in the Negro school, and the funds set apart for use by the branch are intrusted to the treasurer of the library committee of the parent-teachers' association and are then spent as the school sees fit. There is a slightly different situation in Kinston, North Carolina. Funds are banked in the name of the Negro branch library, and all branch bills go directly to the branch and are paid by the designated member of the Negro advisory board, though the checks for payment must be certified by the treasurer of the main library board. In Pine Bluff, Arkansas, the Negro Executive Committee, as it is called, handles the general affairs of the Negro branch, the main library simply donating books from its own stock and offering supervision. The only funds available seem to be donations from the Negro group, and the Negro Executive Committee has full authority to spend this money, which, of course, is a relatively small sum. In reality, the branch at Pine Bluff

<sup>10</sup> Ernestine Rose, "Report of 'Work with Negroes Round Table,'" *Bulletin of the American Library Association*, XVI (July, 1922), 364.

is almost an independent Negro library, since the main library spends little actual cash for its support. The salary of the branch librarian is paid by W.P.A., and the books are donations from the regular stock of the main library, except those purchased by funds which come to the branch through gifts from the Negroes themselves or those which are bought through rental fees.

The Negro branch library at Miami, Florida, offers a most interesting variation in its governmental form. The library was organized as a branch of the Miami Public Library and still retains this affiliation, though recently it has been operating under a separate board of trustees composed of five Negro members and four white members, who were all appointed by a Negro citizen who gave the site on which the library hopes to erect a new building. These trustees are the governing body of the newly formed "Washington Heights Library Association," a nonprofit corporation, and as a body this board has the power to hold property, to buy and sell, to make library regulations, and to incur \$100,000 indebtedness. This form of organization might very well be called a "corporation library unit," even though it retains its nominal affiliation as a branch library.

*Negro library stations.*—A library station, as defined by the Library Service Division of the United States Office of Education on the form for its *Public Library Statistical Report*, is "a place from which books are distributed but at which there is no permanent collection or library staff." In the main this definition is adequate to characterize what is meant in this study by "library station," except that it is necessary to point out that in Fort Worth, Texas, the staff of one person is permanent, though the collection is changed periodically.

The available evidence makes it appear that the library station is a more satisfactory form of service than the extremely small branch library. The greatest advantage comes in the periodic withdrawals and additions to the collection. Most small branch libraries receive so few annual additions to supplement their already old and dead stock that they become little more than depositories of books which have long outlived their usefulness. When an arrangement is in effect similar to that of Fort Worth, it is even possible to have the guidance and stimulation which may come from competent permanent personnel. It may be clearly seen, however, that a plan of this sort would not be successful unless there was available a fairly large supply from a central collection, and that all books would be obtainable by every station. If only a small group of books were reserved for, and made accessible to Negro readers, the present situation of numerous dead collections would soon prevail.

Library stations, like branches, may be under the administration of municipal or county libraries. While municipal stations are confined to locations within one municipality, usually in diverse sections of the city, the stations of one county library may be, and customarily are, located in different localities. The public school is a favorite location for either municipal or county stations because there is ordinarily some person at a school who is willing to be responsible for the collection of books which is deposited.

*Independent Negro public libraries.*—From all available evidence it may be concluded that the independent Negro library as a governmental form was created earlier than the Negro branch,<sup>11</sup> though service was first actively begun

<sup>11</sup> See p. 19.

in the branch.<sup>12</sup> Table 5 shows the cities whose library service for Negroes is operated under this form.

The earliest example of independent organization, as has been shown, was the "Charlotte Public Library for Col-

TABLE 5  
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF INDEPENDENT  
NEGRO LIBRARIES

State	Municipal	County
Florida	Winter Park*	.....
Georgia	{ Savannah { Waycross	.....
Mississippi	Jackson	.....
North Carolina	{ Asheville { Durham † { Greensboro { Raleigh { Wilmington	Raleigh ‡ (Wake County) Winton (Hertford County)
Oklahoma	Guthrie	.....

\* Privately owned.  
† Serves part of the county.  
‡ Serves both city and county.

ored People," located in the city of Charlotte, North Carolina, and created in 1903 by a special act of the North Carolina legislature. The governing body of this institution was a board of trustees, composed of six members, all Negroes, and endowed with the same powers and restricted by the same limitations as those conferred and imposed on the trustees of the "Charlotte Carnegie Library," the institution which served the white population of Charlotte.

<sup>12</sup> See p. 22.

Until 1935,<sup>13</sup> all libraries which were organized as independent institutions followed the example of Charlotte and had as their governing body a board of trustees composed entirely of Negroes, but recent examples of this governmental form have boards whose membership is not restricted to members of the Negro group. Two excellent examples of this type are the "Richard B. Harrison Library" of Raleigh, North Carolina, and the "Hertford County Colored Library," of Winton, North Carolina, whose board is composed of six members, three Negro and three white. The following synthesis of opinion<sup>14</sup> may help in interpreting this recent trend:

1. White members on the board might aid materially in securing adequate support for the institution, without which no public institution may serve effectively.

2. Members of the white group who will consent to serve on the board of a Negro institution usually are genuinely interested in its welfare and will use their influence to strengthen its foundation and to broaden its activities.

3. The more enlightened attitude brought about through the contact afforded by the interracial group works toward an enlargement of all educational and social agencies for the Negro.

4. Opinions of the white members of the board, who often have had wide experience in governmental and administrative procedures, are frequently extremely valuable.

*Service to Negroes at the main library.*—Library systems giving service at the main library may be divided into two

<sup>13</sup> The year the Richard B. Harrison Library of Raleigh, North Carolina, was founded with a board composed of both Negro and white members.

<sup>14</sup> Views of librarians expressed to the writer while on a field trip visiting southern libraries.

types, those which give complete service by allowing to Negro patrons the same privileges as those allowed to white patrons, and those systems which give only partial service to Negroes at the main library. As a form this plan is confined to the four states of Kentucky, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Texas, and a wide variation is evident in the character of the service rendered. Table 6 gives a reason-

TABLE 6

## SERVICE TO NEGROES AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

<i>Kentucky</i>	<i>Texas</i>
Covington* (Kenton County)	Brady§ (McCulloch County)
Lexington† (Fayette County)	Corpus Christi§
Newport†	El Paso*
Paducah†	Fort Worth   (Tarrant County)
Paris†	Pecos*
	Port Arthur¶
<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>Virginia</i>
Ponca City‡	Boydton** (Mecklenberg County)
	Charlotte Court House** (Charlotte County)
	Halifax** (Halifax County)
	Petersburg††

\* Full privileges.

† Partial service.

|| Partial service and also stations in Negro section.

¶ Partial service summer only; Negro school branch in winter.

\*\* Full service privileges but segregated reading-room.

†† Separate branch though housed in main library.

‡ May have cards—no other information available.

§ Full privileges and also station in Negro section.

ably complete picture of the facilities offered through this channel.

That full privileges are extended to Negroes anywhere in the southern region is a most interesting development. This situation does occur, however, in Covington, Kentucky, and Brady, El Paso, and Pecos, Texas. The divergence from the general pattern may be accounted for partially by a few apparent reasons. Kentucky is a border

state between the South and the North, and Covington, the city which offers full privileges, is one of Kentucky's border cities situated just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati. It is quite natural that with this geographical location, Covington would be influenced by the attitudes and customs of the North as well as by those of the South.

The four Texas cities of Brady, Corpus Christi, El Paso, and Pecos also allow Negroes full privileges. The librarian of the El Paso Public Library accounts for this type of service in El Paso by the following facts: "El Paso is geographically in the state of Texas, but its flavor and customs are decidedly Western with a mixture of Mexico. The problems of the South are lacking."<sup>15</sup> The character of the general population and the size of the Negro population perhaps have also had some influence on the form the service has taken. The total population of El Paso is 102,000, the Mexican population is 58,291, while the Negro population is only 1,855, not large enough in proportion to create the "Negro problem." Somewhat the same facts hold true also for Brady, Corpus Christi, and Pecos, though, because of their geographical location, the influence of western attitudes certainly could not be so great. All are comparatively near Mexico, and all have a small Negro population: 317 in Brady, 1,951 in Corpus Christi, and only 162 in Pecos. Unquestionably, the above facts have had an important bearing on the type of service given.

Charlotte County Public Library at Charlotte Court House, Virginia, the Halifax County Public Library at Halifax, Virginia, and the Mecklenberg County Library at Boydton, Virginia, also offer full service privileges to Negroes; however, the Negro patrons use separate reading-

<sup>15</sup> Letter from Mrs. Maud S. Sullivan, librarian of the El Paso Public Library, January 17, 1939.

rooms with separate entrances. In two cases the reading-rooms are on the main floor, but in the other, the location of the reading-room is on the ground floor. All three of these libraries were gifts to their respective counties by Mr. David K. E. Bruce and his wife, Mrs. Ailsa Mellon Bruce, and it was their request that all the resources of the libraries be available alike to all racial groups. This form of service makes it simpler for cities to provide more adequate public library facilities for the Negro, but there are obvious limitations to this method.

The Public Library of Lexington, Kentucky, extends the right to borrow books for home use to Negro borrowers and also provides a separate reading-room at the main library for their use, though certain service restrictions are imposed. Newport, Paducah, and Paris, Kentucky, allow Negroes to borrow books for home use but provide no reading-room facilities. At Petersburg, Virginia, the reading-room for Negroes is located in the basement of the main library and is in charge of a Negro attendant, and no books are allowed to circulate from the "upstairs department" to the "downstairs readers." This plan virtually constitutes a separate Negro branch, and a Negro branch under its worst conditions, since it allows no additional service facilities and those which are available are located outside of the Negro population center. Fort Worth and Port Arthur, Texas, have no reading-room facilities, though books may be drawn for home use. In the case of Port Arthur, this privilege is allowed only during the summer months when the branch library, in the Negro high school, is closed.

The above analysis shows clearly that there is wide variation in the type of library service given to the Negro in the South at the central offices of public library systems.



*Minor forms of service.*—A few cities provide service of such a negligible character for their Negro population that they have not been listed as offering regular service, although in two instances the service offered is officially designated as "Negro branch service." In the following paragraphs the essential facts regarding all places in which these minor forms of service are known to exist are briefly summarized.

The Mary Willis Library of Washington, Georgia, gives all of its duplicate books to the Negro high school. Until 1927 the public library of Danville, Kentucky, gave service to the Negroes of its community through a branch, but in that year the books belonging to the branch were turned over to the Negro high school, and the library unit has since been operated under the board of education. Community borrowers may use the library, and the public library still makes occasional book donations.

Originally, the Booker T. Washington School Library of Enid, Oklahoma, was a county library project, and the county appropriated annually a small amount of money for its support. Since 1932, however, there has been no provision made in the county budget for its maintenance. The books it now receives are purchased by the board of education, but they are catalogued by the Garfield County Library and the shelf list is kept by this institution. Also, the county librarian takes an inventory of the holdings of the library at the beginning of each school year and arranges the books properly on the shelves. No community service is offered.

Two afternoons per week in the summer in Statesville, North Carolina, a Negro woman, who donates her services, circulates books, loaned by the white library, to Negro readers in a former Negro school building. In winter there

is no heat in the quarters used in the summer, so the Negro woman takes the books to her residence, and those who are fortunate enough to hear of this arrangement may borrow books there. There is so little system and such infrequent change of titles that it has not been felt that this arrangement should be raised to the dignity of a "station."

Weldon, North Carolina, officially has a Negro branch library located in the Negro school. The collection is very small, there is no regular attendant, it is open only intermittently during the day in school months, and it is closed entirely in the summer. It is felt that facilities of this kind could not properly be called a branch.

The Lubbock County Library at Lubbock, Texas, allows Negroes to use books at the central library, but they are denied regular reading-room privileges and also the privileges of borrowing books for home use. It evolves itself into almost special individual service, and the reading must be done in one of the empty courtrooms, which is possible since the library is housed in the county court building.

The librarian of the Kurth Memorial Library of Lufkin, Texas, requested permission from the board of trustees to give service to Negro teachers, ministers, or heads of any Negro educational organizations, and the request was granted. This service is given from the main library building.

El Progreso Public Library of Uvalde, Texas, does not allow Negroes to borrow books for home use, but Negro teachers may borrow books for the school at the rate of four books per teacher and may retain these books for a period of four weeks.

The King William County Library located at West Point, Virginia, though presumably operating a Negro

branch library, sends a few books, which need not be returned, to the Negro elementary school each year. There is no regular schedule of hours for community readers, and it is closed entirely during the summer months. Under these conditions it does not seem advisable to designate this service as a "Negro branch library."

## SUMMARY

Public library service in the South is available to Negroes on both state and local levels, though as a whole, the service given by states is more limited in character and scope than that offered by counties and municipalities.

Four major forms of governmental organization have developed under which all organized local service operates: (1) the Negro branch library, (2) the Negro library station, (3) the independent Negro library, and (4) service for the Negro through the regular library channels. In addition to these four major forms, certain minor forms of service have evolved, but the facilities offered are of such negligible character that they are relatively unimportant in any serious discussion of public library provisions.

## CHAPTER IV

## GEOGRAPHY OF NEGRO LIBRARY SERVICE

THIS chapter is mainly concerned with the presentation and interpretation of two simple but important facts connected with library "coverage." Though reference has been made to the cities and counties which give public library service to Negroes, no statement has yet been made as to the actual number of Negroes these areas serve. Also, no statistics have been given concerning the number of Negroes who reside in areas served by libraries but who do not receive service from these institutions. Therefore, this chapter will concern itself with (1) the number and distribution of Negro citizens who are served by public libraries and (2) the number of Negroes who reside in areas served by libraries but who do not receive library service. The latter figure will constitute, in effect, a correction of the commonly accepted figure for library coverage in the thirteen southern states under discussion.

## NEGRO POPULATION WITH LIBRARY SERVICE

*Service to Negroes by states.*—Table 7 is a compilation which shows by states the number of Negroes receiving public library service in 1939 from local public library agencies in the thirteen southern states covered by this study. In addition to figures for the total number served by each state, figures showing the percentage of the total Negro population with service have also been included, so that the true perspective might not be lost.