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SEAALL Annual Report 1958-1959

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As I recall the beginnings of this Chapter, it owes its birth to the efforts of the North Carolina Chapter. Probably with the exception of Dillard Gardner, Supreme Court Librarian, Raleigh, N. C., the active membership was primarily composed of Law School librarians. As we all recall, our status among the Southeastern Law Teachers' group needed considerable improvement. Our annual meetings were scheduled at the same time as those of the Southeastern Law Teachers. By discussing our common problems, by dining and playing and working together, we broke some of the barriers between librarians and teachers in southern law schools. I believe that we have made great progress.

In concentrating on law school programs, we neglected those of our members who work in court, bar and state law libraries. At our last annual meeting in Washington, D.C., we started on a new phase of chapter growth. We decided that we could offer our whole membership more by scheduling our chapter program meeting a day before the annual meeting of the A.A.L.L. We realize that with a geographical spread over eleven states from Virginia to Florida and Louisiana we are facing great difficulties in getting a representative group of members together at any place conveniently accessible to all. The law school librarians want to attend the national meeting after Christmas and the regional one in late summer. All of our members want to be present at the national A.A.L.L. meeting. There is more likelihood to receive expense contributions from our respective employers for a national meeting than for additional regional meetings. In drawing more of our members to the national meeting by eliminating special travel to a chapter meeting, we believe that we contribute more effectively to our objectives: professional growth for our members, strengthening of the chapter and the A.A.L.L.

Our project for this year was derived at by group discussion at our last annual meeting. We wanted to take stock of our law libraries in our respective member states. The ultimate goal is: membership growth, cooperation among members and expansion of law library facilities and services in each state of our region. A committee chairman was appointed for each state, who was asked to select his or her own committee members. Each chairman is to send a state report on available court and bar library services and their operations by April 15 to the President of the chapter, who will coordinate the reports and disseminate the information received.

At our next annual program meeting we plan to discuss common problems with an outstanding representative of a bar association and of a court library from a non-member state.

One of the objectives of this year's program was to bring law librarians in each one of our states closer together by working on a project within the state. There were states which declined the suggested task and others which knew from past experience that time for cooperation on a state
basis had not yet come. But there are some states where progress will be reported. It is hoped that their efforts will spread over state borders. Our law school librarians will want to explore what they can do in speeding up such development. This is a long range project and cannot be completed in one year.

Growth of our chapter as a chapter will have to come from within each state of our group. That will mean more decentralization of chapter activities wherever libraries are located in an easily accessible area. It is suggested that we get together informally and that perhaps the Committee on Chapters can assist in the preparation of programs for such meetings.

Law school libraries in our chapter were canvassed on their interest in acquisition of foreign legal materials. It seems that only Florida and Louisiana schools are presently developing foreign collections. There is widespread interest in assembling checklists for English materials.

We are happy to report that Mrs. Grace Culbreth, Librarian of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association, Norfolk, Virginia, has joined our chapter.

Our last annual meeting, in June 1958, at Washington, D.C., was well attended, stimulating and ably prepared and guided by last year's president, Dorothy Salmon. The minutes of the meeting were included in the Newsletter of December 10, 1958 and sent to all members of the chapter.

Additional information was conveyed to the chapter members by Presidential Newsletter of September 8, 1958. Another Presidential Newsletter will be issued sometime in April.

Following the Committee on Chapter's suggestion we will provide for dissemination of chapter information each year in our By-Laws. This will be brought up at the next annual business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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President
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