ROBERT B. DOWNS

Library Resources in the United States

This is the third investigation of the distribution of American library resources, undertaken at approximately twenty-year intervals. The 1973 study reveals a phenomenal growth in library collections during the past eighteen years. During that period, the number of centers in the United States holding in excess of 500,000 volumes each increased from 109 to 265, and the total number of volumes in such centers expanded nearly threefold.

A PIONEER STUDY OF THE DISTRIBUTION of American library resources was reported in Louis Round Wilson's *Geography of Reading*. Based on sources published in 1935, Wilson discovered that there were in the United States at that time seventy-seven centers of not over fifty miles radius (airline) holding 500,000 volumes or more.[1]

The specifications stated by Wilson for computing his data were thus defined:

In general, the area included does not cover more than 50 miles (airline) from center. When a city could be attached to more than one center, the total number of volumes in the area and transportation facilities were considered in allocating it. Public or college libraries of less than 20,000 volumes and special libraries of less than 5,000 volumes were not included. State lines were not crossed except in special cases. Centers such as Newark were maintained separately. No city was chosen as a center unless it contained one library having at least 75,000 volumes. Preference was given to state capitals, or cities in which state universities were located. Metropolitan areas were selected unless the library center would fall elsewhere.

Utilizing the same or similar sources of information, the Wilson study was updated about twenty years later.[2] The second investigation revealed the relative ranks of the various centers, the number of volumes in each area in 1955 as compared to 1935, and the increase in volumes. The number of centers was found to have grown from 77 to 109 during the twenty-year period.

In 1973, with assistance from a group of students in the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science, a second updating was undertaken.[*] The results were little short of startling. As shown in Table 1, the number of centers in the United States holding in excess of 500,000 volumes each had jumped from 109 in 1955 to 265 in 1973. Even more striking, the total number of volumes in such centers had gone from 138,867,606 volumes in 1935 to 289,355,391 in 1955 to 724,045,043 volumes in 1973—more than a fivefold increase in less than forty years. The growth rate during the past eighteen years is especially phenomenal.

Table 2 contains a breakdown of the 265 centers by states. Possessing the greatest number of centers with more than 500,000 volumes each was California, with a total of 21, followed by Ohio with 18, New York and Texas with

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*Under the chairmanship of Anne Billeter and Roland Streit.

TABLE 1

LIBRARY CENTERS, OF NOT OVER 50 MILES RADIUS (AIRLINE),
CONTAINING 500,000 VOLUMES OR MORE

City	Rank 1973	Volumes in Area, 1973	Rank 1955	Volumes in Area, 1955	Rank 1935	Volumes in Area, 1935
New York City, N.Y.	1	47,305,190	2	24,688,777	1	12,910,623
Washington, D. C.	2	39,728,774	1	25,356,917	2	11,744,966
Boston, Mass.	3	30,467,291	3	18,334,377	3	10,709,614
Los Angeles, Calif.	4	24,455,236	5	10,096,635	5	6,564,016
Chicago, Ill.	5	22,414,327	4	12,519,393	4	6,691,144
Philadelphia, Pa.	6	14,759,903	6	7,867,242	6	4,805,252
San Francisco, Calif.	7	13,906,443	7	6,901,607	8	3,558,191
Minneapolis, Minn.	8	10,629,127	11	4,988,889	13	2,475,322
San Jose; Stanford, Calif.	9	10,350,412	26	3,006,064	22	1,551,791
Newark, N.J.	10	10,296,596	9	6,024,375	9	2,955,827
Cleveland, Ohio	11	9,142,394	8	6,140,556	7	3,835,889
Pittsburgh, Pa.	12	9,076,306	16	3,937,179	16	2,136,108
Detroit, Mich.	13	8,322,385	18	3,707,637	25	1,404,736
Baltimore, Md.	14	8,257,188	12	4,857,922	12	2,477,779
Dallas, Tex. (Ft. Worth, Denton)	15	8,239,108	37	1,963,176	70	570,746
St. Louis, Mo.	16	7,713,880	22	3,217,632	14	2,269,662
New Haven, Conn.	17	7,496,069	10	5,330,221	10	2,868,781
Albany, N.Y.	18	7,271,047	13	4,498,344	19	1,902,574
Providence, R.I.: Fall River; New Bedford, Mass.	19	7,262,748	19	3,646,088	11	2,607,138
Columbus, Ohio	20	7,261,341	14	4,119,799	20	1,813,637
Buffalo, N.Y.	21	6,504,369	29	2,809,211	27	1,341,455
Springfield, Mass.	22	5,729,951	23	3,170,131	17	2,099,229
Cincinnati, Ohio	23	5,592,171	17	3,750,316	18	2,066,825
Seattle, Wash.	24	5,525,875	24	3,122,956	36	1,064,818
San Diego, Calif.	25	5,277,346	70	1,010,631	77	500,383
Urbana, Ill.	26	5,199,575	25	3,072,034	33	1,184,928
Ann Arbor, Mich.	27	5,103,299	28	2,884,529	35	1,074,274
Milwaukee, Wis.	28	5,074,643	31	2,673,066	21	1,565,732
Kansas City, Mo. and Kans.	29	5,021,465	40	1,937,367	47	788,837
Chapel Hill; Durham, N.C.	30	4,996,743	21	3,337,247	34	1,091,858
Atlanta, Ga.	31	4,873,274	42	1,865,435	54	715,842
Sacramento, Calif.	32	4,857,605	38	1,958,441	23	1,534,107
Madison, Wis.	33	4,813,740	36	2,155,846	26	1,341,899
Evanston, Ill.	34	4,683,075				
Ithaca, N.Y.	35	4,654,116	32	2,573,378	31	1,264,920
Nashville, Tenn.	36	4,600,596	51	1,526,868	46	791,242
Houston, Tex.	37	4,596,864	63	1,231,685		
New Orleans, La.	38	4,301,324	49	1,625,299	56	702,703
Rochester, N.Y.	39	4,279,592	46	1,836,532	24	1,515,438
Beltsville, Md.	40	4,266,040				
Hartford, Conn.	41	4,251,603	20	3,583,938	58	691,217
Austin, Tex.	42	4,219,067	41	1,918,420	49	783,391
Denver, Colo.	43	4,150,133	30	2,715,259	32	1,212,159
Lansing, Mich.	44	3,918,201	34	2,351,614	45	797,736
Worcester, Mass.	45	3,809,191	35	2,341,469	28	1,315,636
Salt Lake City, Utah	46	3,773,746	65	1,218,566		
Orange, Calif.	47	3,564,404				
New Brunswick, N.J.	48	3,476,954				
Miami, Fla.	49	3,421,391	88	757,906		
Princeton, N.J.	50	3,367,802	15	4,040,143	15	2,150,512
Indianapolis, Ind.	51	3,326,594	27	3,000,499	30	1,266,031
Oklahoma City, Okla.	52	3,242,373	50	1,550,821	68	604,140
Dayton, Ohio	53	3,189,778	48	1,637,991	41	955,198
Phoenix, Ariz.	54	3,171,641	84	815,778		
Syracuse, N.Y.	55	3,039,009	77	906,084	57	695,565
Bloomington, Ind.	56	2,932,410				
Bridgeport, Conn.	57	2,917,130	61	1,240,975	65	607,834
Arlington, Va.	58	2,916,734				

TABLE 1—Continued

City	Rank 1973	Volumes in Area, 1973	Rank 1955	Volumes in Area, 1955	Rank 1935	Volumes in Area, 1935
Knoxville, Tenn.	59	2,821,730	85	801,299		
Richmond, Va.	60	2,777,141	53	1,441,119	61	651,842
Portland, Oreg.	61	2,776,170	59	1,322,670	53	759,320
Norfolk, Va.	62	2,762,843	104	590,478		
Honolulu, Hawaii	63	2,706,530				
Springfield, Ill.	64	2,659,113	44	1,851,364	60	667,247
Tucson, Ariz.	65	2,542,726				
Toledo, Ohio	66	2,460,024	82	818,293	63	620,711
Columbia, Mo.	67	2,449,138	55	1,413,600	55	715,829
Columbia, S.C.	68	2,442,470	73	960,247		
Charlottesville, Va.	69	2,359,824	67	1,069,935		
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	70	2,346,182	81	822,856	64	613,535
San Antonio, Tex.	71	2,311,777	87	782,248		
Stony Brook, N.Y.	72	2,283,336				
Bethlehem, Pa.	73	2,276,772	68	1,048,181	50	783,274
Louisville, Ky.	74	2,275,897	71	1,003,900	71	537,494
Santa Barbara, Calif.	75	2,238,939	101	623,121		
South Bend, Ind.	76	2,221,157	76	991,314		
State College, Pa.	77	2,202,977	92	715,896		
Harrisburg, Pa.	78	2,195,208	47	1,743,178	43	902,802
Charlotte, N.C.	79	2,153,951	96	670,739		
Claremont, Calif.	80	2,129,149				
Bethesda, Md.	81	2,128,960				
Baton Rouge, La.	82	2,102,149	54	1,415,255		
Gainesville, Fla.	83	2,102,081	94	686,243		
Memphis, Tenn.	84	2,087,296				
Ft. Wayne, Ind.	85	2,049,834	66	1,133,926		
Des Moines, Iowa	86	2,033,167	43	1,851,960	40	972,814
Lowell, Mass.	87	2,020,728	105	580,119	48	784,843
Lincoln, Nebr.	88	2,003,156	62	1,237,610	37	1,031,052
Roanoke, Va.	89	1,966,640	79	859,511		
Fresno, Calif.	90	1,943,257	72	971,751	38	995,404
Gary, Ind.	91	1,897,864	89	739,501		
Greenville, S.C.	92	1,862,782	98	658,138		
Iowa City, Iowa	93	1,823,655	56	1,401,880	59	679,405
Wilmington, Del.	94	1,807,400	100	629,775		
Birmingham, Ala.	95	1,798,117	57	1,374,977	76	508,381
Charleston, W. Va.	96	1,788,628	95	678,681		
Morgantown, W. Va.	97	1,745,301	102	596,929		
Lafayette, Ind.	98	1,741,722	69	1,020,870	75	513,855
Athens, Ga.	99	1,736,052				
Utica, N.Y.	100	1,733,360	75	917,844	74	514,373
Greensboro, N.C.	101	1,729,099				
Grand Rapids, Mich.	102	1,713,913	60	1,299,376	52	775,680
Boulder, Colo.	103	1,713,287				
Lexington, Ky.	104	1,711,201	52	1,475,022	69	578,806
Lawrence, Kans.	105	1,703,603				
Carlisle Barracks, Pa.	106	1,683,676				
San Bernardino, Calif.	107	1,677,737				
Kalamazoo, Mich.	108	1,673,680				
Carbondale, Ill.	109	1,672,492				
Muncie, Ind.	110	1,662,381				
Topeka, Kans.	111	1,660,161	33	2,505,793	29	1,293,901
Mount Pleasant, Mich.	112	1,637,231				
Bowling Green, Ohio	113	1,636,219				
Winston-Salem, N.C.	114	1,618,747				
Omaha, Nebr.	115	1,616,670	91	724,850		
Akron, Ohio	116	1,595,648	39	1,937,456	44	799,509
Rockville, Md.	117	1,594,171				
Tallahassee, Fla.	118	1,566,269	109	537,755		
Stockton, Calif.	119	1,557,424				
Little Rock, Ark.	120	1,547,068	90	736,870		

TABLE 1—Continued

City	Rank 1973	Volumes in Area, 1973	Rank 1955	Volumes in Area, 1955	Rank 1935	Volumes in Area, 1935
Lancaster, Pa.	121	1,526,941				
Albuquerque, N. Mex.	122	1,518,453				
Canton, Ohio	123	1,512,423				
Tulsa, Okla.	124	1,508,558	93	693,836		
De Kalb, Ill.	125	1,477,499				
Stillwater, Okla.	126	1,461,912				
Riverside, Calif.	127	1,444,869				
Oberlin, Ohio	128	1,411,600				
Orlando, Fla.	129	1,404,908				
Raleigh, N.C.	130	1,403,434				
Jackson, Miss.	131	1,395,780				
Ft. Collins, Colo.	132	1,389,566				
Youngstown, Ohio	133	1,382,065				
Wichita, Kans.	134	1,372,265				
Lubbock, Tex.	135	1,365,848				
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	136	1,363,365	108	546,564		
Oshkosh, Wis.	137	1,355,814	78	892,690		
Augusta, Maine	138	1,341,908	64	1,230,769	39	989,944
Portland, Maine	139	1,335,429				
Hanover, N.H.	140	1,324,377	80	831,089	73	523,641
Schenectady, N.Y.	141	1,314,360				
Eugene, Oreg.	142	1,305,048				
Trenton, N.J.	143	1,296,306				
Tuscaloosa, Ala.	144	1,287,680				
Terre Haute, Ind.	145	1,255,784				
Tacoma, Wash.	146	1,253,235				
Hayward, Calif.	147	1,246,153				
Erie, Pa.	148	1,209,573	107	547,168		
Springfield, Ohio	149	1,195,714				
Colorado Springs, Colo.	150	1,193,829				
Concord, N.H.	151	1,185,437	58	1,344,355	51	782,818
Storrs, Conn.	152	1,173,821				
Davis, Calif.	153	1,169,537				
Annapolis, Md.	154	1,166,092				
Tampa, Fla.	155	1,161,051				
Spokane, Wash.	156	1,151,320				
Athens, Ohio	157	1,144,112	97	664,610		
Fort Monmouth, N.J.	158	1,125,176				
Montgomery, Ala.	159	1,110,148	86	797,701		
Kent, Ohio	160	1,100,213				
Provo, Utah	161	1,095,405				
Monterey, Calif.	162	1,093,615				
Auburn, Ala.	163	1,086,535				
Olympia, Wash.	164	1,069,806				
Oxford, Ohio	165	1,067,620				
Salem, Oreg.	166	1,043,685				
Jacksonville, Fla.	167	1,043,047				
Ames, Iowa	168	1,039,313				
Burlington, Vt.	169	1,037,185				
Greenville, N.C.	170	1,023,298				
Ruston, La.	171	1,021,471				
Binghamton, N.Y.	172	1,007,284				
Waco, Tex.	173	997,516				
Evansville, Ind.	174	990,301	106	560,300		
Bangor, Maine	175	986,053				
Springfield, Mo.	176	979,513				
Fayetteville, Ark.	177	974,319				
El Paso, Tex.	178	956,189				
St. Petersburg, Fla.	179	955,628				
Reno, Nev.	180	942,792				
Middletown, Conn.	181	939,449				
Wooster, Ohio	182	918,807				

TABLE 1—Continued

City	Rank 1973	Volumes in Area, 1973	Rank 1955	Volumes in Area, 1955	Rank 1935	Volumes in Area, 1935
Chattanooga, Tenn.	183	914,241				
Montpelier, Vt.	184	913,346	74	952,662	67	607,570
Canyon, Tex.	185	899,747				
Camden, N.J.	186	898,206				
Normal, Ill.	187	891,302				
Green Bay, Wis.	188	886,991				
Pullman, Wash.	189	853,458				
Macomb, Ill.	190	847,790				
Delaware, Ohio	191	845,605				
Peoria, Ill.	192	842,319	83	817,470	66	607,659
Pleasant Hill, Calif.	193	839,847				
Cedar Falls, Iowa	194	834,364				
Huntsville, Ala.	195	831,572				
Boise, Idaho	196	830,300				
Chico, Calif.	197	829,788				
Moscow, Idaho	198	822,006				
Columbus, Ga.	199	813,333				
College Station, Tex.	200	812,595				
Mankato, Minn.	201	812,032				
Macon, Ga.	202	807,907				
St. Cloud, Minn.	203	795,881				
Lima, Ohio	204	788,486				
Santa Fe, N. Mex.	205	788,186				
Durham, N.H.	206	788,142				
Edwardsville, Ill.	207	785,830				
Jefferson City, Mo.	208	775,898				
Laramie, Wyo.	209	774,593				
Asheville, N.C.	210	766,151				
Missoula, Mont.	211	763,420				
Corpus Christi, Tex.	212	747,629				
Santa Cruz, Calif.	213	747,168				
Manhattan, Kans.	214	742,916				
Corvallis, Oreg.	215	741,003	45	1,843,038	42	903,154
Elmira, N.Y.	216	740,676				
Charleston, S.C.	217	733,163				
Winona, Minn.	218	725,233				
Walla Walla, Wash.	219	714,114				
Gadsden, Ala.	220	713,584				
Bakersfield, Calif.	221	710,623	103	593,277	62	641,660
Albany, Ga.	222	703,748				
Stevens Point, Wis.	223	699,444				
Potsdam, N.Y.	224	698,432				
Savannah, Ga.	225	697,804				
Zanesville, Ohio	226	697,733				
University, Miss.	227	690,916				
Pensacola, Fla.	228	685,479				
Dubuque, Iowa	229	681,616				
Abilene, Tex.	230	672,570				
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	231	667,926				
Richmond, Ky.	232	662,418				
Galveston, Tex.	233	661,734				
Davenport, Iowa	234	657,329				
Johnson City, Tenn.	235	656,722				
New London, Conn.	236	647,307				
Fayetteville, N.C.	237	634,126				
Manchester, N.H.	238	627,143				
Hattiesburg, Miss.	239	625,371				
San Luis Obispo, Calif.	240	615,178				
Augusta, Ga.	241	611,611				
Commerce, Tex.	242	605,408				
Pocatello, Idaho	243	601,187				
Mobile, Ala.	244	574,403				

TABLE 1—Continued

City	Rank 1973	Volumes in Area, 1973	Rank 1955	Volumes in Area, 1955	Rank 1935	Volumes in Area, 1935
Sioux City, Iowa	245	562,026				
Logan, Utah	246	561,698				
Bozeman, Mont.	247	561,331				
Warrensburg, Mo.	248	560,133				
Frankfort, Ky.	249	557,694				
Rock Island, Ill.	250	556,179	99	654,067		
Alfred, N.Y.	251	542,819				
State University, Ark.	252	541,639				
Boone, N.C.	253	538,170				
LaFayette, La.	254	537,511				
Eureka, Calif.	255	537,197				
State College, Miss.	256	534,827				
Martin, Tenn.	257	528,921				
Vermillion, S. Dak.	258	523,096				
Helena, Mont.	259	522,182				
Hanover, Ind.	260	522,027				
Huntsville, Tex.	261	521,186				
Fairfield, Iowa	262	516,266				
Grand Forks, N. Dak.	263	509,519				
Emporia, Kans.	264	502,946				
Medford, Oreg.	265	500,723				
TOTAL		724,045,043		289,355,391		138,867,606

(The apparent loss of volumes in some centers is the result of the establishment of new centers and subtraction of their holdings from older centers.)

TABLE 2

LIBRARY CENTERS ARRANGED BY STATES

Alabama (7)		Sacramento	4,857,605
Auburn	1,086,535	San Bernardino	1,677,737
Birmingham	1,798,117	San Diego	5,277,346
Gadsden	713,584	San Francisco	13,906,443
Huntsville	831,572	San Jose-Stanford	10,350,412
Mobile	574,403	San Luis Obispo	615,178
Montgomery	1,110,148	Santa Barbara	2,238,939
Tuscaloosa	1,287,680	Santa Cruz	747,168
Alaska (0)		Stockton	1,557,424
Arizona (2)		Colorado (4)	
Phoenix	3,171,641	Boulder	1,713,287
Tucson	2,542,726	Colorado Springs	1,193,829
Arkansas (3)		Denver	4,150,133
Fayetteville	974,319	Ft. Collins	1,389,566
Little Rock	1,547,068	Connecticut (6)	
State University	541,639	Bridgeport	2,917,130
California (21)		Hartford	4,251,603
Bakersfield	710,623	Middletown	939,449
Chico	829,788	New Haven	7,496,069
Claremont	2,129,149	New London	647,307
Davis	1,169,537	Storrs	1,173,821
Eureka	537,197	Delaware (1)	
Fresno	1,943,257	Wilmington	1,807,400
Hayward	1,246,153	District of Columbia (1)	
Los Angeles	24,455,236	D.C.	39,728,774
Monterey	1,093,615	Florida (8)	
Orange	3,564,404	Gainesville	2,102,081
Pleasant Hill	839,847	Jacksonville	1,043,047
Riverside	1,444,869	Miami	3,553,788

TABLE 2—Continued

Orlando	1,404,908	LaFayette	537,511
Pensacola	685,479	New Orleans	4,301,324
St. Petersburg	955,628	Ruston	1,021,471
Tallahassee	1,566,269	Maine (3)	
Tampa	1,161,051	Augusta	1,341,908
Georgia (7)		Bangor	986,053
Albany	703,748	Portland	1,335,429
Athens	1,736,052	Maryland (5)	
Atlanta	4,873,274	Annapolis	1,166,092
Augusta	611,611	Baltimore	8,257,188
Columbus	813,333	Beltsville	4,266,040
Macon	807,907	Bethesda	2,128,960
Savannah	697,804	Rockville	1,594,171
Hawaii (1)		Massachusetts (4)	
Honolulu	2,706,530	Boston	30,467,291
Idaho (3)		Lowell	2,020,728
Boise	830,300	Springfield	5,729,951
Moscow	822,006	Worcester	3,809,191
Pocatello	601,187	Michigan (6)	
Illinois (11)		Ann Arbor	5,103,299
Carbondale	1,672,492	Detroit	8,322,385
Chicago	22,414,327	Grand Rapids	1,713,913
De Kalb	1,477,499	Kalamazoo	1,673,680
Evanston	4,683,075	Lansing	3,918,201
Edwardsville	785,830	Mount Pleasant	1,637,231
Macomb	847,790	Minnesota (4)	
Normal	891,302	Minneapolis	10,629,127
Peoria	842,319	Mankato	812,032
Rock Island	556,179	St. Cloud	795,881
Springfield	2,659,113	Winona	725,233
Urbana	5,199,575	Mississippi (4)	
Indiana (10)		Hattiesburg	625,371
Bloomington	2,932,410	Jackson	1,395,780
Evansville	990,301	State College	534,827
Ft. Wayne	2,049,834	University	690,916
Gary	1,897,864	Missouri (6)	
Hanover	522,027	Columbia	2,449,138
Indianapolis	3,326,594	Jefferson City	775,898
Lafayette	1,741,722	Kansas City (Mo. & Kans.)	5,021,465
Muncie	1,662,381	St. Louis	7,713,880
South Bend	2,221,157	Springfield	979,513
Terre Haute	1,255,784	Warrensburg	560,133
Iowa (9)		Montana (3)	
Ames	1,039,313	Bozeman	561,331
Cedar Falls	834,364	Helena	522,182
Cedar Rapids	667,926	Missoula	763,420
Davenport	657,329	Nebraska (2)	
Des Moines	2,033,167	Lincoln	2,003,156
Dubuque	681,616	Omaha	1,616,670
Fairfield	516,266	Nevada (1)	
Iowa City	1,823,655	Reno	942,792
Sioux City	562,026	New Hampshire (4)	
Kansas (5)		Concord	1,185,437
Emporia	502,946	Durham	788,142
Lawrence	1,703,603	Hanover	1,324,377
Manhattan	742,916	Manchester	627,143
Topeka	1,660,161	New Jersey (6)	
Wichita	1,372,265	Camden	898,206
Kentucky (4)		Fort Monmouth	1,125,176
Frankfort	557,694	New Brunswick	3,476,954
Lexington	1,711,201	Newark	10,296,596
Louisville	2,275,897	Princeton	3,367,802
Richmond	662,418	Trenton	1,296,306
Louisiana (4)		New Mexico (2)	
Baton Rouge	2,102,149	Albuquerque	1,518,453

TABLE 2—Continued

Santa Fe	788,186	Pittsburgh	9,076,306
New York (14)		State College	2,202,977
Albany	7,271,047	Wilkes-Barre	1,363,365
Alfred	542,819	Rhode Island (1)	
Binghamton	1,007,284	Providence	7,262,748
Buffalo	6,504,369	South Carolina (3)	
Elmira	740,676	Charleston	733,163
Ithaca	4,654,116	Columbia	2,442,470
New York City	47,305,190	Greenville	1,862,782
Potsdam	698,432	South Dakota (1)	
Poughkeepsie	2,346,182	Vermillion	523,096
Rochester	4,279,592	Tennessee (6)	
Schenectady	1,314,360	Chattanooga	914,241
Stony Brook	2,283,336	Johnson City	656,722
Syracuse	3,039,009	Knoxville	2,821,730
Utica	1,733,360	Martin	528,921
North Carolina (9)		Memphis	2,087,296
Asheville	766,151	Nashville	4,600,596
Boone	538,170	Texas (14)	
Chapel Hill-Durham	4,996,743	Abilene	682,570
Charlotte	2,153,951	Austin	4,219,067
Fayetteville	634,126	Canyon	899,747
Greensboro	1,729,099	College Station	812,595
Greenville	1,023,298	Commerce	605,408
Raleigh	1,403,434	Corpus Christi	747,629
Winston-Salem	1,618,747	Dallas	8,239,108
North Dakota (1)		El Paso	956,189
Grand Forks	509,519	Galveston	661,734
Ohio (18)		Houston	4,596,864
Akron	1,595,648	Huntsville	521,186
Athens	1,144,112	Lubbock	1,365,848
Bowling Green	1,636,219	San Antonio	2,311,777
Canton	1,512,423	Waco	997,516
Cincinnati	5,592,171	Utah (3)	
Cleveland	9,142,394	Logan	561,698
Columbus	7,261,341	Provo	1,095,405
Dayton	3,189,778	Salt Lake City	3,773,746
Delaware	845,605	Vermont (2)	
Kent	1,100,213	Burlington	1,037,185
Lima	788,486	Montpelier	918,346
Oberlin	1,411,600	Virginia (5)	
Oxford	1,067,620	Arlington	2,916,734
Springfield	1,195,714	Charlottesville	2,359,824
Toledo	2,460,024	Norfolk	2,762,843
Wooster	918,807	Richmond	2,777,141
Youngstown	1,382,065	Roanoke	1,966,640
Zanesville	697,733	Washington (6)	
Oklahoma (3)		Olympia	1,069,806
Oklahoma City	3,242,373	Pullman	853,458
Stillwater	1,461,912	Seattle	5,525,875
Tulsa	1,508,558	Spokane	1,151,320
Oregon (5)		Tacoma	1,253,235
Corvallis	741,003	Walla Walla	714,114
Eugene	1,305,048	West Virginia (2)	
Medford	500,723	Charleston	1,788,628
Portland	2,690,920	Morgantown	1,745,301
Salem	1,043,685	Wisconsin (5)	
Pennsylvania (9)		Green Bay	886,991
Bethlehem	2,276,772	Madison	4,813,740
Carlisle Barracks	1,683,676	Milwaukee	5,046,357
Erie	1,209,573	Oshkosh	1,355,814
Harrisburg	2,195,208	Stevens Point	699,444
Lancaster	1,526,941	Wyoming (1)	
Philadelphia	14,759,903	Laramie	774,593

14 each, and Illinois with 11.

The complete data, presented in Table 1, indicate the relative rank of the centers in each of the three periods investigated and the number of volumes held by the various centers. Among the first dozen in the top group, changes in relative standing have been minor, with a few exceptions; most notable are the new rankings for the San Jose-Stanford area, Minneapolis, San Francisco, and Pittsburgh. New York, Washington, D.C., and Boston have remained the leading three throughout the nearly four decades.

Below the leaders, numerous shifts in rank may be observed. Dallas has come up from thirty-seventh to fifteenth; San Diego from seventieth to twenty-fifth; Houston from sixty-third

to thirty-seventh; Miami from eighty-eighth to forty-ninth. Among the first 100 centers, 77 did not possess a sufficient number of volumes to be listed by Wilson in 1935.

At approximately the same date as the Wilson study, another investigation took place to determine the distribution of library resources by states.[3] More emphasis here was placed on collections of possible research importance. The specifics for inclusion were "all educational libraries with over 25,000 volumes, all public libraries over 50,000, and all special libraries of a research nature."

Table 3 brings down to 1973 the number of volumes held by the individual states, according to the foregoing criteria, with relative rankings for 1935 and 1955. Table 4 notes the percentage

TABLE 3

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN U.S. RESEARCH LIBRARIES, BY STATES

State	Rank 1973	Volumes 1973	Rank 1955	Volumes 1955	Rank 1935	Volumes 1935
New York	1	90,431,000	1	34,041,000	1	16,931,000
California	2	80,638,000	3	23,951,000	2	14,401,000
Massachusetts	3	78,484,000	4	22,951,000	3	12,944,000
Ohio	4	42,909,000	5	18,606,000	5	9,669,000
Illinois	5	40,023,000	6	17,089,000	6	8,907,000
District of Columbia	6	38,773,000	2	25,357,000	4	10,348,000
Pennsylvania	7	31,253,000	7	14,697,000	7	8,056,000
Texas	8	30,733,000	11	6,716,000	16	2,196,000
Michigan	9	24,063,000	8	8,988,000	8	4,427,000
New Jersey	10	21,875,000	10	8,080,000	10	4,137,000
Indiana	11	17,928,000	12	6,520,000	12	3,345,000
Missouri	12	17,879,000	13	6,239,000	11	3,495,000
Maryland	13	17,086,000	18	3,888,000	17	2,163,000
Connecticut	14	16,545,000	9	8,507,000	9	4,220,000
North Carolina	15	15,851,000	19	3,882,000	25	1,131,000
Wisconsin	16	14,935,000	14	6,195,000	13	3,027,000
Minnesota	17	13,951,000	15	5,700,000	14	2,916,000
Virginia	18	13,762,000	20	3,684,000	22	1,552,000
Florida	19	13,724,000	26	2,553,000	35	447,000
Georgia	20	13,616,000	25	2,659,000	31	790,000
Washington	21	12,615,000	16	4,415,000	18	1,665,000
Kentucky	22	11,827,000	29	2,379,000	27	1,011,000
Tennessee	23	10,859,000	28	2,412,000	20	1,642,000
Louisiana	24	10,246,000	24	2,797,000	30	818,000
Iowa	25	9,037,000	17	4,108,000	15	2,527,000
Colorado	26	9,016,000	21	3,098,000	23	1,425,000
Kansas	27	8,229,000	22	3,045,000	19	1,643,000
Alabama	28	7,746,000	30	2,292,000	32	763,000
Oklahoma	29	7,355,000	32	1,902,000	33	720,000
Oregon	30	6,084,000	23	3,038,000	24	1,416,000
Arizona	31	6,014,000	38	1,187,000	38	425,000
Utah	32	5,656,000	36	1,330,000	36	446,000

TABLE 3—Continued

State	Rank 1973	Volumes 1973	Rank 1955	Volumes 1955	Rank 1935	Volumes 1935
West Virginia	33	4,869,000	37	1,207,000	39	420,000
Rhode Island	34	4,182,000	27	2,469,000	21	1,640,000
Mississippi	35	4,176,000	42	848,000	43	267,000
Arkansas	36	4,033,000	39	1,153,000	45	236,000
South Carolina	37	3,915,000	35	1,483,000	34	594,000
Maine	38	3,622,000	33	1,706,000	26	1,046,000
New Hampshire	39	3,553,000	34	1,693,000	28	948,000
Nebraska	40	3,311,000	31	1,931,000	29	947,000
Hawaii	41	3,050,000	40	988,000	42	297,000
Montana	42	2,726,000	42	848,000	40	376,000
Idaho	43	2,428,000	49	378,000	49	167,000
New Mexico	44	2,343,000	44	677,000	50	90,000
Vermont	45	2,215,000	41	928,000	37	440,000
Delaware	46	1,861,000	45	557,000	41	314,000
South Dakota	47	1,600,000	46	475,000	46	227,000
North Dakota	48	1,549,000	48	456,000	44	254,000
Wyoming	49	1,221,000	47	470,000	47	187,000
Nevada	50	1,132,000	50	249,000	48	175,000
Alaska	51	766,029	51	58,000		
Total		791,696,000		280,860,000		138,228,000

TABLE 4

RATE OF INCREASE OF VOLUMES IN RESEARCH
LIBRARIES OF THE UNITED STATES
FROM 1955 TO 1973

State	Rank 1973	Percent of Increase	State	Rank 1973	Percent of Increase
Alaska	1	1320	Montana	27	322
Idaho	2	644	Hawaii	28	310
Florida	3	540	Colorado	29	291
Georgia	4	514	Missouri	30	287
Arizona	5	507	Washington	31	286
Mississippi	6	505	Indiana	32	275
Kentucky	7	498	New Jersey	33	271
Texas	8	457	Kansas	34	270
Nevada	9	455	Michigan	35	268
Tennessee	10	450	New York	36	266
Maryland	11	438	South Carolina	37	264
Utah	12	426	Wyoming	38	260
North Carolina	13	408	Minnesota	39	245
West Virginia	14	402	Wisconsin	40	241
Oklahoma	15	387	Vermont	41	238
Virginia	16	373	Illinois	42	234
Louisiana	17	367	Ohio	43	230
Arkansas	18	350	Pennsylvania	44	224
Rhode Island	19	347	Iowa	45	220
New Mexico	20	346	Maine	46	215
Massachusetts	21	342	New Hampshire	47	210
North Dakota	22	339	Connecticut	48	205
Alabama	23	338	Oregon	49	200
South Dakota	24	337	Nebraska	50	171
California	25	336	District of Columbia	51	147
Delaware	26	334	National Average		332

of increase for each state between 1955 and 1973. Alaska and Hawaii appear in the tables for the first time, since they had not yet become states when the earlier studies were made.

The extraordinary expansion of holdings in the various states is revealed by the new figures. Except for the District of Columbia, which slipped from second to sixth position, and Connecticut, which dropped from ninth to fourteenth, the top rankings were little changed. Texas made a spectacular jump from eleventh to eighth.

On the basis of holdings by states, according to the criteria described, the na-

tion's library resources went from 138,-228,000 volumes in 1935 to 280,860,000 in 1955 to 791,696,000 in 1973, nearly tripling in the past two decades. In percentage of increase, the southern, southwestern, and northwestern states were in the lead. None of the states except Alaska held less than one million volumes.

Another approach to the matter of distribution of resources is holdings by geographic regions of the country. The number of volumes in each of the six principal regions of the United States in 1955 and in 1973 is recorded in Table 5. Though the Northeast held 39

TABLE 5

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN RESEARCH LIBRARIES OF THE UNITED STATES
BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA IN 1955 AND IN 1973

	Volumes			Volumes	
	1973	1955		1973	1955
Northeast			**Southeast**		
Connecticut	16,545,000	8,507,000	Alabama	7,746,000	2,292,000
Delaware	1,861,000	557,000	Arkansas	4,033,000	1,153,000
District of Columbia	38,773,000	25,357,000	Florida	13,724,000	2,553,000
Maine	3,622,000	1,706,000	Georgia	13,616,000	2,659,000
Maryland	17,086,000	3,888,000	Kentucky	11,827,000	2,379,000
Massachusetts	78,484,000	22,951,000	Louisiana	10,246,000	2,797,000
New Hampshire	3,553,000	1,693,000	Mississippi	4,176,000	828,000
New Jersey	21,875,000	8,080,000	North Carolina	15,851,000	3,882,000
New York	90,431,000	34,041,000	South Carolina	3,915,000	1,483,000
Pennsylvania	31,253,000	14,697,000	Tennessee	10,859,000	2,412,000
Rhode Island	4,182,000	2,469,000	Virginia	13,762,000	3,684,000
Vermont	2,215,000	928,000	Total	109,755,000	26,122,000
West Virginia	4,869,000	1,207,000			
Total	314,749,000	126,081,000			
Midwest			**Northwest**		
Illinois	40,023,000	17,089,000	Colorado	9,016,000	3,098,000
Indiana	17,928,000	6,520,000	Idaho	2,428,000	378,000
Iowa	9,037,000	4,108,000	Kansas	8,229,000	3,045,000
Michigan	24,063,000	8,988,000	Montana	2,726,000	848,000
Minnesota	13,951,000	5,700,000	Nebraska	3,311,000	1,931,000
Midwest			**Northwest**		
Missouri	17,879,000	6,239,000	North Dakota	1,549,000	456,000
Ohio	42,909,000	18,606,000	South Dakota	1,600,000	475,000
Wisconsin	14,935,000	6,195,000	Utah	5,656,000	1,330,000
Total	180,725,000	73,445,000	Wyoming	1,221,000	470,000
			Total	35,736,000	12,031,000
Southwest			**Far West**		
Arizona	6,014,000	1,187,000	California	80,638,000	23,951,000
New Mexico	2,343,000	677,000	Nevada	1,132,000	249,000
Oklahoma	7,355,000	1,902,000	Oregon	6,084,000	3,038,000
Texas	30,733,000	6,716,000	Washington	12,615,000	4,415,000
Total	46,445,000	10,482,000	Total	100,469,000	31,652,000

percent of the nation's total library resources in 1973, its overwhelming lead, which Wilson noted some thirty-five years ago, has declined in terms of the other regions. Of particular note is the rapid rise of the Southeast, Southwest, and Far West.

The reasons for what may rightly be described as an explosion of library collections in all the American states are doubtless complex. Among the factors that may be cited are the establishment of hundreds of new institutions of higher education, millions of additional students in colleges and universities across the land, increased book budgets in all types of libraries, federal aid to libraries, extensive new foreign acquisition programs, and, finally, a steadily expanding rate of publication of books and journals, to which libraries have responded by stepped-up acquisition activities.

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