

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,

EXHIBITING

THE CONDITION AND PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY

DURING

THE YEAR 1881.

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*The condition and progress of the Library during the calendar year 1881.*

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,  
*Washington, January 26, 1882.*

The undersigned herewith submits his annual report, summarizing the progress of the Library and of the copyright department during the year closing with December 31, 1881.

The recently-completed enumeration of the Library collections, although attended with increasing difficulties, growing out of their excessively crowded condition, exhibits a gratifying progress. The entire Library now numbers 420,092 volumes, as against 396,788 volumes one year ago. Out of this aggregate, 52,591 volumes of books belong to the law department of the Library.

The accessions to the collections during the year 1881 embraced 23,304 volumes of books and 12,834 pamphlets, which were acquired from the following sources:

	Books.	Pamphlets.
From purchases.....	7,429	441
From copyright.....	11,372	8,928
From deposit by Smithsonian Institution.....	2,818	2,399
From donations.....	1,051	766
From exchanges.....	634	280
Total.....	23,304	12,834

At the date of my last report, January 2, 1881, the Library numbered 396,788 volumes of books and about 133,000 pamphlets.

The business of the copyright department exhibits a slight increase during the year. In 1880, which brought the entries and receipts of copyright publications up to a much larger number than in any preceding year, there were 20,686 articles entered for copyright in the office of the Librarian. In 1881 the aggregate entries have reached 21,075,

being an increase of 389 over those of the previous year; and the fees paid into the Treasury on account of records of copyright amounted to the sum of \$17,051.50, being an increase of \$448 over the receipts of 1880.

The aggregate entries of copyrights during 1881 embraced the following specific classes of publications:

Books .....	7,400
Periodicals .....	4,339
Musical compositions.....	5,578
Dramatic compositions.....	415
Maps and charts .....	867
Engravings and chromos .....	1,583
Photographs .....	622
Prints .....	39
Designs and drawings.....	213
Paintings.....	19
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>21,075</b>

The following summary will show the number of publications of every description deposited in the Library during 1881, and the accessions to the collections under each head by the copyright law :

Books .....	11,372
Periodicals .....	8,780
Musical compositions.....	9,432
Dramatic compositions.....	148
Maps and charts.....	1,257
Engravings and chromos .....	2,040
Photographs .....	1,081
Prints .....	62
Designs and drawings.....	178
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>34,350</b>

As two copies of each publication protected by copyright are required to be deposited, the net additions to the collections of copyright material embrace 17,175 articles, of which 5,636 were books and 4,390 were periodicals.

The various funds of the Library of Congress, remaining unexpended out of appropriations already made, show the following balances January 1, 1882 :

Fund for increase of the Library .....	\$12,941 19
Fund for ornamenting the Capitol with works of art .....	6,361 00
Fund for portraits of Presidents of the United States .....	284 50
Fund for contingent expenses of Library .....	704 02
Fund for providing additional accommodations for the Congressional Library.....	1,413 13
Fund for purchase and printing of unpublished historical manuscripts relating to early French discoveries in the Northwest and on the Mississippi .....	4,578 04

During the year, another volume (making the 4th) of the collection of French original documents, relating to the discoveries and settlements in the northwestern portion of America, and along the Mississippi River, published under direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, under an act of Congress, has been completed. The remaining two volumes are in a state of forward preparation.

Of the new general catalogue of the Library, designed to include in one alphabet all the books, periodicals, and pamphlets of the collection up to the date of going to press, two large volumes have been printed. It is recommended that some method of distribution be authorized by the Joint Committee on the Library by which this extensive work may be acquired without subjecting the government to the cost of gratuitous supply.

The question of most absorbing interest regarding the present condition and future care of this great collection remains yet unsettled, so far as final action on the part of Congress is concerned. Progress was made at the last session, however, by the passage through the Senate of a bill to provide additional accommodations for the Library, by the erection of a separate fire-proof building, on grounds contiguous to the Capitol, lying immediately east of the park fronting that building. The same measure has been again unanimously recommended by the Joint Select Committee on Additional Accommodations for the Congressional Library, of the present Congress, and their bill to carry the plan into effect is now pending. It is earnestly hoped that this long-delayed measure for the protection of the public property, and for the permanent conservation and orderly arrangement of the invaluable collections which the Capitol can no longer hold, will now become a law.

AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD,

*Librarian of Congress.*

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,

*Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.*