

Marvin H. Smith, *Associate Judge, Court of Appeals*; John C. Eldridge, *Associate Judge, Court of Appeals*; Richard P. Gilbert, *Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals*; James H. Norris, *Clerk, Court of Appeals, and Acting State Court Administrator*.

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Hours: Mon.-Wed., Fri., 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.;  
Thurs., 8:30 A.M.-9:00 P.M.; Sat., 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

The State Library was originally established by Chapter 53, Acts of the General Assembly of 1827, and at that time was an agency of the executive branch. Its primary purpose was to serve the legal and general reference needs of the legislative and judicial branches of State government. The Library operated under this organizational structure until the legislative session of 1978, when it was placed under the Judicial Department and given a new name (Chapter 128, Laws of 1978). This reorganization formalized a relationship that the Library had with the Courts since the establishment of the Library in 1827.

The Library Committee, which acts as the governing board of the Library, is composed of at least three members who are appointed by the Court of Appeals (Code Courts Article, sec. 13-502). This Committee's powers include appointment of a director of the Library, appropriate rule making, and purchase authorization for new titles (Code Courts Article, sec. 13-503).

Besides the primary purpose of serving the legal information needs of the State's appellate courts and other branches of State government, and also acting as a resource center for circuit court libraries throughout the State, the Library is open to the public and encourages the use of a number of extremely valuable reference resources, including law, general reference materials, State and federal government documents, and State and local history and genealogy. With a total collection well in excess of 160,000 volumes, this Library facility offers the researcher access to a unique information resource. The collection, which is basically composed of reference material, does not circulate except to State agency personnel. Much of the collection, however, is available on interlibrary loan and photocopy facilities are available to patrons.

Law-related materials constitute the major portion of the total collection, including reported court decisions from all appellate jurisdictions

across the country in addition to some English speaking foreign countries. Legislative enactments, both in session law form and as statutory compilations, are also filed in the Library from almost every state, as are all federal and some foreign statutes. The Library's legal periodical holdings includes 300 current subscriptions from all the major law schools and many bar groups and commercial publishers. In addition there is a strong and growing collection of legal texts and topical looseleaf reporting services along with the other legal reference materials found in most law libraries.

The State and federal government documents holdings is a vast area of valuable information. The Library has been a select U.S. Government depository for federal agency and congressional publications for many years, and as a result has collected and indexed thousands of reference publications in the area of social sciences, economics, law enforcement, legislative histories, and numerous other disciplines. The Maryland government documents collection is probably the most complete retrospective holdings of State agency documents available. In addition, all local governments must file copies of their codes with the State Law Library.

A third distinct subject collection and a heavily-used resource is the local history and genealogy collection. This resource, which has been actively developed over the years, complements much of the original source records researchers have access to in the Maryland Hall of Records and Maryland Historical Society. Included among the holdings are the Maryland census schedules from 1776 through 1910 with name indexes; a complete and invaluable original file of the earlier issues of the *Maryland Gazette* (1745-1838); a complete run of the *Baltimore Sun* (1837-date); and numerous county histories, family genealogies, and research guides.

Additional items of interest are the Library's holdings of rare books, early Maryland maps and documents, including the subscription edition of James Audubon's four-volume elephant folio, *Birds of America*. Also on display in the Library are the classic lithograph prints of each of the official state birds for thirty-five states and the American Bald Eagle, commissioned by the Nature Society and painted by Richard Sloane. The State Law Library was designated as the official depository for these prints by the governor in 1970.

Finally, the Library serves as the distributing agency for the *Maryland Reports* and the *Maryland Appellate Reports* (Code Courts Article, sec.