

placed under the Judiciary and renamed the State Law Library (Chapter 128, Laws of 1978).

Besides meeting the legal information needs of the State's appellate courts and other branches of State government and serving as a resource center for circuit court libraries throughout the State, the Library is open to the public and encourages the use of its extremely valuable reference resources, including laws, general reference materials, State and federal government documents, and State and local histories and genealogies. With a total collection of close to 300,000 volumes, the Library offers the researcher access to a unique information resource. The collection, 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.

Legal materials constitute the major part of the collection. They include reported court decisions from all appellate jurisdictions across the country and Great Britain. Legislative enactments, both in session law form and as statutory compilations, also are filed in the Library from almost every state, as are all federal and some foreign statutes. The Library's legal periodical holdings include 500 current subscriptions from all major law schools and many bar associations and commercial publishers. In addition, there is a strong and growing collection of legal texts and topical loose-leaf reporting services, briefs and record extracts from the U.S. Supreme Court and Maryland's appellate courts, along with the other legal reference materials found in most law libraries.

The State and federal government document collection is a vast trove of valuable information. The Library has been a select U.S. government depository for federal agency and congressional publications for many years. As a result, it has collected and indexed thousands of reference publications in the areas of social sciences, economics, law enforcement, legislative histories, and

numerous other disciplines. The Library also is a depository for all Maryland State agency publications and contains one of the most complete retrospective collections of State government information in Maryland. In addition, all county governments must file copies of their codes with the State Law Library.

A third distinct subject collection and a much used resource is the local history and genealogy collection. This resource, developed over two centuries, complements much of the original source material available for research at the State Archives and Maryland Historical Society. Included in the collection are Maryland census schedules from 1776 through 1910 with name indexes through 1850; a complete run of the *Baltimore Sun* (1837 to date); and numerous county histories, family genealogies, and research guides.

Additional items of interest are the Library's holdings of rare books and 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.

The Library publishes a monthly list entitled *Recent Acquisitions*, as well as miscellaneous bibliographies and a descriptive brochure on the Library.

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