

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,

EXHIBITING

THE CONDITION AND PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY

DURING

THE YEAR 1880.



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The condition and progress of the Library during the year 1880.

MARCH 1, 1881.—Ordered to be printed.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
Washington, February 26, 1881.

The undersigned submits herewith his annual report concerning the progress of the Library of Congress and the copyright business during the year closing December 31, 1880.

The annual enumeration of the books and pamphlets in the Library, prosecuted this year under greatly increased difficulties, owing to the overcrowded condition of the collections in every department, exhibits a total of 396,788 volumes and about 133,000 pamphlets. Of this aggregate 50,425 books belong to the law department of the Library.

The accessions during the year 1880 embraced 22,766 volumes of books, and 12,922 pamphlets, derived from the following specified sources:

	<i>Books.</i>	<i>Pamphlets.</i>
From purchases	6,324	856
From copyright	12,370	8,540
From deposit by the Smithsonian Institution	1,864	2,549
From donations	840	648
From exchanges	1,368	329
Total	22,766	12,922

At the date of my last report, January 2, 1880, the Library numbered 374,022 volumes of books and about 120,000 pamphlets.

I have again to report a gratifying increase in the entries and receipts of the copyright department during the year 1880, evincing a steady improvement in the publishing enterprise of the country. The total number of entries of copyright publications in 1880 was 20,686, being an increase of 2,561 over the entries of 1879, and a much larger number than in any former year. The fees paid into the Treasury on account of records of copyright, copies of such entries, and records of assignment, amounted to the sum of \$16,603.50, showing an increase of \$1,913.60 over the year preceding.

The aggregate entries of copyright during 1880 embraced the following specific classes of publications :

Books.....	7,108
Periodicals.....	4,369
Musical compositions.....	5,628
Dramatic compositions.....	496
Maps and charts.....	1,051
Engravings and chromos.....	1,481
Photographs.....	407
Prints.....	43
Designs and drawings.....	88
Paintings.....	15
Total.....	20,686

The deposits of publications of every description during 1880 are summarized under the following heads, showing the accessions to the collections in the past twelve months under the copyright law :

Books.....	12,370
Periodicals.....	8,783
Musical compositions.....	10,528
Dramatic compositions.....	146
Maps and charts.....	1,642
Engravings and chromos.....	2,527
Photographs.....	624
Prints.....	22
Designs.....	18
Total.....	36,660

Two copies of each publication protected being required to be deposited, the net additions to the collections of copyright material are 18,330 articles, of which 6,185 were books, besides periodicals numbering 4,391.

The various funds of the Library and the Botanic Garden appropriations, under control of the Joint Committee on the Library, exhibit the following unexpended balances January 1, 1881 :

Fund for increase of the Library.....	\$11,927 70
Fund for ornamenting the Capitol with works of art.....	7,950 00
Fund for portraits of Presidents of the United States.....	1,134 50
Fund for purchase and printing of unpublished historical manuscripts relating to early French discoveries in the Northwest and on the Mississippi.....	5,964 04
Fund for salaries in the Botanic Garden and greenhouses.....	6,863 90
Fund for improving Botanic Garden.....	1,939 61
Fund for improving buildings in Botanic Garden.....	3,397 56
Fund for providing additional accommodation for the Congressional Library.....	3,180 00
Fund for contingent expenses of Library.....	1,267 96

The still unsettled question of a permanent provision to relieve the increasing difficulties that beset the administration of this overcrowded Library has at length a near prospect of solution. By the creation of

a joint select committee on additional accommodations for the Library of Congress, by act approved June 8, 1880, Congress has evinced its purpose to enter upon the subject by a comprehensive inquiry, with a view to provide a remedy. The joint select committee, after protracted and thorough examination, have agreed upon a report unanimously recommending the immediate erection of a separate library building. As the time that would be necessarily occupied in erecting this edifice will, in any event, extend to between two and three years, during which the collections will be increasing constantly and largely, it is a matter of urgent necessity that Congress should give effect to the conclusions reached by the joint committee by legislation at the present session.

AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD,
Librarian of Congress.

Hon. D. W. VOORHEES,
Chairman of Joint Committee on the Library.

