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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
EDUCATION BRANCH

LIBRARY STATISTICS  
of  
CANADA  
1920-21.

Contents, Circulation & Expenditure

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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Education Statistics Branch.  
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LIBRARY STATISTICS OF CANADA, 1920-21.  
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From questionnaires sent by the Education Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to libraries throughout the country and from information supplied by Government officials in the provinces of British Columbia and Ontario, it has been possible to compile these statistics for four classes of libraries in the Dominion; namely, Free Public, Association, University or College and Government libraries. The difference between Free Public and Association libraries lies mainly in the fact that to use the latter borrowers pay a membership fee, while the former type of library is open to all residents of the community. The Free Public library frequently develops from the Association library. Under the title of Government library have been classed the provincial legislative libraries, and the Dominion departmental libraries. Where the library is that of a Government educational institution it has been classed under the title of University or College (see notes 1 and 2 after the table). Some of the universities and colleges did not fill in the library questionnaire sent them. Many of these reported in a school questionnaire the number of volumes in the library. Others made no report of the number of volumes.

Information received from Government officials of British Columbia and Ontario gave no record of periodicals taken, consequently blanks have been left under periodicals for Association libraries in British Columbia. Periodical figures, for Ontario Free Public and Association libraries, and for British Columbia Free Public libraries, have been taken from individuals returns.

The four western provinces and Ontario have public library legislation, making provision for the establishment and maintenance of public libraries. In some provinces this legislation is known as the "Public Libraries Act", in others as the "Free Libraries Act". The Yukon Territory has similar legislation for Dawson City. The province of Quebec has a less detailed act providing for the establish-





ment of and financial assistance to free or association libraries or institutes. Nova Scotia also has legislation providing for financial aid to library associations and institutes. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have no library legislation.

By comparing the number of volumes with the circulation given in the grand total of the table it would appear that each volume circulated on an average five times during the year. This is not a fair comparison, for under the total number of volumes are included not only volumes in reference libraries but reference volumes in circulating libraries.

There has been no attempt to deal with statistics of libraries of religious institutions other than universities and colleges, and for this reason there appears a greater difference between the totals of the provinces than probably exists.

Of 645 libraries known to exist, 537 have reported, 210 out of 226 Free Public, 280 out of 283 Association, 25 out of 90 University or College and 22 out of 46 Government libraries. A total of 4,127,362 volumes was shown: 2,174,591 in Free Public, 484,287 in Association, 906,061 in University or College and 562,423 in Government libraries, with a total circulation of 10,134,163 volumes; 9,386,674 from Free Public, 722,428 from Association, 42,104 from University or College and 32,957 from Government libraries. The reported number of periodicals taken was 12,795: 6,354 by Free Public, 562 by Association, 3,813 by University or College, 2,066 by Government libraries. The total current expenditure shown was \$1,269,580.27: Free Public having spent \$1,067,112.33, Association \$55,478.85, University or College \$99,131.32, and Government \$47,857.77. The figures shown for the two latter are only partial, as in some cases the librarians, especially in the educational institutions, give only part of their time to library work and do not receive a salary as librarians; and with the Government libraries much of the expenditure is included in the general appropriations for the departments and not separately specified, therefore is not available for reporting in the questionnaire.

It is proposed in the near future to issue a press letter dealing with the periodicals taken by Canadian libraries.





LIBRARY STATISTICS OF CANADA, 1920-21.

| Province             | Type of Library       | No. of Libraries Reporting | No. of Volumes | Circulation by volumes | No. of Periodicals | Current Expenditure | Total No. of Libraries (approximate for some provinces) |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| Prince Edward Island | Free Public           | -                          | -              | -                      | -                  | -                   | -   |
|                      | Association           | -                          | -              | -                      | -                  | -                   | -   |
|                      | University or College | -                          | -              | -                      | -                  | -                   | 2   |
|                      | Government            | 1                          | 20,000         | 6,000                  | -                  | 2,500.00            | 1   |
|                      | Total                 | 1                          | 20,000         | 6,000                  | -                  | 2,500.00            | 3   |
| Nova Scotia          | Free Public           | 2                          | 42,966         | 61,462                 | 112                | 5,123.00            | 4   |
|                      | Association           | 1                          | 7,933          | 10,386                 | -                  | 915.00              | 1   |
|                      | University or College | 1                          | 645,000        | 3,903                  | 113                | 8,394.00            | 10 1/2  |
|                      | Government            | 2                          | 82,790         | -                      | 12                 | 2,500.00            | 2 2/  |
|                      | Total                 | 6                          | 178,689        | 75,751                 | 237                | 16,932.00           | 17  |
| New Brunswick        | Free Public           | 2                          | 38,765         | 84,233                 | 87                 | 8,618.00            | 4   |
|                      | Association           | -                          | -              | -                      | -                  | -                   | -   |
|                      | University or College | -                          | -              | -                      | -                  | -                   | 3   |
|                      | Government            | -                          | -              | -                      | -                  | -                   | 1   |
|                      | Total                 | 2                          | 38,765         | 84,233                 | 87                 | 8,618.00            | 8   |
| Quebec               | Free Public           | 4                          | 157,724        | 185,716                | 542                | 44,179.00           | 7   |
|                      | Association           | 1                          | 2,404          | 15,446                 | 48                 | 1,965.00            | 2   |
|                      | University or College | 7                          | 426,625        | 23,532                 | 1,366              | 4,599.00            | 34  |
|                      | Government            | -                          | -              | -                      | -                  | -                   | 1   |
|                      | Total                 | 12                         | 586,753        | 224,694                | 1,956              | 50,743.00           | 44  |





## LIBRARY STATISTICS OF CANADA, 1920-21. (Cont'd).

| Province     | Type of Library       | No. of Libraries Reporting | No. of Volumes | Circulation by Volumes | No. of Periodicals  | Current Expenditure | Total No. of libraries (approximate for some provinces) |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| Ontario      | Free Public           | 186                        | 1,537,517      | 6,316,340              | 3,934 <sup>4/</sup> | 738,010.33          | 186   |
|              | Association           | 264                        | 473,950        | 635,307                | 514 <sup>4/</sup>   | 52,598.85           | 264   |
|              | University or College | 10                         | 322,233        | 8,304                  | 1,966               | 70,474.40           | 21  |
|              | Government            | 16                         | 241,633        | 1,057                  | 1,647               | 11,496.77           | 34  |
|              | Total                 | 476                        | 2,575,333      | 6,961,008              | 8,061               | 872,580.35          | 505   |
| Manitoba     | Free Public           | 2                          | 127,407        | 922,192                | 491                 | 83,605.00           | 4   |
|              | Association           | -                          | -              | -                      | -                   | -                   | -   |
|              | University or College | 2                          | 69,087         | 6,231                  | 169                 | 4,097.00            | 7   |
|              | Government            | 1 <sup>3/</sup>            | 40,000         | -                      | -                   | -                   | 1   |
| Saskatchewan | Total                 | 5                          | 236,494        | 928,423                | 660                 | 87,702.00           | 12  |
|              | Free Public           | 8                          | 64,241         | 452,190                | 448                 | 64,993.00           | 11  |
|              | Association           | -                          | -              | -                      | -                   | -                   | -   |
|              | University or College | 2                          | 32,207         | 134                    | 157                 | 7,440.00            | 4   |
| Alberta      | Government            | -                          | -              | -                      | -                   | -                   | 1   |
|              | Total                 | 10                         | 96,448         | 452,324                | 605                 | 72,433.00           | 16  |
|              | Free Public           | 3                          | 57,504         | 406,659                | 240                 | 59,627.00           | 7   |
|              | Association           | -                          | -              | -                      | -                   | -                   | -   |
| Alberta      | University or College | 2                          | 10,280         | -                      | 26                  | 39.00               | 4   |
|              | Government            | 1                          | 48,000         | -                      | 94                  | 12,381.00           | 4   |
|              | Total                 | 6                          | 115,784        | 406,659                | 360                 | 72,047.00           | 15  |





LIBRARY STATISTICS OF CANADA, 1920-21 (Cont'd).

| Province              | Type of Library       | No. of Libraries Reporting | No. of Volumes | Circulation by Volumes | No. of Periodicals | Current Expenditure | Total No. of libraries (approximate for some provinces) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| British Columbia      | Free Public           | 3                          | 148,467        | 957,882                | 500 <sup>4/</sup>  | 62,957.00           | 3   |
|                       | Association           | 14                         | -              | 61,289                 | -                  | -                   | 16  |
|                       | University or College | 1                          | 629            | -                      | 16                 | 4,087.92            | 5   |
|                       | Government            | 1                          | 130,000        | 25,900                 | 313                | 13,980.00           | 1   |
|                       | Total                 | 19                         | 279,096        | 1,045,071              | 829                | 85,024.92           | 25  |
| Total:                |                       |                            |                |                        |                    |                     |   |
| Free Public           |                       | 210                        | 2,174,591      | 9,386,674              | 6,354              | 1,067,112.33        | 226   |
| Association           |                       | 280                        | 484,287        | 722,428                | 562                | 55,478.85           | 283   |
| University or College |                       | 25                         | 906,061        | 42,104                 | 3,813              | 99,131.32           | 90  |
| Government            |                       | 22                         | 562,423        | 32,957                 | 2,066              | 47,847.77           | 46  |
| Grand Total           |                       | 537                        | 4,127,362      | 10,184,163             | 12,795             | 1,269,580.27        | 645   |

Includes Agricultural College, Truro.

Provincial Library housed in Technical College contains 64,790 volumes.

No. library, but students use Law Society Library in Law Courts, 40,000 volumes.

Periodical figures taken from returns received from individual libraries. Other figures for Free Public and Association libraries of Ontario and part of those for British Columbia taken from report of Provincial officials.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



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