

## A Brief Summary of 100 years of the South Dakota State Library

- Free Library Commission was created by an act of the South Dakota Legislature, July 1 of 1913, and was operated under the direction of a field librarian (source: [Lindell article from SD History vol. 35, no. 3 Fall 2005](#))
- “The Free Library Commission was created by Chapter 217 of the laws of 1913.” (source: [First Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission, p.\[3\].](#))

### Space:

- Library was first housed in the office of the Department of History in the state capitol. Between 1918 and 1924, the free library was moved to downtown Pierre. In 1932, the library moved into space in the new annex of the Capitol Building. (You can still tell where it was. The transom window over the door is etched, “State Library”.) After having again outgrown its quarters, in 1957 the state library was moved for the second time to downtown Pierre into a grocery warehouse, then in 1963, the State Library Commission decided to move ahead with plans to acquire the old Pierre Post Office building as new quarters for the state library. The 1972 Legislature allocated \$40,000 for the planning of a state library-supreme court complex. Plans for this building were eventually scrapped due to cost, but in 1974, the 49<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of the State of SD appropriated two million dollars for the construction of a new State Library Building in the capitol complex at Pierre. On August 19, 1975: groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new SD State Library building which would be located on Governors Drive. In the 1993 Legislative Session, a bill was passed to rename the state library building to be the Mercedes MacKay Building. Finally, in 2007, renovation started on the first floor of the MacKay Building. Once completed, the library operations moved to first floor, while the rest of the SD Department of Education (of which the state library is a division) moved to the newly renovated second floor in 2010.

Librarians through the years: Over the years, the title of the person who was head of the state library has changed. It could be state librarian, director of the state library, chief librarian or other

- Lilly M.E. Borreson 1913-1915 – first field librarian for the Free Library Commission
- Lois A. Spencer 1915 – 1917
- Julia C. Stockett 1917 – 1918
- Leora J. Lewis 1918 – 1935
- Celeste E. Barnes 1935 – 1939
- Mercedes MacKay 1939 – 1973
- Herschel Vincent Anderson 1973 – 1980
- Clarence Coffindaffer 1981 – 1985

- Jane Kolbe 1986 – 1999
- Suzanne Miller 1999 – 2004
- Dorothy Liegl 2004 – 2007
- Dan Siebersma 2007 – 2012
- Daria Bossman 2013 -

#### Highlights:

- 1968: dedication was held of the nation's 41st regional library of reading material for the blind and physically handicapped. The program will be administered by the State Library Commission in Pierre. Today the Braille and Talking book program serves more than 5,000 individuals with a circulation of over 100,000 per year
- 1974: SD State Library joined Federal Documents Depository Program
- 1975: SD State Document depository library system began. Robert Newby was the first Documents Librarian.
- In 1987-88, PALS (Project for Automated Library Systems) was introduced as the first library automation system in SD.
- 2005-2006: Dr. Mary Bushing was hired to do a study of state library services. The final report recommended bold changes and new directions for the state library. The library would gradually stop serving as a public library for the general citizenry of the state. Instead, it would focus on a new role as a statewide center to assist and improve local libraries across SD, assist SD state government personnel with work projects and research, and provide services through the Braille and Talking Book program.