



Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc., Records (SP0084)

Collection Number: SP0084

Collection Title: Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc., Records

Dates: 1957-1982

Creator: Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc. (Bolivar, Mo.)

Abstract: The Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc. Records contain the by-laws, meeting minutes, correspondence, financial records, and membership papers of Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc., headquartered in Bolivar, Missouri.

Collection Size: 1.5 cubic feet
(37 folders, 2 photographs)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at springfield@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information and about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc., Records* (SP0084); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Paul White on August 25, 1983 (Accession No. CA4526).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc., Records can be found in the following collections:

[Missouri Library Association Records](#), (C0515)

[Missouri Library Association Records](#), (CA6066)

[Missouri Librarians Oral History Collection](#), (C4501)

[Beta Phi Mu, Librarian Oral History Project](#), (C4071)

Processed by: Processed by Haley Frizzle-Green, May 16, 2023

Historical Note:

The Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc., was founded in October of 1957 as a processing center in Bolivar, Missouri. The non-profit corporation was governed by an executive board and financed on a pro rata basis according to each member library's income. Using grant-funded equipment from the Council on Library Resources, the processing center would process, catalog, and ship books to member libraries. Member libraries included: Barry-Lawrence Regional Library, Barton County Library, Boonslick Regional Library, Carthage Public Library, Cass County Library, Christian County Library, Eldon Public Library, Fayette Public Library, Greene County Library, Joplin Public Library, Kinderhook Regional Library, Little Dixie Regional Library, Livingston County Memorial Library, Mexico-Audrain Public Library, McDonald County Library, Moberly Public Library, Newton County Library, Southwest Regional Library, Springfield Public Library, Stone County Library, Town and Country Regional Library, and Trails Regional Library.

Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc., was one of the first organizations to provide processing services to public libraries on a membership basis. It received national acclaim for its contribution to the library field and was the subject of multiple studies published by the Council on Library Resources and The Library Research Center at the University of Illinois. Due to membership decline, budget constraints, and rising costs of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), the Southwest Missouri Library Services, Inc., disbanded in 1981.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following six series with three subseries:

- Administrative Records
 - Meeting Minutes
- Correspondence
- Financial Records
 - Audit Reports
 - Budget Reports
- Membership
- Publications
- Research Studies

Scope and Content Note:

Administrative Records

This series contains the administrative records of Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc. Items include Articles of Association, by-laws, membership contracts and policies, insurance records, and the organization's records of employment. This series also includes board meeting minutes from 1957 through 1981. This series is arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Correspondence

This series consists of correspondence to and from Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc. The correspondence includes letters from member libraries, vendors, government entities, and professional organizations like the American Library Association. This series is arranged chronologically.

Financial Records

This series contains the financial records of Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc. The materials consist of budget reports, financial statements of member libraries, and audit reports compiled by professional accountants. This series also includes financial records specifically pertaining to Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). This series is arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Membership

This series consists of materials related to Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc.'s membership such as newsletters, promotional materials, and two photographs. The photographs are candid in nature and do not identify the individuals being photographed. The promotional materials include correspondence, brochures, and images of Southwest Missouri Library Services, Inc., operations. This series is arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Publications

This series contains newspaper clippings and articles written about Southwest Missouri Library Services, Inc., including the organization's history, operations, and members. This series is arranged by format and then chronologically.

Research Studies

This series consists of two research studies conducted by the Council on Library Resources and The Research Library at the University of Illinois. The studies are denoted as "surveys" and report on all facets of Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc., from its founding in 1957 to 1961 when the studies were completed. This series also contains the beginnings of a survey conducted by Jewel Hardkopf in 1961, however, the survey was never completed. This series is arranged by survey name and then chronologically.

Container List:

f. 1-12	Administrative Records
Box 001	
f. 1	Articles of Association, 1957-1959
f. 2	By-laws, 1959-1972
f. 3	Contracts, 1957-1976
f. 4	Employment, 1958-1973
f. 5	Insurance records, 1958-1981
f. 6	Policies, no date
f. 7-12	Meeting minutes
f. 7	1957-1959
f. 8	1960-1965
f. 9	1966-1969
f. 10	1970-1974

	f. 11	1975-1979
	f. 12	1980-1981
f. 13-14	Correspondence	
	f. 13	1957-1969
	f. 14	1970-1981
f. 15-29	Financial Records	
Box 002	f. 15-19	Audit Reports
	f. 15	1958-1961
	f. 16	1962-1965
	f. 17	1966-1970
	f. 18	1971-1975
	f. 19	1976-1980
	f. 20-27	Budget Reports
	f. 20	1957-1961
	f. 21	1961-1965
	f. 22	1965-1968
	f. 23	1968-1971
	f. 24	1971-1974
	f. 25	1974-1977
	f. 26	1977-1979
	f. 27	1979-1982
	f. 28	Member statements, 1961-1982
	f. 29	OCLC, 1976-1980
f. 30-32	Membership	
	f. 30	Newsletters, 1964-1967
	f. 31	Photographs, 1967
	f. 32	Promotional materials, 1960-1979
f. 33-34	Publications	
	f. 33	Articles, 1958-1961
	f. 34	Newspaper clippings, 1961-1970
f. 35-37	Research Studies	
	f. 35	Council on Library Resources survey, 1960-1962
	f. 36	Hardkopf survey, 1961
	f. 37	University of Illinois survey, 1961-1962

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
American Library Association	13-14, 32-33, 35	
Bolivar (Mo.)	1-37	
Bundy, Mary Lee	37	
Callaway, Judy	33	Yes
Carhart, Frances Dukes	35	
Dennis, Willard K.	1, 13, 32-36	Yes
Devan, Christopher B.	32-33	Yes
Elliot Business Machines, Inc.	33	Yes
Fox, Leroy	32-33	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Gilman, Esther, 1916-2000	1, 3, 13, 32-34	Yes
Groover, Lois	32	Yes
Hager, Margaret	32-33	Yes
Hardkopf, Jewel Carrie Mae, 1910-1980	36	
Hayes, Fern	32	Yes
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Librarians	1-37	Yes
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Libraries--Collection development	1-37	
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Libraries--Policy	6-12	
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Price, Paxton P., 1918-2009	36-37	
Polk County (Mo.)	1-37	
Public libraries--Missouri	1-37	
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Severance, Rosemary, 1926-2019	13, 32-33, 35-37	Yes
Southwest Missouri Library Service, Inc. (Bolivar, Mo.)	1-37	Yes
Swingle, Linda Sharon, 1939-2004	33	Yes
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	32	
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	37	
White, Paul A.	14	