

Institutional History of the Vermont Department of Libraries

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and Reference Librarian

Vermont Department of Libraries

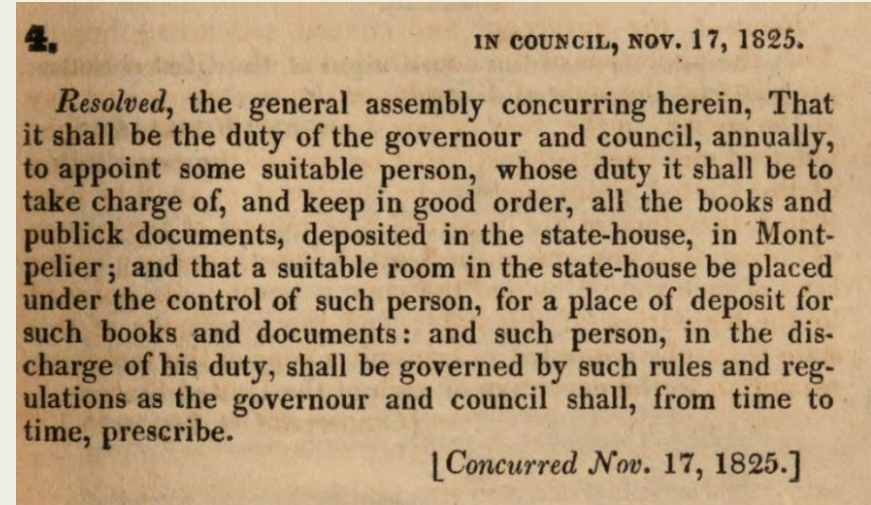
May 26, 2023

Vermont State Library

- 1825: Robert Pierpoint, a Councillor, introduced a resolution, “...that it shall be

the duty of the governour and council, annually, to appoint some suitable person whose duty it shall be to take charge of, and keep in good order, all the books and publick documents deposited in the state-house...”

The library was open only to Council members and the General Assembly when in session.



Vermont State Library 1830-1840

- 1838: Jackson A. Vail became the first State Librarian to be paid for his services.
- The State Library became the repository for state publications and first became responsible for distribution of the Vermont Reports.
- 1840: The State Library became a selective federal depository, with the addition of Congressional documents and speeches.

Vermont State Library 1841-1854

- 1841: The General Assembly first appropriated one-time funds for the purchase of books – specifically seven Bibles and two dictionaries.
- 1849: The State Library first participated in the exchange of state documents with other State Libraries.
- 1854: The first annual appropriation (\$200) for the purchase of books by the State Librarian was received.

Vermont State Library 1850-1860

- January 6, 1857: The State House was destroyed in a fire, including the State Library which was housed within the building. Harvey Webster, the State Librarian at that time, removed books from the building as it was burning.
- The Library was located in a private home and then the Masonic Temple in Montpelier until the current State House was completed in 1859. The State Library was then established in what is now the Cedar Creek Room.

Vermont State Library 1880-1920

- 1886 – The Annex to the State House was built to house the State Library and Trustees approved a schedule change so that it would remain open all year.
- 1902 – The first full-time State Librarian, George W. Wing, was hired.
- 1918 – The building at 109/111 State Street and the Supreme Court building were built. The State Library became open to all Vermont residents.

Vermont State Library 1927

- November 3, 1927 – Montpelier flooded, causing the loss of some 50,000 state documents from the State Library.

Vermont Free Public Library Commission 1894-1922

- 1894 – Vermont Free Public Library Commission begins.
- 1904 - The first Secretary of the Vermont Free Public Library Commission, Miss Mary L. Titcomb, had the idea of using a horse drawn wagon to carry books out to small libraries and farming families. However, the proposal was denied.
- On May 25, 1922, the Vermont Free Public Library Commission became the first New England State Commission to own a motorized bookmobile. The “Alice Cooper Bookwagon” was given to the Commission by the Vermont Federation of Women’s Clubs, and was named for Mrs. Omeron H. Coolidge of Rutland, first president of the Federation and was a friend of Mary Titcomb.



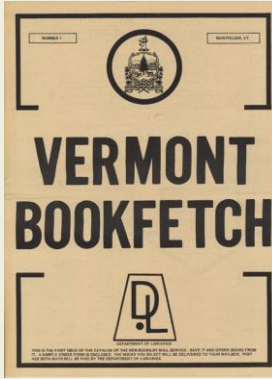
Vermont Free Public Library Commission 1923-1937

- 1923 - The Free Public Library Commission was abolished (Act No. 7, Section 34) and the duties were assigned to the Commission to the Board of Education. The work was then to be known as the Free Public Library Department of the Board of Education.
- March 25, 1937 - the Legislature appropriated unspecified but “adequate funds” to set up a state-wide regional library service and by the same Act, reestablished the Free Public Library Commission, disestablishing the Free Public Library Department of the State Board of Education but continuing the sequential numbering of their biennial reports.

Vermont Free Public Library Commission 1937-1961

- 1937 - The regional bookwagons were established, with small library collections that were housed in local public library spaces.
- February 9, 1960 - Legislature abolished the board of geographic names and transferred those responsibilities to the state librarian. The Free Public Library Commission was renamed the Free Public Library Board.
- 1961 - Geographic naming responsibilities were transferred to the Board of Trustees and the Free Public Library Commission was renamed the Free Public Library Service, with a five-member board.

Vermont Department of Libraries 1970s

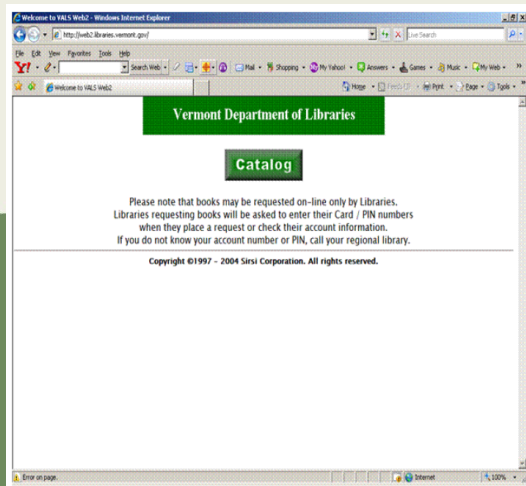


- March 31, 1970 – The State Library merged with the Vermont Free Public Library Service to form the Vermont Department of Libraries.
- 1971 – Vermont BookFetch was launched. Vermont Bookfetch was launched in 1971. The Department of Libraries published their catalog, with supplements from participating libraries in local newspapers, beginning with the Times Argus.



Vermont Department of Libraries 1980s

- 1980 - The Department of Libraries first automated the collections.
- 1987 - The Vermont Automated Library System (VALS) was created. A union catalog, where libraries who were members submitted additions and deletions from their catalog to the Vermont Department of Libraries. Staff members at the Department then updated the union catalog manually.

A screenshot of a library catalog record for a book. The header is "Vermont Department of Libraries" with "HELP" and "QUIT" buttons. Below the header are navigation links: "Home", "Search", "New", "Order", "My Account". The record is titled "Record # 1" and "Request Title: On the bus : the complete guide to the legendary trip of Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters and the birth of the counterculture / by Paul Perry ; 'flashbacks' by Ken 'The Inrepid traveller' Babbs ; featuring photos by Ron 'Thessler' Bevert ... [et al.] ; forewords by Hunter S. Thompson and Jerry Garcia ; edited by Michael Schwartz and Neil Orsenberg." The author is "Perry, Paul, 1950-". There is a table for "Item Holdings":

Location	Call Number	Volume	Material	Status
Northeast Regional Library	306	1	Book	STACKS

The edition is "1st ed." and the publisher is "New York : Thunder's Mouth Press, c1990." The subject headings include "Kesey, Ken--Journeys--United States.", "Kesey, Ken--Friends and associates.", "Social history--1960-1970.", "United States--Description and travel--1960-1980.", "Novels, American--20th century--Journeys--United States.", "Bus travel--United States--History--20th century.", and "Beat generation--Biography." There is a "Display Related Subjects" button. The description is "xxiv, 195 p. : ill. ; 24 cm." The notes mention "NERL Babbs, Ken, Schwartz, Michael, Orsenberg, Neil." The ISBN is "093810911 (pbk.) : \$21.95" and the OCLC number is "ocn21524616".

Vermont Department of Libraries

- 2017 – The VALS system was replaced with SHAREIt by Auto-Graphics. Branded as “CLOVER” in Vermont, this system connects to library catalogs via the z39.50 connection, allowing live status checks of items and removing the need to maintain a union catalog.

Regional Libraries Open 1967-1972

- June 11, 1967 – Rutland Regional Library (later Southwest Regional Library) opened
- June 18, 1967 – Brattleboro Regional Library (later Southeast Regional Library) opened
- 1968 – Montpelier Regional Library (later Midstate Regional Library) opened
- 1968 – St. Johnsbury Regional Library (later Northeast Regional Library) opened
- June 1972 – St. Albans Regional Library (later Northwest Regional Library) opened

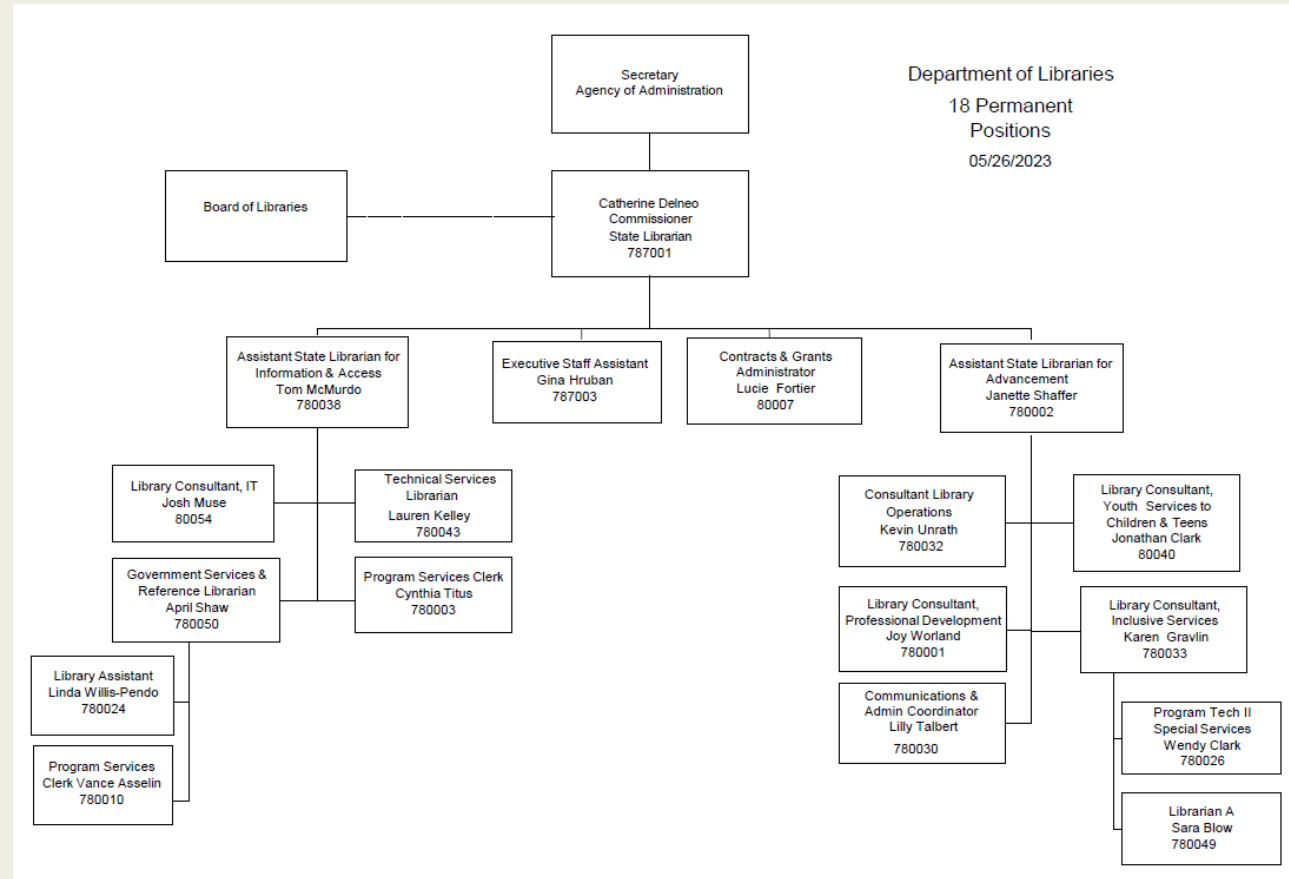
Regional Libraries Close 1997-2018

- 1997 – The Northwest Regional Library closed.
- 1997 – The Southwest Regional Library closed.
- 2000 – The Southeast Regional Library closed.
- 2010 – The Northeast Regional Library closed.
- 2018 – The Midstate Regional Library closed.

Vermont Department of Libraries

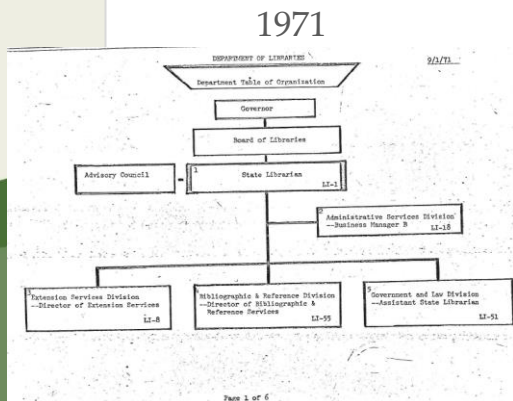
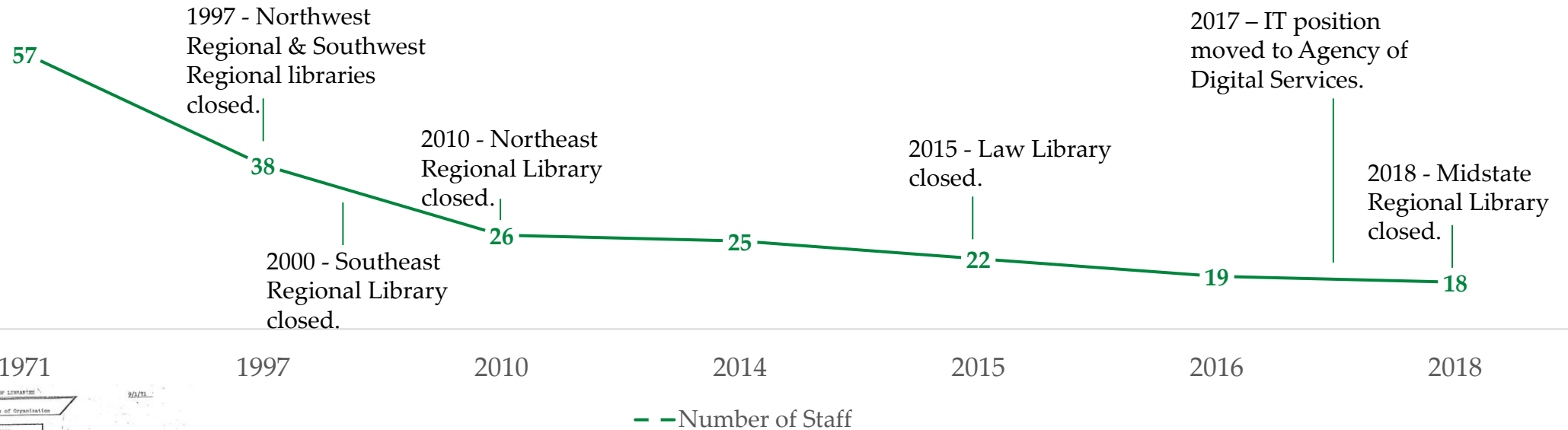
- July 2018 – The Vermont Department of Libraries moved all collections and divisions to its current location: 60 Washington Street in Barre, Vermont.
- A team of 18 staff members provides service to libraries throughout Vermont.

Vermont Department of Libraries



Vermont Department of Libraries - Staff

NUMBER OF STAFF



Vermont State Librarians 1969-present

Years	State Librarian
2022 – Present	Catherine Delneo
2019-2021	Jason Broughton
2017-2019	Scott Murphy
2008-2017	Martha Reid
1997-2008	Sybil McShane
1977-1997	Patricia Klinck
1973-1977	John McCrossan
1972-1973	Kathryn R. Nelson
1969-1972	James Igoe