

# San Luis Obispo County Library

## ARCHIVES

The list below provides a sample of the varied information available in the Library Archives. Much of the material would be helpful in compiling or researching any county library history including branches. Additional information is available from the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society (SLOCHS) and from individual branches, librarians and long time residents.

### ***LIBRARY NEWS NOTES: 1906 – 1973 (LNN)***

Published by the State Library, *LNN* provide information regarding every public library in California. The earlier editions are most useful as they include information (including founding dates) for school and community libraries, librarians, location, size of individual site collections, etc. Information annotating San Luis Obispo County libraries has been extracted and placed in a separate folder.

### ***ADMINISTRATION***

Extensive correspondence from and to the library administration exists from its beginning in 1919. The letters are filed by date. Also included are folders of information from the various Summer Reading Programs, Black Gold System, etc.

### ***BRANCH FOLDERS***

Information on each community branch has been organized by date with most documents relating to correspondence between the main office and individual sites. There are usually some original letters and a few photographs from the earliest days of any particular branch. Some have extensive construction items.

### ***BRANCH REPORTS***

Generally, between the mid-1950s and 1972, branch managers submitted monthly reports of activities, needs, etc. to the main office. Depending upon the manager, these are also useful insights (and often delightful reading) into the community.

### ***CLIP FILES***

Different branches at different dates maintained newspaper articles concerning the library. Additionally, personnel at the main branch collected clipped articles addressing countywide issues as well as specific branches. Most of the articles date from the mid-1950s, but there are several from earlier dates. There are hundreds of articles glued to sheets of paper and filed by dates.

### ***PRE-COUNTY LIBRARY INFORMATION***

Some information exists as to library services before the advent of the county system in 1919. This file is complemented by more extensive information found in the SLOCHS.

### ***ANNUAL REPORTS***

The County Librarian was required to file a yearly report with the State Library. Thus far found, original duplicates of these reports from 1926 to 1969 contain much information as to the growth of the system.

### ***MARIE FECHET KILBURN***

County Librarian from 1932 to 1948, Kilburn maintained a monthly “newsletter” (all handwritten and decorated) that combined administrative details and personnel news. These were probably posted on a main office bulletin board for everyone to read. The preserved letters date from 1938 to 1948 and include a radio interview.

### ***PHOTOGRAPHS***

There are hundreds (thousands!) of photographs from various branches and functions. Many have been indexed but much work needs to be done to sort and identify the remaining photos.

### ***COUNTY STAFF NEWSLETTERS***

The newsletters from 1962 to the present are a valuable source of information about branches and personnel as well as countywide issues and programs.

### ***LIBRARY BOARDS OF TRUSTEES***

The partnership between the public and library is seen by the various items referring to the men and women who served on the County Library Board of Trustees.

### ***ADMINISTRATION DIARIES***

Between 1952 and 1968, a diary of activities was maintained including notes on branches and personnel. While the first years were maintained by County Librarian Walter A. Sharafanowich (1952-1958), the often-candid diaries were continued during much of his successor’s tenure.

### ***TAXPAYER’S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION***

The Great Depression resulted in loss of jobs, homes and property. The TPA was a local branch of a national association whose goal was to reduce expenditures by the County Board of Supervisors. Indexed Minutes (December 1931-1936), by-laws, membership lists, correspondence and expenditures are available in the Archives.

### ***THE BOOK CLUB***

Between 1907 and 1964, a group of ladies met on a regular basis to not only discuss books but also their role as residents in an expanding community. Minutes, yearbooks, correspondence, receipts, financial notes have been indexed and sorted by category and dates.

### ***MISCELLANEOUS***

Information as to the consolidation of services and construction of the library on Morro Street and the more recent one on Palm Street in San Luis Obispo occupy several files. Yet to be organized are dozens of folders containing financial statements, circulation data, job descriptions, etc. of some historical importance.

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