Title: Citizens Committee on the Status of Librarians of the Public Libraries of New York. Records.
Approximate inclusive dates: 1929-1942.
Date of receipt: 1941
Received from: Citizens Committee.
Volume on arrival: 4 boxes.
Number of boxes (after reboxing): 4 boxes. 1 2/3 linear ft.
Condition: Some letters are on brown, brittle paper.
Restrictions: None.
Description:

The Committee, alternately called the Citizens Committee on the Status of the Branch Librarians of the Public Libraries of the City of New York, was founded in 1929 to study and make recommendations concerning the status of librarians at the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Public Library, and the Queens Borough Public Library. It worked to obtain salary increases and pensions for librarians, and recommended that job titles should be standardized across the three systems.

The Committee was formed at the suggestion of Robert E. Simon, President of the United Parents Associations of Greater New York, and its work was funded by grants from the Carnegie Corporation. Professor Howard Lee McBain of Columbia University served as chairman, Henry Bruere was treasurer, and Spencer Miller, Jr. was Secretary. Senator Ellwood M. Rabenold took over as chairman after Professor McBain's death. Members of the Committee were men and women both prominent in their fields, and active in New York City civic affairs.

The Committee concluded its work in 1939.

Temporary catalog card added entries:

Librarians—Salaries, pensions, etc.—New York (N.Y.)

Accessioned by: Julie Miller
Date: May 19, 1988
Description

Included are: correspondence, reports, memoranda, surveys, questionnaires, legal and financial documents, press releases, New York State bills and other government documents concerning pensions, calendars of the the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of New York City containing communications from the Committee, and printed material, 1929-1932. These document the formation of the Committee, its efforts to obtain salary increases, pensions (this was accomplished in 1937 when the city librarians joined the New York State pension system), and uniform job titles for the librarians. Correspondence is among Committee officers and members, and with New York City officials; directors and trustees of the three library systems, and of libraries in other cities; the Carnegie Corporation; United Staff Associations of the Public Libraries of New York City; and with civic, educational, and women's organizations.

Correspondents include: Howard Lee McBain, Ellwood M. Rabenold, Robert E. Simon, Henry Bruere, Spencer Miller, Jr., Assistant Secretary Marinobel Smith, and members: Eunice Fuller Barnard, Bruce Bliven, Alvin Johnson, Paul Klapper, William F. Russell, Dorothy Straus, Mary Van Kleeck, Ella T. Sullivan, and others.

Also included is a transcript of a meeting held June 27, 1927 between Joseph V. McKee, President of the New York City Board of Aldermen, and representatives of the New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and Queens Borough Public Library. McKee had been appointed by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to make a survey of the libraries, and called the meeting to present his findings to their representatives. Discussion centered on salary increases, pensions, and standardization, topics the Citizens Committee later addressed.
Citizens Committee on the Status of Librarians - 3

**Container List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1927 meeting transcript; Records, 1929-1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Records, 1936-1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>&quot; 1938-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>&quot; 1939-1942; n.d.; New York acts and legal documents; Board of Estimate calendars; financial documents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Citizens Committee on the Status of Librarians
of the Public Libraries of the City of New York

Preliminary Inventory - folder listing

Box 1.

2. Corres, 1929
3. Corres, Minutes, Memoranda, 1930
4. " " " 1931, Jan-Mar
5. " " " Apr-May
6. " " " Jun-Dec
7. " " " 1932
8. " " " 1933
9. " " " 1934
10. " " " 1935
11. " " " 1936, Jan-Oct
12. " " " Nov-Dec
13. " " " 1937, Jan-Feb
14. " " " Mar-Apr
15. " " " May-Jul
16. " " " Aug-Sept
17. " " " Oct-Dec
19. Corres, Minutes, Memoranda, 1938, Jan-May
20. " " " Jun-Oct
21. " " " Nov
22. " " " Dec
23. " " " 1939 (4 flrs - unsorted)

Box 2.

1. Printed matter relating to pensions
2. Misc. printed reports, surveys, etc., c.1930-31 (old style ms. box)