

JOINT COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY SERVICE TO LABOR GROUPS COLLECTION

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The records of the Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Groups, AFL-CIO/ALA, were deposited in the Labor History Archives by its former chairman, Roberta McBride, on authorization of the Committee.

The Committee was established in 1945 with the objective of encouraging and assisting public libraries to develop specialized services which would be useful to labor.

Throughout its history the Committee has received support from both the American Library Association and from the labor federations, the AFL and the CIO, later the merged AFL-CIO. The attached "organizational chronology" shows this relationship.

The collection is largely correspondence, since the committee's membership has always been geographically dispersed. In addition to documenting some imaginative attempts to bring library service to labor, the collection contains letters from such well-known names in labor education as Frank Henson, who described his "Labor Great Books" program; Myles Horton who wanted to recruit volunteer librarians for the Highlander summer folk school at Monteagle, Tennessee; and Brownie Lee Jones describing the work of the Southern School for Workers.

Labor contributions to the Committee's organ, Library Service to Labor, required as much persistence by its editor in 1949 as in 1966. Debate as to whether to include in Library Service to Labor a contribution from the librarian of the Jefferson School of Social Service accounted for considerable correspondence between labor and librarian committee members and even from members of ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee.

A strike at the hotels in Miami preceding the 1959 ALA convention there, occasioned some friction between library members of the Committee, and ALA officialdom. The ALA conference at San Francisco two years later was the occasion for a tempestuous open meeting of the Committee with audience foes and friends of Right-to-Work legislation, including library trustee Mrs. William Knowland.

A large section of the collection is composed of drafts of publications by the Committee, and letters to and from contributors to these publications.

Box Inventory

- Box 1, Correspondence (Miscellaneous) 1946-1948
Correspondence (Miscellaneous) 1949
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Correspondence (Committee Members) 1948-1950
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- Box 2, Correspondence (ALA) 1948-1950
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Correspondence (ALA Washington Office) 1948-1949
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Correspondence (Jefferson School of Social Science) 1949-1951
Correspondence (Labor Extension Bill) 1949-1950
Correspondence re. Library Participating in IAM Institute, Jan. July 1949
Correspondence (Regional Library Conference) 1949
Correspondence (Ruth Shapiro) 1952-1953
- Box 3, Publications: Public Library Service to Labor Groups - Five Case Studies, 1948-1951
Publications: Handbook on Library Service . . . Correspondence, 1948-1956
Publications: Handbook . . . Drafts
Publications: Handbook . . . Drafts
Publications: Selected Biography . . . 1955
Publications: Your Library Can Save Your Union
Publications: Labor, Selected List . . . 1958
Publications: Guide for Developing . . . 1958/59
Publications: Memo from the Joint Committee . . .
- Box 4, Correspondence (ALA) 1953-1955
Correspondence (Committee Members) July 1953-1955
Correspondence (Workshop on . . . Business . . . and . . . Labor) 1954
Replies by Libraries to Questionnaire on Services Rendered . . . , 1953
- Box 5, Committee Reports and Minutes 1948-1954
Correspondence (Budget and Finance) 1953-1956 Correspondence (Newsletter) 1949-1950 Correspondence (Newsletter and McCoy) 1951-June 1953 Correspondence (Newsletter) July 1953-1954 Correspondence (Newsletter) 1955-1956 Publicity and Library Brochures, to 1959
- Box 6, Union-Library Project, 1954
Union-Library Project, 1955-1956 Union-Library Project 1957
Labor-Library Project, 1957-1960, Correspondence Labor-Library Project, 1957-1960, Documents
- Box 7, Committee Reports and Minutes, 1955-1956
Correspondence (ALA Midwinter Conference) 1955
Correspondence (ALA Summer Conference) 1955

(Box 3) Publications: Handbook . . . Correspondence (Contributors) 1951-1952

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- Correspondence (ALA Midwinter Conference) 1956
- Correspondence (Summer Workshop) 1956
- Correspondence (ALA Summer Conference) 1956
- Correspondence (joint Committee) 1956
- Correspondence (Newsletter) 1955
- Correspondence (Newsletter) 1956
- Box 8, Committee Reports and Minutes, 1957-1958
 - Correspondence (AFL-CIO and Labor Members) 1957
 - Correspondence (ALA Conferences) 1957
 - Correspondence (Budget and Finance) 1957-1958
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 - Correspondence (AFL-CIO) 1958
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 - Correspondence (ALA Conferences) 1958
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- Box 9, Committee Reports and Minutes, 1959-1960
 - Correspondence (AFL-CIO) 1959
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 - Correspondence (ALA Conferences) 1959
 - Correspondence (ALA Conferences) 1960
 - Correspondence (Budget and Finance) 1959-1960
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- Box 10, Committee Reports and Minutes, 1961-1963, 1966
 - Correspondence (AFL-CIO) 1960-1963
 - Correspondence (ALA) 1960-1964
 - Correspondence (ALA Conferences) 1961-1963
 - Correspondence (Book Truck Project) 1962-1964
 - Correspondence (Committee Finance and Budget) 1960-1963
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 - Correspondence (Displays, incl. union label show) 1960-1963
 - Correspondence (ILPA) 1960-1963
 - Correspondence (Joint Committee Members) 1960-1964
 - Correspondence (Labor Leaders, meetings with) 1961-1962
 - Correspondence (Library Boards, Labor Members) 1960-1961
 - Correspondence and Publicity (National Library Week) 1959-1962
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 - Correspondence (OKO Testimonial Dinner) 1961
 - Correspondence (OKO-McBride) 1959-1965
 - Correspondence (Printing) 1960-1961
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 - Correspondence (State Library Association Project) 1961-1962
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 - Publicity (Unesco Builetin) 1962
 - Correspondence (Library Service to Labor") 1961-1964