



Foreword

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IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that I introduce this discussion of "Legal Aspects of Library Administration" as a tribute to the Honorable Arthur T. Vanderbilt, who had agreed to write the Foreword just prior to his death on June 16, 1957. The selection of the late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for this task was singularly appropriate, because not only had he relied heavily on library resources for assistance in his work as practitioner, teacher, dean, inspired advocate of judicial reform, and distinguished jurist, but he also had devoted much time and attention to the strengthening of libraries. With his interest in and talent for the application of the principles of administration to the law, he must have welcomed the opportunity to introduce to library administrators this handbook for the application of legal knowledge to their own problems.

No more sincere tribute can be paid to Chief Justice Vanderbilt by a librarian with whom he was associated than these lines by Julius J. Marke, author of Chapter V of this issue of *Library Trends*, from the dedication of his *A Catalogue of the Law Collection at New York University, With Selected Annotations*: "At all times he has been a sympathetic and inspiring counsellor, guiding me with an experienced hand through the many vicissitudes of this project. Without him this catalogue would never have come into being."

It may be generally assumed by the public at large, and in fact by an administrator himself, whether in library or other service, that he must and does know the law as it applies to his particular field; if not, he could not administer competently and effectively. But, as several of the contributors suggest in chapters of this symposium, the "library laws," whether they be statutes, municipal ordinances, or institutional by-laws, furnish only the barest, most specific minima of legal guidelines—the *sine qua non* for the particular operation. The broad field of general law, be it common or statutory or both, applies. Mr. Warren is Chief Justice of the United States.

cable to this in common with hundreds of types of other governmental activity as well as private enterprise may escape the administrator in his preoccupation with the foreground of day-to-day details—hence the necessity for seeking competent professional advice concerning the legal implications of library operations and, therefore, the value of this handbook as a reminder of that necessity.

The issue editor is to be congratulated upon planning and executing this extremely worth-while symposium on these important problems which, as a whole, have not heretofore been explored in detail. The contributors selected by him, including M. O. Price, the “dean of law librarians,” are all competent law library administrators. What they and the issue editor in his Chapter III have to say here will be helpful to us all—lawyers, laymen, and librarians alike—and will make a substantial contribution to the effectiveness of libraries in their chosen and accepted role as one of the chief disseminators of knowledge to the American people and to the free world. This role may well be a decisive one in the years to come. I feel sure that had he lived to review it the work would have pleased Chief Justice Vanderbilt, and that would be high praise.

As one who has long served in several areas of public administration, I am especially happy to introduce this first major discussion of the legal aspects of this single area in public administration through the medium of a publication of the University of Illinois Library School at Urbana, where I had the privilege of sharing in the dedication of the University’s new Law School Building in the spring of 1956. To those who have contributed so ably to this issue of *Library Trends*, I pay my respects and express my appreciation.