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PUBLICATIONS OF THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE,
1952 - 1962

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
LIBRARY SERVICE

BY
MAUDE ROBERTSON WILLIAMS

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JUNE, 1964
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

State publications have acquired a new significance as indispensable sources for research. There is need for an official bibliography of state publications because they cover a broader field than before due to an increase in governmental activities, and because their content has been improved since research has become a public function.1

Application of scientific methods to solving concrete problems has increased and enriched the contents of all publications. There has been a shift of emphasis in the social studies from authority to the extensive use of original and present data. Rapid growth in today's social and industrial life demands an informed public in its government and public administration.2 To be an active member of an informed society, one must have access to state publications in order to use them. Alabama maintains poor records of its official publications, and lacks bibliographic control of its documents.

Since March 3, 1817, Alabama has existed as a territory and state. It is bounded on the north by Tennessee, east by Georgia, south

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2 Ibid.
by Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, and on the west by Mississippi. Alabama has had several capitals and its present one is Montgomery. There are now 67 counties in the state.¹

The Legislature, comprised of a Senate and House of Representatives, is charged with the making of the State's laws. In 1964 there were 141 members of the Legislature, consisting of 35 Senators and 106 Representatives. The Legislature meets every other year at the capitol on the second Tuesday in January. Usually there are two sessions of the Legislature, the "organizational session" and the "regular session." The presiding officer of the Senate is the Lieutenant-Governor; however, he is not a member of the Senate. The Speaker is the presiding officer of the House of Representatives, and is a member of this body. There are 45 standing committees in the Alabama Legislature, consisting of 30 in the Senate and 15 in the House of Representatives.²

Beginning the first day of October, the Director of Finance advertises biennially for ten days in two to four daily newspapers published in the state for bids to do the printing and binding of the State's publications for a two-year term. The bids must be approved by any two of the following officers: the governor, auditor and treasurer. The bids are sealed, endorsed and delivered to the Director. When a bid is accepted, the Director of Finance endorses the fact, dates, its


acceptance, and gives notice to the person, firm or corporation whose bid is accepted. This contract for printing and binding is prescribed by law. The secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives prepare for publication correct copies of the Bills and Joint Resolutions passed by the Legislature during and after each Session, and send them to the printer. The Acts of the Legislature are printed and bound in one volume which includes the messages of the Governor, and the names and post-office addresses of the members and officers of the Legislature. The Journals are prepared with a title page and an index and are half-bound and lettered. The State Purchasing Agent requires the printer to give bond when making the contracts for publication of the Acts and Journals. If the printer fails to perform the duties prescribed according to his contract within the prescribed time, the comptroller deducts $100.00 from the contract price for each day's delay.¹

¹ To become enlightened on the political nature of Alabama, one needs to have a complete bibliography of all its official publications to eliminate the time consuming methods presently used to find any publications of the State. A central list of Alabama publications is necessary to enable any person interested in finding specific information to do so.

Un fortunately, Alabama does not have a state library. The Legislative Reference Service and the Department of Archives and History have copies of all Legislature publications but they are neither indexed

nor cataloged. There is no system of listing material printed by any department of the state. Each department of the state works independently of every other department. There is no centralization in regard to cataloging materials. Since the Legislature meets every other year and seldom calls special sessions, there are very few documents written. Those which are written are basically for the convenience of the committees involved. Publications or surveys made are neither required by law to be published nor distributed.

Honorable Robert S. Edington stated:

I have found, much to my distress, that there is no single central source of information in regard to state government. It is not even possible for the state to give you a list of the employees in any one county. There is no such thing as records of this nature. Each department keeps its own, and apparently fails to disseminate this information to any central source. Each department handles its own, and each House of the Legislature handles its own, and each Legislature Interim Committee, Standing Committee, Sub Committee or Special Committee handles its own publications from its funds.

The only general lists of official Alabama publications found were: "Bibliography of the Statute Law of the Southern States," "A

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3 Ibid.


Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this study was to identify, examine, analyze and list all available publications of the Alabama Legislature from 1952 through 1962. It is anticipated that this bibliography will be an aid to officials, scholars and other persons interested in acquiring and using documents of the State of Alabama.

Methodology

The first step in compiling this bibliography of publications of the Alabama Legislature was to write 17 letters to the different departments of the State of Alabama regarding a bibliography of the Alabama State Legislature. This correspondence included letters to the Alabama Public Library Service, the Department of Archives and History, the Legislative Reference Service, the State Auditor, the Senate of Alabama, the Secretary of State, the House of Representatives, the Secretary to the Governor, the Bureau of Public Administration, and the Brown Printing Company. All responses indicated that there was no central source for information of this nature. A complete list of publications for the ten-year period, 1952 through 1962, could not be


obtained from any department of the State. Letters from various departments of the State, advised that the only method of obtaining this information was through actually visiting the State Archives and History building in Montgomery. A conference with the local State Legislator, the Honorable Robert S. Edington confirmed the fact that there was no central place for the cataloging or filing of State publications.\(^1\) He provided a letter of introduction to department heads and reliable civil service employees who could assist this investigation. Each referred to the Alabama Archives and History Department. The Brown Printing Company has had the contract for most of the publications of the State Legislature, but neither filed, cataloged nor kept any copies of the Legislative publications.

The Library of Congress, *Monthly Check List of State Publications*,\(^2\) was consulted for the years 1952 through 1962 for a list of official publications of Alabama. This list was compared with all publications of the Legislature which could be located in the Alabama Archives and History collections. The materials were examined to expand the preliminary list, and to obtain additional information. All entries were then checked for verification and completeness.

The following information was recorded for each publication on five by three and a half index cards: source, title, imprint, pagination,

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1 Interview with Honorable Robert S. Edington, Member, House of Representatives, State of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama, February 21, 1964.

and subject treated when applicable. The findings were tabulated chronologically by type of publication (Session Laws, Journals and Their Appendices, and House, Senate and Joint Committee Reports). The form for card catalog entries was used in recording authors and titles on the resulting list.

The abbreviation AAH was used for those publications found only in the Alabama Archives and History Department; MC was used for those listed in the Monthly Check List of State Publications, but not located in the Alabama Archives and History Department. If entries were found in both places, no abbreviations were listed.

1Ibid., p. 7.
CHAPTER II

PUBLICATIONS OF THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE, 1952-1962

Fifty-nine publications of the Alabama Legislature published from 1952 through 1962 were discovered. These included Session Laws, Journals and Their Appendices, and House, Senate and Joint Committee Reports. The Session Laws contained those by which the State of Alabama is governed. The Journals were a complete collection of reports and proceedings that took place each day during a Session of the Legislature. They consisted of the names of persons attending, bills introduced and voted on, persons introducing bills, and Committee Reports. Committee Reports were made from the House and Senate. They pertained to a variety of subjects, such as taxation, constitutions, agriculture, et cetera.

Table 1 shows the distribution of publications of the Alabama Legislature by year and type from 1952 through 1962. The greatest number of publications were Joint Committee Reports with 22 or 37.0 per cent of the total number. Senate Committee Reports ranked second with 13 or 22.0 per cent of all publications discovered. Ten or 17.0 per cent were Session Laws. The smallest number of publications were five House Committee Reports which comprised 9.0 per cent of the total. It was observed that Session Laws and Journals were published only once during a Session, whereas, several Committee Reports may have been published during a comparable period.
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The nine Session Laws were published as follows: 1953 Regular Session; 1955 Organizational, First Extraordinary, and Regular Sessions; 1956 First Special Session; 1957 Regular Session; 1959 Organizational and First Special Sessions; 1961 Regular Session, and the 1962 Special Session. One publication in 1953 dealt with publications and notices and was subsequently revised by the Legislative Reference Service. The other was concerned with public welfare laws of Alabama.

The Journals were third in number of publications for the ten year period. These represented House and Senate-1953 Regular Sessions; the House of Representatives 1955 Organizational and Extraordinary Session; the House and Senate 1956 Extraordinary Session; the House and Senate 1959 Organizational, Special and Regular Sessions; the House and Senate 1961 Regular and Special Sessions; and the Joint House and Senate 1962 Extraordinary Sessions.

Committee Reports for the House of Representatives were the smallest in number. Four of these publications concerned rules of the House, and the remaining one dealt with road tolls.

Senate Committee Reports were second in regard to the number of Legislature documents published from 1952 through 1962. One document was issued for each of the following subjects: constitutions and elections, constitutional revision, Senate and House rosters, and standing committees. Three publications dealt with rules of the Senate. The other seven, one each, dealt with: tax problems, financing education, insurance laws, finance and taxation, revision of laws of the State, segregation in the public schools and petroleum marketing practices and gasoline pricing in the State.
Joint Committee Reports which comprised 37 per cent of the Legislature publications were devoted to a variety of subjects. Three were concerned with the public school system and seven were documents of the Advisory Opinion of the State Supreme Court relative to House Bills and Resolutions. Three documents discussed the study of cotton in Alabama. One publication each treated the following subjects: administration, operation and condition of Bryce Hospital and Partlow State School, investigation of Alabama hospitals, municipal government, methods of control of the Argentine Fire Act, medical care, insurance, Macon County, recreation at State beaches and parks, and the re-location and improvement of certain state prison facilities.

More publications, 16, were discovered for 1955 than for any other year. These publications included one Session Law, one Journal, one House Report, five Senate Reports, and eight Joint Committee Reports. The one Session Law and one Journal were adopted at the organizational, first extraordinary and Regular Sessions of 1955. The one House Report dealt with the rules of the House. Two of the Senate Reports concerned constitutional revisions and two pertained to rules of the Senate. The remaining one dealt with segregation in the public schools. One Joint Committee Report treated the study of cotton in Alabama. The remaining seven dealt with the Advisory Opinion of the State Supreme Court relative to House Bills and Resolutions. The Legislature did not convene in 1960, consequently no documents were published for that year.

For the years 1952 and 1954 there were only two publications issued. Both were Joint Committee Reports. For the year, 1953, eight documents were published. These consisted of two House and two Senate Reports; two
Session Laws and two Journals. In 1956, there were five publications which concerned the following: two Session Laws, two Journals, and one Joint Committee Report. Seven documents were published for the year 1957. Six of these were Reports from the following: one House, three Senate, and two Joint Committee Reports. One publication was Session Laws for the year of 1957. There were four publications for 1958, consisting of three Joint and one Senate Committee Reports. Nineteen hundred and fifty-nine ranked second with ten publications for the year. They were issued as follows: one Session Law, two Journals, one House Report, four Senate Reports and two Joint Committee Reports. In 1961, five documents were published. They included: one Session Law, two Journals and two Joint Committee Reports. In 1962 only one Session Law and one Journal was published (see Table 1).

When considering the publications by year there was neither consistency nor pattern in the increase or decrease of documents published.

Recommendations

Twelve publications were listed in the Monthly Checklist of State Publications\(^1\) that were not located in the Alabama Archives and History. Some were also located in the Alabama Archives and History that were not listed in the Monthly Check List... An examination of material in the Alabama Archives and History Department revealed no system or standard for keeping official documents. In order to locate a particular document or publication, it was necessary to consult numerous sources and follow circuitous procedures. This is further evidence of a lack of bibliographic

\(^1\)Ibid.
control. The State should appoint a person or persons to catalog or compile a list of all official documents. This should be available to any citizen or interested person. Each department of the State of Alabama, not only the Legislature, with which this project was concerned, should maintain and publish an annual list of all of its publications either jointly with other departments or independently. Officers of the State are elected every four years, and compilations could represent corresponding periods.
CHAPTER II

PUBLICATIONS OF THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE BY TYPE

Session Laws

1953

Alabama. Laws, Statutes, etc.

Alabama laws (and joint resolutions) of the Legislature of Alabama, passed at the regular session of 1953, held at the capitol, in the city of Montgomery, commencing May 5, 1953; with an index prepared by the Legislative Reference Service. Montgomery, Brown Printing Company, 1953. 2v.

Alabama. Laws, Statutes, etc.


1955

Alabama. Laws, Statutes, etc.


1956

Alabama. Laws, Statutes, etc.


Alabama. Laws, Statutes, etc.

1957

Alabama. Laws, Statutes, etc.
Alabama laws (and joint resolutions) of the Legislature of Alabama, passed at the regular session of 1957, held at the capitol, in the city of Montgomery, commencing Tuesday, May 7, 1957; with an index prepared by the Legislative Reference Service. Montgomery, Brown Printing Company, 1957. 2v.

1959

Alabama. Laws, Statutes, etc.

1961

Alabama. Laws, Statutes, etc.

1962

Alabama. Laws, Statutes, etc.

Journals and Their Appendices

1953

Alabama. Legislature. Senate.

1955


1956


Alabama. Legislature. Senate.

1959


Alabama. Legislature. Senate.

1961


Alabama. Legislature. Senate.
17

1962

Alabama. Legislature. House and Senate.

House Reports

1953


Alabama. Legislature. Interim Toll Road Committee.

1955


1957


1959


Senate Reports

1955

   Report; third special session 1955, Senate Bill no. 2.

Alabama. Legislature. Interim Legislative Committee on Segregation.

Alabama. Legislature. Senate.

Alabama. Legislature. Senate.
   Senate roster, Senate standing committees and Senate committee assignments; House roster and House standing committees, regular session, 1955. Montgomery, Brown Printing Company, 1955. 16p

1957

Alabama. Legislature. Tax Study Committee.

Alabama. Legislature. Tax Study Committee.

Alabama. Legislature. Senate.

1958

Alabama. Legislature. Interim Committee on Insurance.

1959

Alabama. Legislature. Senate.
Report; legislative document no. 12, regular session 1959.

Alabama. Legislature. Interim Committee on Revision of Laws.
Report; legislative document no. 1, first special session.

Alabama. Legislature. Interim Committee on Gas and Oil.
Report; a study of petroleum marketing practices and
gasoline pricing in the State of Alabama, Senate Bill no. 39,
Act no. 645, regular session 1959. Montgomery, Brown Printing
Company, 1959. 28p. AAH

Joint Committee Reports

1952

Alabama. Legislature. Special Committee to Study and Investigate
the Public School System of Alabama.

1953

Alabama. Legislature. Special Committee to Inquire into the
Administration, Operation, and Condition of Bryce
Hospital and Partlow State School.

Alabama. Legislature. Special Committee Investigating the
Alabama Hospitals.

1954

Alabama. Legislature. Special Committee to Study and Investigate
the Public School System.

1955

Alabama. Legislature. Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court.
In the Legislature of the State of Alabama, regular session
1955, Legislative document no. 5. Advisory Opinion of the Supreme
Court, relative to House Bill no. 3, in response to House Resolution
no. 9, (third special session). Montgomery, Brown Printing Company,
1955. 18p. AAH
Alabama. Legislature. Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court.


Alabama. Legislature. Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court.


Alabama. Legislature. Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court.


Alabama. Legislature. Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court.


Alabama. Legislature. Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court.


Alabama. Legislature. Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court.


1956

Alabama. Legislature. Interim Committee on Municipal Government.

1957


1958


1959


1961


BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books


Report


Article


Unpublished Materials


Letters from Mr. Peter A. Brannon, Director, Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, August 6, 1963; January 14, 1964.


