

William Dawson Johnston Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2005

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78028019>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009260>

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin and Lia Apodoca

Finding aid encoded by Jennifer Eidson, 2010

Collection Summary

Title: William Dawson Johnston Papers

Span Dates: 1842-1927

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1904-1920)

ID No.: MSS28019

Creator: Johnston, William Dawson, 1871-1928

Extent: 7,500 items

Extent: 15 containers

Extent: 5.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English.

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78028019>

Summary: Librarian and historian. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, lists, notes, writings, photographs, and clippings and other printed matter. Chiefly relates to librarianship and the history of libraries.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Dewey, Melvil, 1851-1931--Correspondence.

Johnston, William Dawson, 1871-1928.

Putnam, Herbert, 1861-1955--Correspondence.

Organizations

Columbia University. Library.

Library of Congress--Officials and employees.

Library of Congress.

Saint Paul Public Library.

Subjects

Academic libraries--New York (State)--New York.

Academic libraries.

Libraries--United States.

Library statistics.

National libraries--Washington (D.C.)

Public libraries--Minnesota--Saint Paul.

Occupations

Historians.

Librarians.

Provenance

The papers of William Dawson Johnston, librarian and historian, were given to the Library of Congress by Johnston in 1928.

Processing History

The papers of William Dawson Johnston were arranged and described in 2005.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Dawson Johnston is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Dawson Johnston are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William Dawson Johnston Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Dawson Johnston (1871-1928) span the years 1842-1927 with the bulk of the materials dated 1904-1920. The collection includes correspondence, memoranda, reports, lists, notes, writings, photographs, and clippings and other printed material.

The collection relates chiefly to Johnston's employment as a librarian and to the history of librarianship. Included are notes for a projected second volume of his *History of the Library of Congress*. Johnston also amassed files relating to other libraries, their subject fields, services, statistics, and history for a study of college and university libraries. Other material documents Johnston's service at Columbia University Library (1909-1914), Saint Paul Public Library (1914-1921), and the Library of Congress (1900-1907, 1926-1928).

Correspondents include Melvil Dewey and Herbert Putnam.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	American Library Association, 1909
BOX 1	Bibliographical instruction, 1901-1913
BOX 1	Biographical material, 1912, undated
BOX 1	Bishop, D. J., 1842
BOX 1	Booksellers flyers, 1912, undated
BOX 1	Children's library, 1916-1917
BOX 1	Circulation, 1915-1919
BOX 1	Civil service, 1913-1921 (4 folders)
BOX 1	Clippings
BOX 1	1903
BOX 2	1904
BOX 2	Jan.-Sept. (6 folders)
BOX 3	Oct.-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 3	1905
BOX 3	Jan. (2 folders)
BOX 4	Feb.-Mar. (4 folders)
BOX 5	April (2 folders)
BOX 5	May (1 folder)
BOX 6	(1 folder)
BOX 6	June
BOX 6	Columbia University, New York, N.Y. undated
BOX 6	Efficiency, 1920-1921 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Endowments, 1920
BOX 6	Exhibits, 1912
BOX 6	Expenditures, 1918-1920
BOX 6	Federal libraries, 1907
BOX 7	Forms, undated (3 folders)
BOX 7	General correspondence
BOX 7	1900-1903 (7 folders)
BOX 8	1904-1927, undated (10 folders)
BOX 9-10	Index cards, undated

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 11	Indexing, 1905
BOX 11	Libraries, statistics, 1904-1917
BOX 11	Minnesota, 1915
BOX 11	Nationalization of library services, 1918-1919
BOX 11	New York, 1910-1913, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	Notes, 1905-1913, undated
BOX 11	Photographs, undated
BOX 11	Printed matter, 1902-1919, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	Processing and preservation, 1915-1918
BOX 12	Publicity, 1917-1918 (2 folders)
BOX 12	Reference services, 1915-1919
BOX 12	Saint Paul Public Library, St. Paul, Minn., 1916-1921 (8 folders)
BOX 12	Salaries, 1919-1920
BOX 12	School libraries, 1916-1918
BOX 12	Teachers, 1920
BOX 13	Writings
BOX 13	"College and University Libraries," notes and research material, 1911-1913 (5 folders)
BOX 13	General
BOX 13	1901-1920 (4 folders)
BOX 14	Undated (2 folders)
BOX 14	History of libraries, 1903, undated (2 folders)
BOX 14	<i>History of the Library of Congress</i> , notes and research material, 1867-1908, undated (8 folders)
BOX 15	<i>Early History of the Washington Library Company and Other Local Libraries</i> 1904-1905 (2 folders)
BOX 15	"History of Western United States Libraries," 1903 (2 folders)