

School for Social Research, was engaged to make the study. The Honorable Elihu Root, then and now chairman of the Corporation board, in a letter of instruction outlined the extent of the study, and to some of the instructions there is a curiously modern and prophetic phrasing. Professor Johnson was asked:

To estimate as far as possible the value of the social forces which have to do with the creation of the library in a community; to determine whether these social forces are quickened or are rendered less active by outside aid; to form some idea of the function which the library may fill in communities of different types; to determine whether each library should be dealt with as a separate matter, or whether the library needs of a given region could best be served by a general study of that region; to treat library giving as a social question, not as a technical library question; to find what steps could be taken to make gifts to communities more fruitful and less likely to injure community spirit and initiative; to determine how communities have met their pledges; to inquire into library schools and to report on the adequacy of their output of trained librarians; and to report on other specific matters.

The Johnson Report, 1917

The Johnson report, *A report to Carnegie Corporation of New York on the policy of donations to free public libraries*, submitted in January, 1917, was the first library survey supported by the Corporation, and the forerunner of many others. The findings covered matters of personnel, facilities, and training, and provided a new basis for the operations of the Corporation. Professor Johnson says:

Changes in civic life, in social and industrial organization, and in the popular educational system, all have a direct bearing upon the problem of library service. Accordingly, it is not possible for a philanthropic trust to fix upon a permanently valid policy respecting libraries. What was good policy twenty years ago may be indifferent policy now; what is good policy now may be unsatisfactory policy twenty years hence. . . .