

Chapter 125.

Libraries.

Article 1.

State Library Agency.

§ 125-1. State library agency.

The library agency of the State of North Carolina shall be the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. (1955, c. 505, s. 3; 1973, c. 476, s. 84; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 125-2. Powers and duties of Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To adopt a seal for use in official business.
- (2) To make to the Governor, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources, the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economics Resources, and the Fiscal Research Division a biennial report of its activities and needs, including recommendations for improving its services to the State, by February 15 of each odd-numbered year.
- (3) To accept gifts, devises, and endowments for the purposes which fall within the general legal powers and duties of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Unless otherwise specified by the donor or testator, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may either expend both the principal and interest of any gift or devise or may invest such sums in whole or in part, by and with the consent of the State Treasurer, in securities in which sinking funds may be invested under the provisions of G.S. 142-34.
- (4) To purchase and maintain collections of books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, films, audiovisual and other materials; to subscribe to computerized databases; to provide other resources, services and programs; and to serve as an information distribution center for State government and the people of the State as a means for the promotion of knowledge, education, commerce and business in the State. The scope of the library's collections, resources and services should be determined by the Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources upon consideration of the recommendations of the State Library Commission; and in making these decisions, the Secretary shall take into account the collections, resources and services of other libraries throughout the State and the availability of such collections, resources and services to the general public. All materials owned by the State Library shall be available for free circulation to libraries and to all citizens of the State under rules and regulations fixed by the librarian, except that the librarian may restrict the circulation of books and other materials which, because they are rare or are used intensively in the library for reference purposes or for other good reasons, should be retained in the library at all times. The public schools shall be given equal priority in borrowing all films which are available for circulation.

- (5) To give assistance, advice and counsel to other State agencies maintaining special reference collections as to the best means of establishing and administering such libraries and collections.
- (5a) To provide for the establishment and maintenance of union catalogs.
- (6) To fix reasonable penalties for damage to or failure to return any book, periodical or other material owned by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, or for violation of any rule or regulation concerning the use of books, periodicals, and other materials in the custody of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
- (7) Repealed by Session Laws 1987, c. 199, s. 4.
- (8) To give assistance, advice and counsel to all libraries in the State, to all communities which may propose to establish libraries, and to all persons interested in public libraries, as to the best means of establishing and administering such libraries, as to the selection of books, cataloguing, maintenance and other details of library management.
- (9) To provide library services to readers of North Carolina who are unable to use standard print materials by making available to them books and other reading materials in braille, or sound recordings or any other medium accessible to those readers; to enter into contracts and agreements with appropriate libraries and other organizations for the purposes of serving these readers; to enter into contracts with library agencies of other states for providing library service to these readers in those states, provided adequate compensation is paid for such service and such contract is otherwise advantageous to this State.
- (10) To do the following:
 - a. Plan and coordinate cooperative programs between the various types of libraries within the State of North Carolina.
 - b. Coordinate State development with regional and national cooperative library programs.
 - c. Assist nonprofit corporations in the organization and operation of cooperative programs.
 - d. Enter into contracts to coordinate cooperative programs or to promote the access and exchange of library materials under this subdivision. (1955, c. 505, s. 3; 1961, c. 1161; 1973, c. 476, s. 84; 1977, c. 645, s. 1; 1981, c. 918, s. 4; 1983, c. 819; 1987, c. 199; 2011-284, s. 88; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s), (t); 2017-57, ss. 14.1(ff), 14.5; 2021-158, s. 12.)

§§ 125-3 through 125-4. Repealed by Session Laws 1973, c. 476, s. 84.

§ 125-5. Public libraries to report to Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Every public library in the State shall make an annual report to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in such form as may be prescribed by the Department. The term "public library" shall, for the purpose of this section, include subscription libraries, college and university libraries, legal association, medical association, Supreme Court, and other special libraries. (1955, c. 505, s. 3; 1973, c. 476, s. 84; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 125-6. Librarian's seal.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to furnish the State Librarian with a seal of office. The State Librarian is authorized to certify to the authenticity and genuineness of any document, paper, or extract from any document, paper, or book or other writing which may be on file in the Library. When a certificate is made under his hand and attested by his official seal, it shall be received as prima facie evidence of the correctness of the matter therein contained, and as such shall receive full faith and credit. (1955, c. 505, s. 3.)

§ 125-7. State policy as to public library service; annual appropriation therefor; administration of funds.

(a) It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the establishment and development of public library service throughout all sections of the State.

(b) For promoting, aiding, and equalizing public library service in North Carolina a sum shall annually be appropriated out of the moneys within the State treasury to be known as the Aid to Public Libraries Fund.

(c) The fund herein provided shall be administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, which shall frame bylaws, rules and regulations for the allocation and administration of such funds. The funds shall be used to improve, stimulate, increase and equalize public library service to the people of the whole State, shall be used for no other purpose, except as herein provided, and shall be allocated among the legally established municipal, county or regional libraries in the State taking into consideration local needs, area and population to be served, local interest and such other factors as may affect the State program of public library service.

(d) For the necessary expenses of administration, allocation, and supervision, a sum not to exceed seven percent (7%) of the annual appropriation may annually be used by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

(e) The fund appropriated under this section shall be separate and apart from the appropriations of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, which appropriation shall not be affected by this section or the appropriation hereunder.

(f) Repealed by Session Laws 1973, c. 476, s. 84. (1955, c. 505, s. 3; 1973, c. 476, s. 84; 1979, c. 578; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 125-8. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources authorized to accept and administer funds from federal government and other agencies.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is hereby authorized and empowered to receive, accept and administer any money or moneys appropriated or granted to it, separate and apart from the appropriation by the State for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, for providing and equalizing public library service in North Carolina:

- (1) By the federal government and,
- (2) By any other agencies, private and/or otherwise.

The fund herein provided for shall be administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, which Department shall frame bylaws, rules and regulations for the allocation and administration of this fund. This fund shall be used to increase, improve, stimulate and equalize library service to people of the whole State, and shall be used for no other purpose whatsoever except as hereinafter provided, and shall be allocated among the counties of the State, taking into consideration local needs, area and population to be served, local interests as evidenced by local appropriations, and such other factors as may affect the State program of library service. Any gift or grant from the federal government or other sources shall become a part of said funds, to be used

as part of the State fund, or may be invested as the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources may deem advisable, according to provisions of G.S. 125-5(5), the income to be used for the promotion of libraries as stated in this section. (1955, c. 505, s. 3; 1973, c. 476, s. 84; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 125-9. Librarian certification.

The Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources shall issue librarian certificates to public librarians under such reasonable rules and regulations as the Public Librarian Certification Commission may adopt. A complete record of the transaction of the Department in the issuance of librarian certificates shall be kept at all times in the office of the North Carolina State Library. (1955, c. 505, s. 3; 1973, c. 476, s. 53; 2015-241, s. 14.30(t).)

§ 125-10. Temporary certificates for public librarians.

Upon the submission of satisfactory evidence that no qualified librarian is available for appointment as chief librarian, and upon written application by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for issuance of a temporary certificate to an unqualified person who is available for the position, a temporary certificate, valid for one year only, may be issued to such persons by the Public Librarian Certification Commission. (1955, c. 505, s. 3; 1973, c. 476, ss. 53, 84; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 125-11. Failure to return books.

Any person who shall fail to return any book, periodical, or other material withdrawn by him from the Library shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor if he shall fail to return the borrowed material within 30 days after receiving a notice from the State Librarian that the material is overdue. The provisions of this section shall not be in effect unless a copy of this section is attached to the overdue notice by the State Librarian. (1955, c. 505, s. 3; 1993, c. 539, s. 929; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§§ 125-11.1 through 125-11.4. Reserved for future codification purposes.

Article 1A.

State Depository Library System.

§ 125-11.5. Purpose.

The purpose of this Article is to establish a depository system for the distribution of State publications to designated libraries throughout the State in order to facilitate public access to publications issued by State agencies. (1987, c. 771, s. 2.)

§ 125-11.6. Definitions.

As used in this Article:

- (1) "Depository library" means a library designated to receive and maintain State publications and make them available to the public.
- (2) "Document" means any printed document including any report, directory, statistical compendium, bibliography, map, regulation, newsletter, pamphlet, brochure, periodical, bulletin, compilation, or register, regardless of whether the printed document is in paper, film, tape, disk, or any other format.

- (3) "State agency" means every State department, institution, board, and commission.
- (4) "State publication" means any document prepared by a State agency or private organization, consultant, or research firm, under contract with or under the supervision of a State agency: Provided, however, the term "State publication" does not include administrative documents used only within the issuing agency, documents produced for instructional purposes that are not intended for sale or publication, appellate division reports and advance sheets distributed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, the S.B.I. Investigative "Bulletin", documents that will be reproduced in the Senate or House of Representatives Journals, or documents that are confidential pursuant to Article 17 of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes. (1987, c. 771, s. 2.)

§ 125-11.7. State Library designated the official depository for all State publications.

The State Library shall be the official, complete, and permanent depository for all State publications, and shall receive five copies of all State publications in addition to the copies required for the depository system: Provided, however, the State Library shall receive only five copies of any State publication offered for sale by a State agency at a price at least high enough to recover production costs: Provided, further, the State Library, notwithstanding the definition of "State publication" contained in this Article, shall have authority to exclude from required deposit in the State Library any items or materials which it finds are not appropriate for deposit. (1987, c. 771, s. 2.)

§ 125-11.8. State Publications Clearinghouse created.

(a) A State Publications Clearinghouse is created within the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, the Division of State Library.

(b) The Clearinghouse shall:

- (1) Advise State agencies annually of the number of copies of State publications needed for distribution.
- (2) Advise State agencies annually that they are required to submit only five copies of any State publication offered for sale at a price at least high enough to recover production costs.
- (3) Receive from State agencies promptly after publication the number of copies of State publications specified, and distribute these to the depository libraries.
- (4) Prepare on microfiche one or more copies of each State publication that is printed on paper for reference and interlibrary loan purposes.
- (5) Publish a checklist of State publications and distribute the checklist without charge to all requesting North Carolina libraries.
- (6) Forward two copies of all State publications that are printed on paper to the Library of Congress. (1987, c. 771, s. 2; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 125-11.9. Powers and duties of the State Library.

The State Library:

- (1) Shall carry out the provisions of this Article.
- (2) Develop and maintain standards for depository libraries. The standards shall include the ability to receive, process, organize, retain, and make available State

- publications and the ability to provide reference assistance and interlibrary loan service for depository publications.
- (3) Shall designate depository libraries, taking into account regional distribution and number of persons served, such that State publications will be conveniently accessible to residents in all areas of the State. The State Library may designate at least one library in each congressional district.
 - (4) May designate as selective depository libraries those institutions that wish to receive less than the full deposit. Selective depository libraries shall meet the same standards for reference and interlibrary loan service as full depository libraries.
 - (5) May enter into depository contracts with public libraries and community, technical, special, college and university libraries that meet the standards for depository eligibility adopted by the Clearinghouse.
 - (6) Shall determine how many copies of State publications each State agency must submit for the State depository system. The State Library may permit a State agency to submit fewer copies of a document if the State Library determines that fewer copies are adequate in light of the cost of the document and the projected public interest in the document.
 - (7) Shall adopt rules to administer the depository program. These rules may include the State Library's priorities and resulting schedules for collecting, maintaining, and making available State publications in various formats. (1987, c. 771, s. 2; 1991, c. 636, s. 14.)

§ 125-11.10. Duties of State agencies.

(a) State agencies shall send the requested number of copies of each of their publications to the Clearinghouse within 10 days of issuance.

(b) The head of each State agency shall designate a publications officer who shall be responsible for supplying the requested number of copies of each State publication of that agency to the Clearinghouse. Each agency shall notify the Clearinghouse of the identity of its publications officer before October 1, 1987, and within 30 days of any change of publications officer. The publications officer shall supply the Clearinghouse semiannually a complete list of the agency's State publications issued within the previous six months and any other information regarding the publications of the agency requested by the Clearinghouse.

(c) State agencies may request permission from the State Library to submit fewer than the requested number of copies of a document. The request shall include information on the cost of the document and the projected public interest in the document. (1987, c. 771, s. 2.)

§ 125-11.11. Advisory Committee.

The Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources may appoint an advisory committee of State officials and depository librarians to review and advise on the operation of the depository system. (1987, c. 771, s. 2; 2015-241, s. 14.30(t).)

§ 125-11.12: Repealed by Session Laws 1993, c. 447, s. 1.

§ 125-11.13: Repealed by Session Laws 2020-74, s. 19(c), effective July 1, 2020.

Article 2.

Interstate Library Compact.

§ 125-12. Compact enacted into law; form.

The Interstate Library Compact is hereby enacted into law and entered into by this State with all states legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:

INTERSTATE LIBRARY COMPACT.

ARTICLE I. POLICY AND PURPOSE.

Because the desire for the services provided by libraries transcends governmental boundaries and can most effectively be satisfied by giving such services to communities and people regardless of jurisdictional lines, it is the policy of the states party to this Compact to cooperate and share their responsibilities; to authorize cooperation and sharing with respect to those types of library facilities and services which can be more economically or efficiently developed and maintained on a cooperative basis, and to authorize cooperation and sharing among localities, states and others in providing joint or cooperative library services in areas where the distribution of population or of existing and potential library resources make the provision of library service on an interstate basis the most effective way of providing adequate and efficient service.

ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Compact: (a) "Public library agency" means any unit or agency of local or state government operating or having power to operate a library.

(b) "Private library agency" means any nongovernmental entity which operates or assumes a legal obligation to operate a library.

(c) "Library agreement" means a contract establishing an interstate library district pursuant to this Compact or providing for the joint or cooperative furnishing of library services.

ARTICLE III. INTERSTATE LIBRARY DISTRICTS.

(a) Any one or more public library agencies in a party state in cooperation with any public library agency or agencies in one or more other party states may establish and maintain an interstate library district. Subject to the provisions of this Compact and any other laws of the party states which pursuant hereto remain applicable, such district may establish, maintain and operate some or all of the library facilities and services for the area concerned in accordance with the terms of a library agreement therefor. Any private library agency or agencies within an interstate library district may cooperate therewith, assume duties, responsibilities and obligations thereto, and receive benefits therefrom as provided in any library agreement to which such agency or agencies become party.

(b) Within an interstate library district, and as provided by a library agreement, the performance of library functions may be undertaken on a joint or cooperative basis or may be undertaken by means of one or more arrangements between or among public or private library agencies for the extension of library privileges to the use of facilities or services operated or rendered by one or more of the individual library agencies.

(c) If a library agreement provides for joint establishment, maintenance or operation of library facilities or services by an interstate library district, such district shall have power to do any one or more of the following in accordance with such library agreement:

- (1) Undertake, administer and participate in programs or arrangements for securing, lending or servicing of books and other publications, any other materials suitable to be kept or made available by libraries, library equipment or for the dissemination of information about libraries, the value and significance of particular items therein, and the use thereof.
- (2) Accept for any of its purposes under this Compact any and all donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, (conditional or otherwise), from any state or the United States or any subdivision or agency thereof, or interstate agency, or from any institution, person, firm or corporation, and receive, utilize and dispose of the same.
- (3) Operate mobile library units or equipment for the purpose of rendering bookmobile service within the district.
- (4) Employ professional, technical, clerical and other personnel, and fix terms of employment, compensation and other appropriate benefits; and where desirable, provide for the in-service training of such personnel.
- (5) Sue and be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction.
- (6) Acquire, hold, and dispose of any real or personal property or any interest or interests therein as may be appropriate to the rendering of library service.
- (7) Construct, maintain and operate a library, including any appropriate branches thereof.
- (8) Do such other things as may be incidental to or appropriate for the carrying out of any of the foregoing powers.

ARTICLE IV. INTERSTATE LIBRARY DISTRICTS, GOVERNING BOARD.

(a) An interstate library district which establishes, maintains or operates any facilities or services in its own right shall have a governing board which shall direct the affairs of the district and act for it in all matters relating to its business. Each participating public library agency in the district shall be represented on the governing board which shall be organized and conduct its business in accordance with provision therefor in the library agreement. But in no event shall a governing board meet less often than twice a year.

(b) Any private library agency or agencies party to a library agreement establishing an interstate library district may be represented on or advise with the governing board of the district in such manner as the library agreement may provide.

ARTICLE V. STATE LIBRARY AGENCY COOPERATION.

Any two or more state library agencies of two or more of the party states may undertake and conduct joint or cooperative library programs, render joint or cooperative library services, and enter into and perform arrangements for the cooperative or joint acquisition, use, housing and disposition of items or collections of materials which, by reason of expense, rarity, specialized nature, or infrequency of demand therefor would be appropriate for central collection and shared use. Any such programs, services or arrangements may include provision for the exercise on a

cooperative or joint basis of any power exercisable by an interstate library district and an agreement embodying any such program, service or arrangement shall contain provisions covering the subjects detailed in Article VI of this Compact for interstate library agreements.

ARTICLE VI. LIBRARY AGREEMENTS.

(a) In order to provide for any joint or cooperative undertaking pursuant to this Compact, public and private library agencies may enter into library agreements. Any agreement executed pursuant to the provisions of this Compact shall, as among the parties to the agreement:

- (1) Detail the specific nature of the services, programs, facilities, arrangements or properties to which it is applicable.
- (2) Provide for the allocation of costs and other financial responsibilities.
- (3) Specify the respective rights, duties, obligations and liabilities of the parties.
- (4) Set forth the terms and conditions for duration, renewal, termination, abrogation, disposal of joint or common property, if any, and all other matters which may be appropriate to the proper effectuation and performance of the agreement.

(b) No public or private library agency shall undertake to exercise itself, or jointly with any other library agency, by means of a library agreement any power prohibited to such agency by the constitution or statutes of its state.

(c) No library agreement shall become effective until filed with the Compact Administrator of each state involved, and approved in accordance with Article VII of this Compact.

ARTICLE VII. APPROVAL OF LIBRARY AGREEMENTS.

(a) Every library agreement made pursuant to this Compact shall, prior to and as a condition precedent to its entry into force, be submitted to the attorney general of each state in which a public library agency party thereto is situated, who shall determine whether the agreement is in proper form and compatible with the laws of his state. The attorneys general shall approve any agreement submitted to them unless they shall find that it does not meet the conditions set forth herein and shall detail in writing addressed to the governing bodies of the public library agencies concerned the specific respects in which the proposed agreement fails to meet the requirements of law. Failure to disapprove an agreement submitted hereunder within 90 days of its submission shall constitute approval thereof.

(b) In the event that a library agreement made pursuant to this Compact shall deal in whole or in part with the provision of services or facilities with regard to which an officer or agency of the state government has constitutional or statutory powers of control, the agreement shall, as a condition precedent to its entry into force, be submitted to the state officer or agency having such power of control and shall be approved or disapproved by him or it as to all matters within his or its jurisdiction in the same manner and subject to the same requirements governing the action of the attorneys general pursuant to subsection (a) of this Article. This requirement of submission and approval shall be in addition to and not in substitution for the requirement of submission to and approval by the attorneys general.

ARTICLE VIII. OTHER LAWS APPLICABLE.

Nothing in this Compact or in any library agreement shall be construed to supersede, alter or otherwise impair any obligation imposed on any library by otherwise applicable law, nor to authorize the transfer or disposition of any property held in trust by a library agency in a manner contrary to the terms of such trust.

ARTICLE IX. APPROPRIATIONS AND AID.

(a) Any public library agency party to a library agreement may appropriate funds to the interstate library district established thereby in the same manner and to the same extent as to a library wholly maintained by it and, subject to the laws of the state in which such public library agency is situated, may pledge its credit in support of an interstate library district established by the agreement.

(b) Subject to the provisions of the library agreement pursuant to which it functions and the laws of the states in which such district is situated, an interstate library district may claim and receive any state and federal aid which may be available to library agencies.

ARTICLE X. COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR.

Each state shall designate a Compact Administrator with whom copies of all library agreements to which his state or any public library agency thereof is party shall be filed. The Administrator shall have such other powers as may be conferred upon him by the laws of his state and may consult and cooperate with the compact administrators of other party states and take such steps as may effectuate the purposes of this Compact. If the laws of a party state so provide, such state may designate one or more deputy Compact administrators in addition to its Compact Administrator.

ARTICLE XI. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND WITHDRAWAL.

(a) This Compact shall enter into force and effect immediately upon its enactment into law by any two states. Thereafter, it shall enter into force and effect as to any other state upon the enactment thereof by such state.

(b) This Compact shall continue in force with respect to a party state and remain binding upon such state until six months after such state has given notice to each other party state of the repeal thereof. Such withdrawal shall not be construed to relieve any party to a library agreement entered into pursuant to this Compact from any obligation of that agreement prior to the end of its duration as provided therein.

ARTICLE XII. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.

This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this Compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this Compact shall be held contrary to the

constitution of any state party thereto, the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters. (1967, c. 190, s. 1.)

§ 125-13. Political subdivisions to comply with laws governing capital outlay and pledging of credit.

No county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this State shall be party to a library agreement which provides for the construction or maintenance of a library pursuant to Article III, subdivision (c)(7) of the Compact, nor pledge its credit in support of such a library, or contribute to the capital financing thereof, except after compliance with any laws applicable to such counties, municipalities, or other political subdivisions relating to or governing capital outlays and the pledging of credit. (1967, c. 190, s. 2.)

§ 125-14. "State library agency" defined.

As used in the Compact, "state library agency," with reference to this State, means the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. (1967, c. 190, s. 3; 1973, c. 476, s. 84; 2015-241, s. 14.30(s).)

§ 125-15. State and federal aid to interstate library districts.

An interstate library district lying partly within this State may claim and be entitled to receive State aid in support of any of its functions to the same extent and in the same manner as such functions are eligible for support when carried on by entities wholly within this State. For the purposes of computing and apportioning State aid to an interstate library district, this State will consider that portion of the area which lies within this State as an independent entity for the performance of the aided function or functions and compute and apportion the aid accordingly. Subject to any applicable laws of this State, such a district also may apply for and be entitled to receive any federal aid for which it may be eligible. (1967, c. 190, s. 4.)

§ 125-16. Compact Administrator and deputies.

The State Librarian shall be the Compact Administrator pursuant to Article X of the Compact. The State Librarian may appoint one or more deputy Compact Administrators pursuant to said Article. (1967, c. 190, s. 5.)

§ 125-17. Withdrawal from Compact.

In the event of withdrawal from the Compact the Governor shall send and receive any notices required by Article XI(b) of the Compact. (1967, c. 190, s. 6.)

Article 3.

Library Records.

§ 125-18. Definitions.

As used in this Article, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Library" means a library established by the State; a county, city, township, village, school district, or other local unit of government or authority or combination of local units of governments and authorities; community college or university; or any private library open to the public.

- (2) "Library record" means a document, record, or other method of storing information retained by a library that identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific information or materials from a library. "Library record" does not include nonidentifying material that may be retained for the purpose of studying or evaluating the circulation of library materials in general. (1985, c. 486, s. 2.)

§ 125-19. Confidentiality of library user records.

(a) Disclosure. – A library shall not disclose any library record that identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific materials, information, or services, or as otherwise having used the library, except as provided for in subsection (b).

(b) Exceptions. – Library records may be disclosed in the following instances:

- (1) When necessary for the reasonable operation of the library;
- (2) Upon written consent of the user; or
- (3) Pursuant to subpoena, court order, or where otherwise required by law. (1985, c. 486, s. 2.)