

ment grant to those libraries supported by either the 1869 Act (32) or the 1875 Act. This grant was to be apportioned among the several provincial districts according to population. To those libraries, necessarily completely free, supported under the provisions of the former Act there was to be payable a sum equal to that raised under the library rate, while the amount received by those supported under the latter Act was in the discretion of the Education Boards. Admission to all libraries established or supported under this Act of 1877 was to be open to the public free of charge, provided that only those persons contributing at least five shillings a year should be entitled to take books out of any such library. Under this system it became customary to open a small reading room to the public while the remainder of the library was run on a subscription basis. These three acts of 1869, 1875, and 1877 set the pattern of New Zealand library growth. They appeared to be very adequate in that they provided a government subsidy and also gave the opportunity for the establishment of free libraries if and where desired.

In accordance with the provisions of these Acts, the first government grant of £5000 was made in 1878 and the Christchurch libraries which benefitted from it were New Brighton, Papanui, St. Albans, St. Albans Mutual Association, and Waltham. (33) It had been stipulated in the 1875 Act that all libraries formed or incorporated under it should deposit with the Registrar of the Supreme Court in their province a copy of the declaration of their intentions, and until this was done they should not be eligible for a government grant. On these grounds, it would be reasonable to expect to find such records at

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32. "Public Libraries Act." vide supra Chapter 2, p.24.

33. N.Z. A to J. 1878. H-1F.