



BHC-MSS 0138

Guide to the Records of Works Progress Administration Projects Conducted
by the Bridgeport Public Library

By Meg Rinn

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Bridgeport Public Library

Title: Records of Works Progress Administration Projects Conducted by the Bridgeport Public Library

Dates: 1938-1942

Quantity: 1.3 linear feet (2 manuscript boxes)

Abstract: The Works Progress Administration (later the Works Projects Administration) was a key feature of the New Deal of the 1930s, and strove to help unemployed job seekers earn pay through public works projects. While the WPA is most readily identified with construction and infrastructure, the library service program had a profound impact on communities throughout the country. The Bridgeport Public Library was one participant out of many in the state of Connecticut.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

The Works Progress Administration (later the Works Projects Administration) was a key feature of the New Deal of the 1930s, and strove to help unemployed job seekers earn pay through public works projects. While the WPA is commonly associated with construction and infrastructure, it also had programs for music, theaters, writers, historians, and a library service program. The library service program in particular helped to expand library services in the United States as well as fund existing public libraries through the Great Depression. The money was to be spent on worker wages exclusively, meaning all other elements such as building maintenance and supplies had to come from existing library budgets.

As a participant in the library services program, the Bridgeport Public Library offered jobs for bibliographers and book binders in particular, as well as library pages. WPA workers were employed at all existing branches of the Bridgeport Public Library at the time and the Bridgeport Public Library remained a part of the program until the WPA was dissolved in 1943.

Scope and Content note:

The subject files that make up the collection demonstrate the administrative elements of program management. That includes civil service exams, reports, information about time keeping, program rules and regulations, and information from supervisors about employees and their work – especially the bindery and the Bishop Room.

Arrangement Note:

Subject files arranged alphabetically.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Found in collections.

Preferred Citation:

Records of Works Progress Administration Projects Conducted by the Bridgeport Public Library (BHC-MSS 0138), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings*Corporate names*

Works Progress Administration. Library Services Program.
Bridgeport Public Library

Subject tracings

Bridgeport, Conn.
Great Depression
Libraries

Detailed box and folder listing**Box 1**

1. Accident forms # 351, 1938-194
2. Allowable time forms, 1941
3. Correspondence, 1939-1940
4. Daily production report form #70, bindery, 1939
5. Daily production report form #70, Bishop Room, 1940
6. Daily production report form #70, bindery, 1941-1942
7. Daily production report form #70, Bishop Room, 1941-1942
8. Doctor's certificate, 1938-1939
9. Employee data, 1939-1941
10. Forms, blank, undated
11. Information pertaining to civil service examinations, 1939-1940
12. Library book repair, form #51, 1937-1938
13. Library book repair, form #51, 1939-1940
14. Library book repair, form #51, 1941
15. Library reports by Mr. Roberts, 1936-1938
16. Material report – form 710 A, sponsor's contributions (payroll only), 1936-1942
17. Material report – form 710 A, sponsor's contributions (payroll only), 1938-1942

Box 2

1. Mr. Sohon's files, 1934-1936
2. Mr. Sohon's files, 1937
3. Mr. Sohon's files, 1938
4. Mr. Sohon's files, 1939
5. Mr. Sohon's files, 1940
6. National Youth Administration East Branch, 1936
7. Notices, 1940-1941

8. Personnel report form #181, 1939-1942
9. Project material – compiled from #170 and 1710 A reports. 1940-1941
10. Project supervisor, 1938-1942
11. Re-employment applications forms and regulations, 1940
12. Rulings and instructions, 1937-194
13. Safety department, 1938-1940
14. South branch project, 1935
15. Supervisor's reports and data, 1939-1940
16. Timekeeper, 1939
17. Work records in various departments, 1939-1940
18. Work report, 1941
19. Working schedule report, 1939-1942