

ANNUAL REPORT 1969
LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Perhaps the major event of the library during 1969 was the decision of the Library Board and the City Commission to hold a bond election for a new library facility, to be held in March of 1970. To recap the events leading up to the coming election, basic decisions toward this event were as follows:

- January - City instructs Library Board to begin planning for new building. Library Board and City Commission jointly interview architects.
- February- Decision is made to employ the architectural firm of Robertson, Peters, Ericson & Williams. In addition, plans were made to employ Clarence Paine as library consultant to assist the Board and the Library staff in compiling a written building program.
- April - Building program completed and presented to Library Board
- August - Site at 8th and Vermont is to be the place of the new library
- September-Date of election is set for March 3, 1970
- October - Library Board selects Howard Wiseman as Chairman of Bond Campaign Committee
- December- City approves \$1,575,000 as amount of coming library bond issue

Illustrating the need for more library space, it was necessary in late 1969 to begin preparing for the eventual storage of books for which space was no longer available. The addition of approximately 20 units of shelving in early 1969 marked the final amount of expansion which could be obtained for new books. In the Fall of 1969 books were being boxed for eventual storage in the City Water Plant. By early 1970 some 1,500 books were so stored. From 1970 on, until new space is found, some 4,000-5,000 books per year will need to be placed in storage.

Library usage increased in some areas during the year, while decreasing in others. A total increase of 6,304 books circulated was reported in 1969 while at the same time, the number of registered borrowers decreased by 565.

Other areas of library service during the year included: 4,440 reference and information questions answered for patrons, an increase of 968 questions over 1968; photocopies for patrons of library and other materials, 27,000 during the year, or an increase of 9,000 over the previous period. Service to the homebound saw some 5,000 books delivered to handicapped and aged persons; some 1,900 children were enrolled in our Summer Reading Program; classroom loans to teachers accounted for the circulation of over 11,000 books; the 20 preschool story hours conducted attracted 1,113 children or an average of over 52 per session. In addition, some 509 children visited the library on classroom tours during the year.

Due to space problems, it was no longer practical to provide the monthly art exhibits, sponsored by the Lawrence Art Guild. These had been very popular and plans are being made for a continuance of these and other displays as more room becomes available.

Plans were laid late in 1969 to install a deposit collection of approximately 600 childrens books at the East Lawrence Community Center, to begin early in 1970. Such a collection is now in the Ballard Center. These books are rotated on a monthly basis.

An inventory and inspection of the Library's LP record collection was begun in the Summer. Of the collection of some 2,300 records, approximately 700 were withdrawn due to condition or being missing in the inventory. Since many of these had been in the collection for 8 or 9 years, indications are that our records hold up well under constant circulation. A sale of the withdrawn records was held and over \$100 was received. We are now in the process of replacing many of the records that were withdrawn.

1969 began the first full year in which Lawrence served as reference and loan center for the Northeast Kansas Libraries System. During that period some 13,271 requests were handled by the reference staff. Those items not filled were sent on to the statewide loan network known as KIC. For this service, the Lawrence Library received \$25,800 for staff and the purchase of books. In addition, through the state loan network and a reciprocal agreement with Johnson County Library, some 9,000 books were requested for Lawrence patrons during the year. As a member of the system, Lawrence, along with some 30 other libraries in the area, agreed to open its doors to all citizens in the system-wide area without charge. In addition to persons in Douglas and other counties now being able to use the library without fees, Lawrence residents now have access without charge to such libraries as Johnson County, Ottawa and Topeka.

Three major personnel changes during the year included the retirement of Mrs. Weeks, our bookkeeper and secretary for 8 years; Mrs. Halfen, our Children's Librarian for 2 years and Mrs. Meyer, head of the Circulation Department. Karen Walczak replaced Mrs. Weeks in June of 1969; Susan Frampton became Head of Circulation in July, and Mary Paretsky has been acting Children's Librarian since September.