

Lawrence Free Public Library

LILLIAN J. CONSTANT, LIBRARIAN

Lawrence, Kansas

To the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Free Public Library:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the thirty-fifth annual report for the year ending December 31, 1939.

Our library has been open from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. 304 days during the year, closing legal holidays.

CIRCULATION

Books from our collection have circulated 117,899 times. This is a large increase over last year, in fact 7,309 more books went into the homes of Lawrence than in 1938.

Of these 16,705 were adult non-fiction, representing 14% of the whole. 74,279 were fiction 63% and 26,916 or 23% were children's books. The period of loan for the majority is 14 days. The circulation per capita eight books. The American Library Association advocates five books per capita.

Circulation of non-fiction by classes follows:

General works	1,486
Philosophy	912
Religion	696
Social sciences	1,508
Philology	106
Pure science	616
Useful arts	1,814
Fine arts	1,839
Literature	2,412
History	1,292
Biography	2,460
Travel	1,564
	<u>16,705</u>

REGISTRATION

This ends the second of a three year registration period. We now have 7,215 borrowers. 5,588 in the adult department, 1,627 in the juvenile department. 2,072 were registered during 1939. 143 are non-resident borrowers. 50% of Lawrence residents hold library cards.

BOOK STOCK

Number of volumes at the beginning of the year:

Adult department	23,114
Juvenile "	6,042

✓ Accessions during the year:

Adult department	1,333
Juvenile "	456

Withdrawn during the year:

Adult department	130
Juvenile "	126

Number of volumes at end of year:

30,689

Net gain

533

Newspapers received

11

Periodicals

110

It has cost the library nine cents per volume to place these books in the homes of Lawrence. Each book purchased cost an average of \$1.41, this includes all reference sets, circulating copies, childrens books and so forth.

REFERENCE

Calls on a reference librarian vary greatly as to quality and quantity. Many of them are reasonable though we may have a call for the origin of St. Patrick's day in the midst of looking up Christmas stories and plays.

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Here is a consecutive list for one day.

Life of Edith Cavell; child labor in Great Britian; Who is the attorney general of the U. S.; historic places of Kansas; districts of the two fire stations in Lawrence; speed writing; Christmas carols and customs; find poem, "Roofs" by Kilmer; U. S. coast guard; how to make gliders; how to tan and cure hides; house insulation; Panama canal; stomach ulcers; death of Billy Sunday; state and local taxes; who owns the sidewalk in front of your property; value of original manuscripts; how are matches made and where do we get rubber; firearms; Swedish massage; picture of a throne and a kitchen in an old castle; reinforced concrete; farm use of dynamite. Sometimes the searcher after knowledge must go away unsatisfied for despite the search in books and magazines there was no material found on the cultural value of flying.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The juvenile department is a busy place. Children are ardent seekers after knowledge. The librarians duty is to lead the child to the answer. This may mean finding the book, the paragraph and sometimes reading the article. At the same time she is charging and discharging books she will be answering many curious questions. Between 3:30 and 5:30 the busiest period, she will issue 100 books, find answers to an average of a question to a child. Of course some are easily answered. "Is this a good book, will I like it"? "Is this a mystery"? "Is my card here"? "When is my book due"? "Have I two, I can't find two"? "My teacher wants to know how many books I've read this year, can you tell me"?

There are more serious questions. They must know about Holland; surface, climate, people, customs, schools, recreations and so on. Just now it is Russia and Finland. Soon it will be Lincoln, Washington, St. Patrick and so on through the year.

A number of country teachers buy cards and borrow books for school use. One district purchased four cards for this purpose.

Book week was observed by the display of handicraft which had been made with the aid of books in our library. This proved to be a popular project. An account will appear in the Book Week number of the Wilson Library Journal.

We are grateful to the various organizations and individuals who have made donations of books.

The Betty Washington chapter of the D.A.R. have given each year their lineage book. We now have a complete set.

The Kansas Society of the Mayflower descendants gave us the Mayflower Index.

The Sons and Daughters of New England gave a collection relating to New England.

The Flower Club gives regularly books as memorials.

A number of individuals have given generously from their private libraries.

Thanks are due the local newspapers for publicity.

I thank you for your loyal support and hearty cooperation at all times.