

Library Statistics.

According to the form suggested by the American Library Association,

Population---1923 15,062
Assessed valuation of Lawrence 1923 16,015,328
Rate of tax levy .45 of a mill

Free for lending, free for reading, free to students

Total number of agencies 1

Number of day open during the year 307
Hours open each week for lending 63
Hours open each week for reading 66

Increase

Number of volumes at beginning of year 17707 17707
Number of volumes added during the year by purchase 1316
Number of volumes added during the year by gift 173
Number of volumes lost or withdrawn during the year 647
Total number at end of year 18549
Of this number 3203 are in the Reference department,

Use

Number of volumes of fiction lent for home use
Adult 41,780, Juvenile 12374 Total 54,254
Total number of volumes lent for home use

Adult, 53,003 Juvenile 20,900 Total 73,903

Percent of fiction lent of total volumes lent 73%
Circulation per capita 4.2

Registration

Number of borrowers registered during the year
Adult 2580 Juvenile 717 Total 3297
This is the first year of the two year registration period.
Percent of registered borrowers of population served 22%

Number of newspapers and periodicals currently received 113 titles
10 duplicates, total 123

Count not kept of number persons using the reading rooms.

Number of staff, library service 5
Number of staff Janitor service 1

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

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

Ladies and gentlemen:

I have the honor to present to you the nineteenth annual report of the Lawrence Free Public Library for the year ending December 31, 1923.

The work of the past year has been gratifying, although a little disappointing, as our general circulation dropped under last year's record. Our books have circulated 73,903 times, a total loss of 1300. The gratifying feature is that the general public is using the library more since the High School has moved into their new building. Our records show the loss to be in the reading of fiction, as a gain of 887 is recorded for non-fiction. Perhaps we should not ascribe this fiction loss entirely to the High School readers, as the radio may have claimed some.

The work of the reference department, with Miss Carter in charge, has been continued in about the usual manner. Less time has been devoted to the High School students leaving more to be given the club women and the casual enquirer. The students from the University appreciate the help they get from this Library, often commenting on the fact that though the resources are much smaller, the material here is more accessible, especially the bound periodicals. We have added to this collection 118 bound magazines and 17 general reference books.

According to the records a total of 1489 books has been added to the Library collection during the year. Of this number 1316 were purchased and 173 were gifts. The total number of books worn out, or lost and withdrawn from the records was 647. The net gain, therefore, in the growth of collection was 842.

The accessions distributed by classes are as follows:

Adult bound periodicals	118
" Fiction	554
" Non-fiction	308
Reference	17
Juvenile bound periodicals	4
" fiction	230
" Non-fiction	268
Total	1489

The total number of books in the Library distributed by classes are as follows:

Adult bound periodicals	2269
" fiction	4403
" Non-fiction	7096
Reference	934
German collection	392
Juvenile bound periodicals	169
" fiction	1247
" non-fiction	1949
Reference	90
Total	18549

The Children's work, directed by Miss Perkins, has been an interesting feature of the year. The grade schools, as usual, are using the library to supplement their reading courses. The greatest growth in interest, however, has come from the Junior High pupils. As we are building up the Children's reference department the students are depending more and more upon the Library for assistance.

A favorite spot in the Children's room is the corner where the easy books are filed. Any after noon you may see the small chairs in front of these shelves filled with little tots in the first years of school eagerly turning through these books in search of pictures and stories that they can read.

The interest in the Saturday morning story hour has continued. 30 periods have been held with an average of 24 in attendance.

During the summer the Vacation Reading Club was organized. Mayor Kreeck helped to stimulate an interest in good reading by offering prizes for the best essays on books of non-fiction read during the summer. We hope that the start made in this direction is only the beginning of a regular course of reading that will prove of great profit to our young people.

That the parents are interested in the reading of their children was shown by the response during Children's Book Week, as the open meeting held Nov. 15 was a record for attendance.

The Library received 173 books as gifts. These were donated from various sources. A number of the books left us by Mrs. E. J. White have been catalogued and are in use, also several from Prof. McKeever's collection. Various publishers and organizations continue to send their publications.

The outstanding gift of the year is the new flag pole which was given by the ladies of the G.A.P.

We hope that another year will find our reading rooms equipped with new lights, the gift of some generous individual or organization.

While we feel that we are gaining, as an institution, in usefulness, yet we want to know that we are giving the best service possible. We

believe that the time is approaching when we should reach out to the districts not easily accessible to our library building, particularly to the territory north of the river. In the absence of a system of branch libraries I should like to present to you for your consideration the Book Wagon as a substitute. This service has been tried in various cities and is solving a great problem. In our own state Wichita is the pioneer city carrying books into remote parts of the city by means of a book automobile. Thus the Book Wagon is becoming the friend of many who otherwise would not enjoy the Library privilege.

There has been but one change in our staff. Miss Irma Houghton left us to continue her studies in a California hospital. Miss Edna Schaake, who completed an apprentice course with us succeeded her. We are trying to provide for future emergencies by training a class of senior girls from the High School. Six are taking this training and so far the results have been quite satisfactory.

We wish to thank the Journal World for generous donation of space for notes and annotated lists of additions. We know that this service is appreciated by our patrons as they call regularly for books listed in Saturday's paper.

In closing permit me to express to the members of the Board of Directors and to the Library Staff, my appreciation of their cooperation and support.