

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

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

Herewith is respectfully submitted my report of the work of the Lawrence Free Public Library during its thirteenth fiscal year, ending December 31st., 1917.

The statistics of circulation show a decrease of 1350 in the adult department and an increase of 786 in the juvenile department.

The reasons for this are obvious.

Owing to war conditions, club work and fiction reading have, in a measure, been temporarily assigned to the background while the women are knitting and helping as they can with the relief work. This is true all over the state.

Another factor which has tended to lower the adult circulation is the lack of an adequate number of new books. Of the 777 vols. added 121 were bound vols. of current periodicals and 270 were children's books, leaving only 391 added to the adult department, - altogether too small a number to continue to inspire confidence in our patrons.

Because of this need of books by far the larger portion of the reference work is done with the periodicals, and of this important branch of the library's endeavors no record is kept.

The increase in the children's circulation is due to the addition of those 270 new books, attractive as to cover and entertaining as to matter.

The circulation statistics are as follows:

Adult fiction	31,531
Adult non-fiction	8,531
Juvenile fiction	7,557
Juvenile non-fiction	<u>3,904</u>
Total	51,523

The total circulation for 1916 was 52,087, making a loss of 564 in the present year.

The comparative statistics for the two years are as follows:

Adult fiction 1916 . .	32,053		
Adult fiction 1917 . .	<u>31,531</u>		
Loss 1917	522	522	
Adult non-fiction . . 1916 ..	9,353		
Adult non-fiction . . 1917	<u>8,531</u>		
Loss 1917	828	828	
Juvenile fiction . . .1916 . .	7,588		
Juvenile fiction . . . 1917 . .	<u>7,557</u>		
Loss 1917	21	21	
Juvenile non-fiction 1917 . .	3,904		
Juvenile non-fiction 1916 . .	<u>3,097</u>		
Gain 1917	807		807
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			1,371 807
Loss 1917	1,371		
Gain 1917	<u>807</u>		
Net loss 1917	564		

The largest monthly circulation was in March and numbered 5,964. The smallest was in July and numbered 3,209.

To the seven magazines originally duplicated for circulation, ~~which~~ were added Current Opinion, Review of Reviews and Scribners, making the circulating magazines ten in number as follows: Atlantic, Bookman, Century, Current Opinion, Harper's National Geographic, North American Review, Review of Reviews Scribner's and World's Work.

These magazines are issued for three days. A circulation of 1458 during the year proves the popularity of this extension.

The total accessions for the year were 777, 717 by purchase and 60 by gift. Of those purchased 80 were from the Perkins Memorial fund.

The year's accessions distributed in the various classes are as follows:

Adult bound periodicals	114
Adult fiction	220
Adult non-fiction	150
Reference department	16
Juvenile fiction	84
Juvenile non-fiction	186
Juvenile bound periodicals	<u>7</u>
Total	777

The number worn out and lost was 389, 195 adult and 194 juvenile, leaving a gain of 388.

The total accessions divided in classes are as follows:

Adult bound periodicals	1,844
Adult fiction	3,494
Adult non-fiction	5,786
Reference department	485
German department	392
Juvenile fiction	1,104
Juvenile non-fiction	1,290
Juvenile bound periodicals	<u>151</u>
Total accessions	14,546

There were 118 vols. of current periodicals bound and 138 miscellaneous vols. rebound, a total of 256. This was 438 less than in 1916.

The notable gifts of the year were the set of the Catholic Encyclopaedia in 16 vols. from the Knights of Columbus, a picture of the old windmill from Mrs. Frank E. Bryant and a cog from the master wheel of that same old windmill—a most interesting and unique relic— from Miss Kate Stephens.

Of the books donated, the major part were those dealing with the war, sent out by various organizations in England.

The sixth biennial registration closed July 31st. with 4,343 adult and 954 juvenile; a total of 5,292.

The seventh registration went into effect August 1st. and now numbers 2,155 adult and 482 juvenile; a total of 2,637.

One of the interesting events of the year was the library float in the children's circus parade on Sept. 1st. which was the feature of the parade and has given the library much good advertising. The work was done by a committee of former and present

assistant librarians, consisting of Miss Claudia Pendleton, chairman, Miss Rachel Sankee and Miss Frances Carter. The book illustrated was Alice in Wonderland and the children representing the various characters were Elsie Hopper as Alice, Carolyn House as the Queen, Theodore O'Leary as the King, George Griffith as the White Rabbit and Francis Perkins as the Mad Hatter. The pride and delight in the work of both committee and children proved their loyalty to the public library.

The children's story hour opened in November, and arrangements have been made for the telling of stories each Saturday afternoon until the last of April. Up to the Holidays the attendance averaged 32. This number will increase as the children become familiar with the day and hour.

During the October drive for books and periodicals for the soldiers the library collected 884 books and 1,389 periodicals. These were sent, by order of the committee-in-charge to ~~Samuel~~ Camp Doniphan.

By a vote of the Board it was decided to publish the annual reports and the book lists bi-ennially, rather than annually as here-to-fore. Regrets as to this decision have been expressed by the library patrons, who have missed the help and information furnished by the book list. I would respectfully urge the Board to reconsider this matter and to publish annually at least the year's accessions.

Last year we were hoping, by this time to have an enlarged library near completion, but for some unaccountable reason our petition to Mr. Carnegie for funds was refused. In spite of the fact that books wear out we add many more than we withdraw and the increasing congestion seriously interferes with the efficiency of the legitimate work of the library. May I suggest that the Board begin at once, plans for securing funds from some other quarter for the needed library extension.

In closing this, my thirteenth annual report of the work of the Lawrence Free Public Library, I wish to express to you my sincere appreciation of your many courtesies.

Respectfully submitted

Nellie G. Beatty, Librarian.