

Report of the Librarian
of the
Lawrence Free Public Library, Lawrence, Kansas.

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

Ladies and gentlemen:

I have the honor to submit to you the twentieth annual report of the Lawrence Free Public Library for the year ending December 31, 1924.

It is with considerable satisfaction that I can report a very substantial increase in service rendered by our Library the past year. Our books have circulated 84,294 times, an increase of 10,391 over the previous year. Our duplicate magazines have circulated 1,344 times which is a gain of 237. This large increase may be accounted for, partly, through our generous practice of loaning more than one fourteen day book at a time. But, aside from this, the Library seems to be making new friends. We realize that the best publicity given any institution is a satisfied patron, and we hope that it is through these patrons that the Library is gaining these new friends.

This is our second year of our two year period of registration, and we have enrolled 2245 new patrons, making a total of 5542 borrowers registered for the two year period.

We can show a substantial growth in our book collection. We have added during the year 1510 books. 1401 of these were purchased. We have withdrawn 379. This makes a net gain of 1141.

We have received 109 books as gifts, also a number of periodicals, the official organs of various societies. Books from the private collection of Mrs. C. S. Hall, Mrs. Preuszner, and Mrs. May Moore were received. Dr. Arthur Clarke, C. G. Dunlap, F. C. Allen, Miss Aliene Carter, H. C. Taylor also made desirable contributions. A number of books were given us by the author or publisher.

The accessions distributed by classes areas follows:

Adult bound periodicals-----	73
" fiction-----	578
" non-fiction-----	349
" reference-----	20
" total-----	1020
Juvenile bound periodicals-----	4
" fiction-----	253
" nonfiction-----	225
" reference---	8
" total-----	490
Grand total-----	1510

The total number of books in the library distributed by

classes:

Adult bound periodicals -----	2419
" fiction-----	4714
" non-fiction-----	7167
" reference-----	1935
" Kansas Documents-----	310
" German Collection-----	392
" total-----	15937
Juvenile bound periodicals-----	175
" fiction-----	1367
" non-fiction-----	2095
" reference-----	106
" total-----	3743
Grand total-----	19680

Our reference department has been as usual a busy place. We have no method of determining the calls for reference material, but the reading tables show that this department is well used.

The books of general reference have moved back to the west alcove, leaving the east room for work with periodicals. This scattering of reference material has had the effect of dividing the crowd at the study tables. During the intensive work with the history classes from the High School last spring this department was at times overcrowded. This arrangement cares for a limited number of students and at the same time gives space for the occasional worker.

The University students are more than ever finding our resources valuable. Some confess that they are sent here by their instructors who know that here they will find up-to-date material for reference.

The usual classes from the High School have been given instruction in the use of the Library. We find this time profitably spent with these young people. They are learning our resources and at the same time learning self-reliance. The student who has learned how to use his Public Library is indeed fortunate as he has learned to use one of the tools that will help him with his education.

To-day one of the greatest influences of the Public Library is that influence which is exerted through the work with the younger children. Miss Perkins has noted a great improvement in the reading. A better type of book is called for and a larger number of children are reading. There has been an increased use of the childrens room for reference, as we are gradually enlarging our reference collection and the children are growing acquainted with our resources. Classes have been cared for from the various grade schools in much the same way as we are instructing the older students. The circulation in the childrens department totaled 38,207.

Childrens Book Week was observed as usual through the display of books, formal talks, etc. The drama, "Friends in Bookland" was given by boys and girls of the department. These informal meetings where parents, teachers, and librarians mingle are proving profitable. Parents are learning what we are trying to do for their children and are responding cordially with their cooperation.

It is an encouraging sign to know that there is growing through-out the world an increasing respect for education. We have constantly before us individuals who realize the need for knowledge and who are willing to seek it through any available agency. The boy who left school at sixteen is not prepared for citizenship. Even the college man, after ten years, is not prepared for citizenship if he has not continued his education through a process of self development.

The American Library Association is making a survey looking forward to the establishment of a system of selfeducation which may be carried on through our Public Libraries. I hope that our Library may be able to keep in touch with this movement so that when the time is ^{right} for this plan to be put into effect we may be ready for the forward program period.

Our staff has remained the same during the year with but one exception. Edna Schaake left us to attend the University. Her place has not been filled but the work has been carried on with the aid of our apprentices. Young girls from the High School or the University come to us for a few hours each week during the school year. They are taught to mend books, file cards, page books and magazines, and prepare pockets and cards for new books. They also assist in the preparation of books and magazines for the bindery. They are drilled upon the care of books in the stacks and as they become acquainted with their location are permitted to work at the desk charging and discharging books. The girls who completed this course last year and who desired work were given places at the University that would help them pay expenses while in school.

I wish to thank the Journal World for space given us in the paper for announcements, lists and reviews. This has proved a satisfactory medium in reaching our reading public. It is not unusual for a patron to bring in a clipping on Saturday evening which has just been taken from the paper.

I wish also to thank the members of this Board for their hearty cooperation. I assure you that it is a pleasure to work with the public when I feel that I have always the support of a generous and loyal Board. Perhaps this would be a fitting time to thank the public, through this Board, for the splendid response given us in our endeavor to serve them.

I thank you,

Lillian J. Constant