

To the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Free Public Library:  
I have the honor to submit the thirty-first annual report for  
the year ending December 31, 1935.

We have just closed another interesting and, I hope, profitable  
year.

Our book collection has received 1,243 additions, 200 volumes of  
these were gifts. We have withdrawn 520.

Last May we finished the first complete book inventory in five  
years. The result of this check showed 565 books for which we could  
not account. After these have been removed from our records we still  
have a net gain of 343. A total collection of 26,860 volumes.

Our librarians, with the help of relief workers sent out from  
the county office, repaired 2375 books. This has helped to save old  
copies and has been satisfactory for a time. But these books can not  
be patched any more, many are now ready to be discarded. So this year  
our budget must stretch enough to replace several hundred of the old  
standards as well as to purchase the desirable new titles.

Our circulating copies have been issued 126,809 times. Fiction,  
as usual, leads with 65%, non-fiction 12% and books from the young  
people's department 21%.

There has been a decrease of 4,722 volumes. The departments of  
social science, fine arts, and biography show an increase, the  
heaviest drop was in fiction. I have learned that this is the same  
throughout the country. As in the war days the busy knitters are  
given credit for this decline. One lady who has been in the habit  
of coming twice a week and drawing from four to eight books said,  
"I just can't read and knit". The Christmas holidays in the children's  
room were the quietest in several years. Miss Perkins mentioned this  
to a mother who replied, "That is a good sign, there has been money  
for books in the home as well as for other entertainments".

On August 28th we issued the fewest books 224; on Feb. 23, the  
most 355. Our heaviest day usually follows a holiday.

Our circulation per capita was 8.1 volumes, per registered  
borrower 22, book stock turnover 4.7 volumes and the cost per  
circulation was .07, per capita cost .64. Though a public library  
is free it is evident that someone pays.

With the aid of our student assistants we have reregistered all  
our patrons. Since Jan. 1, 1935, 5668 cards have been issued. 231 of  
these are rural students who are attending High School, 228 non-  
resident University of Kansas students, 50 are from Haskell Insti-  
tute, 67 are country patrons who pay a fee, 19 transients left a  
deposit which was refunded. The young people's department enrolled  
1924. 40% of our population registered last year.

The University has continued the C.S.E.P. work. These students,  
besides working with registration and inventory, have worked on a  
picture file and a Kansas scrap book. For a number of years we  
have been collecting clippings about Kansas and about people who  
have given noteworthy service to the state. When this is completed  
there will be several volumes. There will be biographies, articles  
on early history, geology and special feature stories which have  
appeared from time to time in the papers. There will be a volume  
on art, and artists, literature etc. We are hoping this will be a  
useful reference collection.

I had hoped our remodelling project would have been on the way by  
now, but we have this to look forward to another year. We are much in  
need not only of building repairs, but of space to house our books.  
This need grows more urgent every day. We cannot discard as many  
books as we buy and the stacks in the regular stack rooms which were  
originally built for books are crowded to the limit. I hope this  
project will not be delayed too many months.

I want to thank this board for your sympathy, your patience with  
our short comings and helpfulness at all times. Perhaps the coming  
year will be the best yet.

*Lillian J. Constand*