

Lawrence Free Public Library  
LILLIAN J. CONSTANT, LIBRARIAN  
Lawrence, Kansas

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

Ladies and gentlemen:

I have the honor to submit the twenty-fourth annual report for the year ending December 31, 1929. 1928

Our year has ended with a very substantial growth in our book collection. We opened the year with 20792 volumes and we have at the close 21869 volumes.

We entered on our records a total of 1642 books. 927 of these were fiction. 715 non-fiction, including 70 reference volumes and 91 bound periodicals. 316 were gifts. We have withdrawn during the year 565 volumes. This brings us a net gain of 1077 volumes.

We have now in our reference department 3839 volumes.

Our gifts came from various sources. The largest collection coming from the library of Mrs. J. K. Rankin. The Ministerial Alliance and the Garden Club again remembered us with their valuable contributions. Other donors were, Mrs. J. D. Bowersock, Miss Cora Downs, Mrs. S. D. Bishop, Miss Marie Capen, Miss Dorothy Angevine, Mrs. Earl Manchester and Mrs. Don Carlos. In addition to these were a number who gave single volumes and organizations who contributed magazines.

We receive currently 124 newspapers and magazines. 79 by purchase and 45 by gift. These are used chiefly in the reading room. However, we have a collection of ten titles which we have duplicated for circulation. This collection has been especially attractive this year as they have been issued 1669 times.

Our books have circulated during the year 109957 times, a

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falling off of 213 volumes. The circulation statistics read as follows: adult fiction 65489 non-fiction 14305, juvenile fiction 17121 nonfiction 10455 and with a school circulation of 2589 books which have circulated from various buildings, our total reaches 109957.

Books have circulated on an average of 5 times with a per capita average of 7 volumes, costing the city .64 per capita.

We have enrolled during the year 1854 new readers, 1499 adults, 355 juveniles.

This is the second year of our biennial period for registration which opened August 1, 1927. At the close of our year we have a total of 5919 patrons. This is 39% of the population served.

We have sent to the bindery, in addition to our periodicals, 576 books to have them rebound. We have repaired in our work room 3266 books. The work on these books varies from taping in a few leaves to resewing, recasing and recovering the whole book.

In our children's room books have been issued from the desk 27576 times, 2587 more have circulated from school buildings, boxes of from 30-60 being sent monthly to buildings at the request of the principals.

The work in this department has moved along in much the same way as in other years. The little tots are very enthusiastic, very active and altogether delightful to work with. The craze for mystery stories has reached this department also. It is not

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unusual for Miss Perkins to hear the little piping voice say "what shelf will I find the mystery stories on?". Children still enjoy a good historical story although they ask for "a book with war in it". Since the "Big Lion" motion picture has been shown in Lawrence there is a great demand for books on "Africa" with her stories of the fierce animals and fighting head-hunters. Just now the boys are asking for anything and everything about air-planes.

We have noticed something about our colored readers that may seem unusual and may point to a characteristic that is not generally noticed. If a colored child of the 4th or 5th grade age comes in for the first time not knowing what to select, he will invariably make his random selection from the shelf of verse.

The reader in the adult department is asking for better types of literature. While our general circulation dropped slightly, the loss was in the fiction section. More nonfiction was taken out than last year.

The success of a public library is measured largely by the up-to-date-ness of the books. The public wants new books when they are new, and when people are talking about them. This demand we are trying to meet. The past year we have offered our readers a fine selection of new titles which I am sure have been enjoyed. If a book of travel, history or biography has been read and digested shall we not pardon the loss of appetite for lighter literature?

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For we know the average reader will devour three books of light fiction in the length of time it takes to read one book of solid reading.

There have been no changes in our staff aside from a readjustment of hours. The high school has sent us again a class of four girls who are working for credit in the school. This has been a very satisfactory arrangement. The girls are receiving valuable training and our staff is receiving assistance during the rush periods.

Our shelving space was enlarged last year by the addition of a new stack. This year we will need one for the children's room. A display case for outstanding non-fiction in the adult department would be a help in calling attention to these desirable books.

We have all enjoyed the new water heater, we wonder how we kept our hands clean before.

There will need to be a 1929 edition of a heating plant, or at least a revision of the one we have, along with a few building repairs. A typewriter for our catalog department would speed along our work. Our directors room could use a filing case.

Your librarian takes this opportunity to thank this board of directors for their hearty support, the staff for their splendid cooperation and the press for their notices, keeping the library before the public.

Respectfully submitted.

Lillian J. Constant