

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 fifteenth fiscal year, ending December 31st, 1919.

After giving a year of most efficient service, as Assistant Librarian, Miss Marie Hostetter resigned in August to enter the Library School of Illinois University. This position was filled by Miss Lillian J. Constant who came from the cataloging department at Kansas University, and has a wide experience as a teacher, also.

Miss Frances Carter continued to please the public in her most competent work at the main desk and in the reference department.

Mrs E.B. Hildinger not only takes efficient care of the evening patrons, but assists during the afternoon hours, since the close of the war when everything takes new life and work in the libraries.

Our circulation of books during 1919 was 47717, a gain of 3350 over that of 1918. This number might be increased but for the holding of many books for special use in the building, notably those reserved for the High School. These serve a good purpose in the library, and may be checked out over night when desired.

The circulation statistics are as follows:

Adult fiction . . . . .	27912
Adult non fiction . . . . .	6617
Juvenile Fiction . . . . .	6909
Juvenile non fiction . . . . .	<u>6279</u>
Total . . . . .	47717

The largest circulation was in November, numbering 5019. The smallest was in August and numbered 2926.

The circulation of duplicate copies of magazines was 1133, in 1918 it was 1485, thus giving a loss of 352 for 1919. The irregular arrival of magazines on account of the labor troubles has been largely responsible for this loss, the people tiring of looking for the long delayed copies. Then too, many of our patrons do not yet know that we circulate duplicate copies of ten magazines for three days.

The 7th Biennial registration closed July 31st with 4985 Registrations, 3903 Adult and 1082 Juvenile. This is the largest



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registration ever known in the Juvenile Department.

The 8th registration opened August 1st, and now numbers 2060 Adult and 595 Juvenile, a total of 2655, Dec 31st.

The Children's Story Hour season opened in February, the prevalence of contagious diseases having prevented such public gatherings earlier in the year. The average attendance of 47 shows the popularity of the hour and the story teller, Mrs. H. W. Humble, who so graciously and faithfully gives her time to the children.

Instruction in the use of the library was given to 12 classes of High School students. The teachers were most cordial in their cooperation during this season of library talks; as they are at all times in our work with them, and their students.

In March an exhibition of rare book plates was added to the attractions of the library by Dr. A. W. Clark. These have been changed from time to time, and have brought much favorable comment from citizens and travellers.

The new steel book stack presented by Mrs. L. H. Perkins, and erected in July made further growth possible for a time. The Library Board are most grateful to Mrs. Perkins for her kind consideration of the needs of the library, at such crowded periods.

At the same time a small stack was erected by the Board of Directors in the Reference Department.

The total accessions for the year were 898, 592 by purchase and 306 by gift.

The final payments on the Papers and Messages of the Presidents received in 1918 were made during 1919, from the Perkins Endowment Fund.

The accessions distributed in the various classes are as follows-

Adult bound periodicals . . . . .	107
Adult fiction . . . . .	93
Adult non-fiction . . . . .	384
Juvenile fiction . . . . .	206
Juvenile non-fiction . . . . .	97
Juvenile bound periodicals . . . . .	11
Total for the year . . . . .	<u>898</u>

A good sized order of new books, ordered months ago, has but recently arrived and must count in the accessions of 1920.

The number worn out and lost was 140, 76 Adult and 64 Juvenile, leaving a net gain of 758.



The total accessions distributed in the various classes are as follows:

Adult bound periodicals. . . . .	2061
Adult fiction . . . . .	4020
Adult non-fiction . . . . .	6900
German Dept. . . . .	392
Juvenile fiction . . . . .	1345
Juvenile non-fiction . . . . .	1437
Juvenile bound periodicals . . . . .	<u>1169</u>
Total accessions. . . . .	16324

The most notable set of books purchased during the year was the Americana Encyclopaedia of thirty volumes, when all are delivered.

Two years ago the Library received a gift from DR. E. Bumgardner of Nelson's Loose Leaf Encyclopaedia in twelve volumes. In August the Nelson Publishing Company sent an offer to refill our covers with entirely new and up to date material. The pages were received in December when the Library was closed on account of the coal shortage and were not accessioned and placed in the reference department until January of the present year.

Other donors of books are as follows: Mrs. W. B. Dalton, Guy Walling, Dr. A. W. Clark, Mrs. J. W. Winckley, Mrs. David Mackie, Chas. L. Pack, Mrs. R. B. Preuszner, Mrs. C. L. Griffith, Mrs. G. C. Harman, Mrs. W. S. Metcalf, H. A. Roberts, Miss Jeannette Wheeler, Mrs. A. Henley, B. Rouloz, Mrs. S. N. Horton, Miss Mary Ward Beecher, Mrs. J. E. Jewett, F. E. Stimpson, Mrs. E. M. Alder, Mrs. C. S. Hall, W. L. Bullene, Mrs. S. L. PALMER, Miss Nabel B. Haskell and Mrs. William MacDonald.

Miss Haskell and Mrs. MacDonald presented to the Library a large collection of books from the library of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Haskell as a memorial to them.

Other gifts are held in reserve, to be placed on the shelves when the crowded condition of the stacks is relieved.

Some plan for the enlargement of the ~~book~~ stack room should be devised as soon as building conditions are normal.



4.

There has been some embarrassment over the length of time elapsing between the mailing of our orders for books and the receipt of the same. The prevailing labor troubles are responsible for this condition.

In closing this, the 15th annual report of the Lawrence Free Public Library, I wish to express to you my appreciation of your many courtesies.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia S. Edwards,

Librarian.