

Lawrence Free Public Library

LILLIAN J. CONSTANT, LIBRARIAN

Lawrence, Kansas

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to submit to you the forty-second annual report of for the year ending December 31, 1946.

The library has been open for reading and for the circulation of books 304 days, eleven hours each day, closing on the usual legal holidays.

Circulation

Adult fiction	44,326
Adult non-fiction	14,490
Juvenile fiction	11,492
Juvenile non-fiction	<u>12,675</u>
Total	82,983

Circulation by classes in the Adult department

General works	1,040
Philosophy	535
Religion	544
Social sciences	1,131
Philology	121
Science	560
Useful arts	1,714
Fine arts	1,931
Literature	2,159
History	1,304
Biography	2,407
Travel	<u>1,044</u>
Total	14,490

Registration

Total number of registered borrowers:-

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Dec. 31, 1945	1,768	1,166	2,934
Dec. 31, 1946	<u>1,902</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>2,261</u>
Total	3,670	1,525	5,195
Rural students given cards			50
Rural cards purchased			<u>126</u> <i>incl. in reg. no.</i>
Non-resident depositors			207
Total			<u>5,578</u> <i>5,452</i>

Book Stock

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Dec. 31, 1945	29,361	7,933	37,294
Added 1946	1,075	270	1,345
Withdrawn	425	309	734
Loss shown by inventory for three year period	<u>249</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>359</u>
Total for Dec. 31, 1946	29,762	7,784	37,546
Gifts included above	191	29	220
Number of periodicals currently received			129
Number of newspapers			10

Among the gifts aside from various individuals who have given collections, are the usual memorial gifts from the Round Table and the Lawrence Flower Club. The Girl Scouts organization has been giving books used in their work. A gift of merit from the Douglas County Historical Society, Mrs. L. Hastie chairman, is the Record of Rural Cemeteries in two volumes. This is a very valuable historical record for our local reference shelf.



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The Juvenile department has been taking care of the usual reading needs of the children as well as furnishing tables for a quiet place to study during quiz week for the University students.

We observed book week by cooperating with the schools in the window displays and with a contest following the slogan "Books and Bridges".

Our most interesting work this year has been with the University students. While the Public Library has always had considerable patronage from non-resident students, these last years of exceptional crowding have brought more than the normal increase to us for help. The scarcity of books, the very crowded condition of Watson Library and in some cases, the lack of comforts in their rooms have brought many students to us for a quiet place to study. One student remarked recently that he was afraid too many were finding "this good place".

More than those who are seeking a fair degree of quiet and comfort, are those who want help in their work. Before classes began, we had innumerable calls from veterans who were trying to bridge the gap from their former school days. They were pathetically eager for texts to help them brush up, especially in mathematics. Now they come for books on all sorts of subjects. One has to write on the life of Knute Rochne; the next wants what we have on volcanism. A student in architecture wants pictures and descriptions of the original old St. Pauls in London; another wants to find what we have on radio facsimile.

Some students are sent in by their instructors and some wander in a bit lonely and in search of some fiction to help them forget their loneliness. Almost without exception they have been an agreeable, very appreciative group of young people with whom it is a joy to work.

The librarian takes this opportunity to thank the members of the board for their hearty support, the staff for loyalty and cooperation and the press for publicity.

*Lillian J. Constant*