

Lawrence Free Public Library

LILLIAN J. CONSTANT, LIBRARIAN

Lawrence, Kansas

Jan. 31, 1938.

Our library was opened 258 days during 1937. Some time was lost while moving and making readjustments in the remodeled building.

We closed the old building Jan. 6 and opened for service in the Ecke building Jan. 15. Our hours were shortened by closing at 6 p.m.

We kept open in the temporary quarters until July 3. On August 19 the books were back on the shelves and we opened for service.

CIRCULATION

Our books circulated 78,117 times. Fiction led as usual with 49,064 volumes lent, this was 63%. Juvenile books rank next, 19,796 volumes or 25% and adult non-fiction was 12% or 9,257 volumes.

Circulation per capita was 5, per registered borrower, 9. The book stock turnover was 2.8. The circulation per library assistant was 26,000.

REGISTRATION

The total number of registered borrowers over a period of three years was 8,440. Of these 6,480 were adult registrations and 1,966 juvenile. This is 60% of our population. 225 of these patrons were non-residents, 183 students were given free cards and 42 rural patrons registered on a \$1.00 a year basis. 10 transients each made a deposit which was refunded when the books were returned.

BOOK STOCK

The number of books in our collection at the beginning of the year totalled 26,257 volumes. We added 1,540 volumes and withdrew 1,015. At the close of the year we have 27,092. This includes 4,303 volumes in the reference department. Our net gain for the year was 525 volumes. Number of volumes per capita is 2 and per registered borrower 3.

We have received 14 newspapers currently and 98 periodicals with 7 titles duplicated for circulation.

We have operated the library at a cost of .85 per capita and \$1.37 per registered borrower.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION STANDARDS

Notwithstanding the fact that we have worked with shorter hours and were closed a few weeks while moving we have more than met American Library Standards.

A.L.A. says for cities of 10,000-14,999 population libraries should have one assistant for 20,000 books circulated. Our assistants needed to step lively but they averaged 26,000.

The central organization for some time has worked for a \$1.00 per capita standard. We have not had a \$1.00 per capita but have given very good service with \$-.85 per capita and this includes all special funds.

Our book collection of 2 per capita and book circulation of 9 per capita just met the standard set.

We registered 60% of our population with A.L.A. requirement of 40.

We are open for service 66 hours a week and the standard library requires only 60 hours.

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IMPROVEMENTS

The improvement in our building has given the staff much enjoyment. The ability to move around in the aisles without jostling, finding books readily, placing them on the shelves without moving a whole section to find room for one more has been a new and comfortable experience. We like the floor covering. It is a foot saver. We like the even temperature and fine ventilation and the clean house, the day light among the books and at the desk and the new stack lights at night.

We like the separate offices with their many conveniences, the filing cabinets, tables, chairs, noiseless typewriter and especially the book life which has already hauled more than 20000 books.

Then there is the splendid basement with the newspaper room, large work room, furnace room splendidly equipped and the room for the janitor.

The children and their librarian are very enthusiastic over their lovely room, the floor covering, lights, new book shelves and the librarian's modern and convenient desk. The little tots like their corner with the low table, and shelves filled with attractive books. The new entrance that is their very own is a great improvement and they like it.

Patrons have expressed themselves as being pleased and think the public money has been well invested in providing this modern and efficient plant. Several out of town visitors have expressed surprise and have said that Lawrence surpasses many cities of much larger population in library facilities.

The citizens of Lawrence owe much to the City Council and to the Library Board for giving so freely of their time and advice in planning and building.

I want to thank the Board for myself and staff for the splendid cooperation all during the year. We should surely be able with the added facilities to give the best service we have ever given and it is our purpose to do this.

Thank you,

Lillian J. Constant