

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

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

I have the honor to submit the thirtieth annual report for the year ending December 31, 1934.

Our library is starting a new year with a book collection containing 26,547 volumes.

We added during the year by purchase and by gift 1,212 volumes.

We have withdrawn 907, a net gain of 305 volumes.

One of the problems before us now is providing space for the new volumes we acquire each year.

If this collection was distributed equally among the residents of Lawrence each man, woman and child would receive two, if divided among our registered patrons each would receive three.

This collection through our loan system has seen active service. These books have been issued 131,731 times. 28,172 were read by the children of Lawrence.

Our per capita circulation is 9.4 volumes. Per registered borrower 15. Our book stock turnover is five. All this at a cost of sixty-three cents per capita.

Our circulation per library employee is 32,932. The American Library Association says a library adequately staffed should employ one assistant for each 20,000 books issued.

Readers have borrowed ten per cent less fiction this year. The non-fiction increase was in the department of useful arts. Books on block printing, quilting, rug-making and other handicrafts have been popular. Books on the making of toys, bird houses, traps,

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boats, radios and furniture have been called for by the boys, particularly in the children's department.

A book liked by adults is "1000 Spare Time Money Making Schemes". We have a number of calls for books on gold mining. Pitkin's, "New Careers for Youth" has been a successful sequel to "Life Begins at Forty".

60% of our population has been registered since Aug. 1, 1933. We closed the year with 8291 borrowers and are opening a new registration Jan. 1, 1935.

We sold cards to 45 country patrons and received deposits from 26 transients. We issued cards to 233 K. U. students who are non-residents and 38 to Haskell Institute students.

Our repair department has been a profitable enterprise the past year as our binding bill has been cut almost one half. With the assistance of workers sent us through Miss Mary Jamison, Douglas County Relief agent we have repaired nearly 5000 books. Over 1000 of these have been washed, adding greatly to their appearance and to the enjoyment of our more fastidious readers.

Four C.S.E.P. students have been assigned us. They are giving valuable assistance with shelving and labeling books, filing and typing cards, giving help during rush periods at the desk and with reference calls. They will take our inventory and assist with the new registration.

During Book Week in November all the third grade children in Lawrence came to the library for a special visit. They were shown the books and taught how to borrow them.

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December 26th the library celebrated its thirtieth birthday.

The board and staff received friends during the afternoon and evening. At this time 8 prints by Charles B. Rogers, 16 prints by Margaret Whittemore and 7 lithographs by William Dickerson were displayed. These works of art were executed under the Public Works of Art Project and through the University of Kansas were loaned to decorate our walls.

I wish to thank this board for loyal cooperation, the Douglas County Republican and the Lawrence Journal World for generosity in printing notices and news items.

I shall look forward to another year of service. Thank you.

Lillian J. Constant