

To the Board of Directors,
Lawrence Public Library,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Many citizens and patrons of our public library will welcome the opportunity to offer both constructive criticism and helpful suggestions in response to the questionnaire being distributed at the library and I, who has spent many profitable and pleasant hours there and glad to offer the following for your consideration.

As a whole I feel the present method of conducting the library is equal to many larger libraries I have had the pleasure of visiting and in some cases quite superior. Each and every one of the present staff are efficient, accomodating and most pleasant to deal with and one is always made to feel welcome on each visit.

It is my opinion with reference to books, that a larger percentage of the funds for purchasing books should be spent on those of greater literary and historical value, such as "Diplomatically Speaking" "Out of the Night" and many others I could mention rather than so many mystery and murder stories. While I appreciate many persons like this class of literature on the pretext of freeing their minds from worries or business routine, I still feel the number of the latter class are quite out of proportion to the higher type suggested.

As to newspapers, the Kansas City Star together with the Chicago and New York dailies are well chosen but I would suggest a wider selection such as one outstanding daily from the West coast, the South, either Dallas Texas or New Orleans and a typical Northern daily. I feel the Kansas City Post is too much of a sensational paper and the smaller locals like the Topeka Capital, The Outlook, the Eudora paper etc., unless these subscriptions are donated to the library, should be replaced with the larger and more interesting metropolitan dailies as suggested above in order to give your "dear public" views of outstanding editors over a more widely scattered territory.

The magazine selections are quite appropriate and interesting.

Your reference service has but one fault, it is not available to all under all conditions and circumstances. By this I mean, I, as a taxpayer, see no reason why a silent telephone should be maintained at the

library for the exclusive convenience of the employees. There have been many times I have wanted to call the library and ask for some information to use in my work or the school work of my children, but could not do so as the phone was neither listed nor was the operator permitted to give me the number. A library is primarily established to render every service possible to the citizens of that community and reference service should be of paramount importance and available to all. I feel confident that the present staff would find it quite possible to handle any incoming request for information desired providing a phone was installed on the front desk. I also feel, that the public should be unmistakably informed that the phone was not thus placed for their convenience in making outside personal calls unless some urgent necessity arose demanding such a call to be made. I am sure there are many who feel just as I do in this matter of telephone reference service.

The service given by the library staff is unimpeachable.

Two additional suggestions, I feel worthy of consideration. Children, as well as adults, should be firmly advised that a library is a place of quiet and should not be allowed to carry on loud or boisterous conversation at any time. It disturbs anyone desiring to read or study, regardless of how much one may try to concentrate. I have particularly noticed this on many instances and wondered why these violators were not promptly told to remain quiet. This could be done courteously by the library attendants or by signs requesting silence advantageously placed about the library.

I would also suggest that small scratch pads be kept available for patrons who may desire to make some notes either from magazines, papers or reference books they use in the reading rooms. One purposely going there to read or look up information, will provide themselves with the necessary equipment, but frequently a patron will pick up a magazine or trade journal or reference book and find some fact or statement they would like to remember but have nothing upon which to make such notes, just a sheet or two of small scratch pad would be most gratefully appreciated in these cases and would not involve a large expenditure upon the part of the library.

All the above is offered in a kindly and constructive manner and I want to add that I have lived in many large cities and spent a great deal of time at their libraries but none more pleasing than our in Lawrence.

A. Grant, 716 B. H.