

LAWRENCE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1959

To the Board of Directors:

The year 1959 saw an increase in circulation of 12,000 units (books, records, and magazines) over 1958, bringing our record to an all-time high of 235,000 units circulated. However, while this constitutes a substantial increase in circulation, it is below the average annual increase. The average annual increase since 1955 has been 20,000 units.

In determining the reasons for a drop in the average annual increase, we find the smallest increase in circulation has been in the Adult Services Department, and that 90% of the 12,000 increase was gained in the circulation of children's books.

Why has adult circulation failed to keep pace with that of previous years? To answer this question, one may point to a number of reasons, among them the lack of adequate facilities for parking until the last quarter of 1959. However, it is the considered opinion of the staff that adult circulation has not been up to par because of the lack of an adequate book and record stock. To remedy this situation, four courses of positive action have been planned and will be undertaken in early 1960.

First, an additional \$5,000 (approved in early 1959) will be spent on book replacements, i.e., standard works, new editions, and much-needed reference material in all non-fiction subject areas. Moreover, additional standard works of fiction will be added to our adult fiction collection. This "shot in the arm" plus the necessary weeding which will accompany it, will be linked to a continuing effort to provide current reading material.

Second, we plan to subscribe to the McNaughton Plan.

Under this system, a library may have several copies of the best-sellers on hand at the peak of demand. These several copies are returned to the jobber when the demand slackens.

The third area of concentration will be in the record collection. Here too, approximately twice as much will be spent in 1960 to re-establish a basic collection and to add new records.

The fourth course of action will be aimed at improving the physical plant itself. To boost adult circulation during the hot summer months, air-conditioning is planned for 1960.

It is to be emphasized that a book collection does not become out-dated and undesirable within a span of a few years. The "deadwood" occupying the space on our shelves has accumulated over fifty years. Now, within a short period of time, the library staff must undertake what should have been a continuing thing, namely the constant surveillance and renovation of the book stock. This is not to discount the work of those who preceded us, but simply to illustrate that it is not enough to keep abreast of currently-published, currently-demanded books.

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The major personnel change of the year 1959 came in September when our Children's Librarian, Miss Marcelée Gralapp, resigned her position to enroll as a candidate for the Master's Degree in Library Science at the University of Colorado. The position left vacant by Miss Gralapp is to be filled in February 1960 by Miss Hilda Koehler, former head of Children's Services at Freeport Memorial Library, Long Island, New York.

As indicated in the last annual report, the foundation has been stabilized by instusion grouting at a cost of \$3,500. And it is anticipated that tuck-pointing, stone-washing, patch-plastering, air-conditioning and

some painting will be accomplished on the interior and exterior of the library building during 1960.

One problem facing the administration at the beginning of 1959 and presently solved is one of adequate personnel. Our goal to replace several part-time workers with full-time assistants has been realized. However, as the use of the library by young adults increases, it becomes clear that another professional staff member must be added in the future to meet their needs.

Problems yet unsolved include the approval of a staff manual, the extension of library service to outlying areas of the city and county, and the adoption of a retirement plan for employees of this library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward A. Howard

Edward A. Howard,
Head Librarian

3 February 1960

To the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Free Public Library:
 Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to submit to you the fifty-fifth annual report for the year ending December 31, 1959.

The library has been open for reading and circulation of books for 305 days, eleven hours on week days and eight hours on Saturdays, closing Sundays and eight holidays.

CIRCULATION

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Non-fiction lent	39,578		
Fiction lent	58,204		
Total	97,782	123,831	221,613

This circulation total represents an increase of 15,047 volumes lent over 1958.

In addition to books there were 7,769 phonograph records and 5,474 magazines lent for home use.

REGISTRATION

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
December 31, 1958	6,562	1,046	7,608
Added	2,771	1,251	4,022
Withdrawn	1,873	25	1,898
December 31, 1959	7,460	2,272	9,732

BOOK STOCK

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
December 31, 1958	34,553	12,258	46,811
Added	1,682	2,050	3,732
Total	36,235	14,308	50,543
Withdrawn	2,119	877	2,996
December 31, 1959	34,116	13,431	47,547

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

I have the honor to report the following receipts and disbursements for the year ending December 31, 1959.

	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Warrants</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Maintenance Fund	\$ 874.05	\$53,506.55	\$53,506.55	\$ 874.05
Desk Collections	\$ 400.49	\$ 3,114.00	\$ 2,037.38	\$1,477.11
L. H. Perkins Memorial Fund	\$ 14.66	\$ 30.00		\$ 44.66
Virginia S. Edwards Memorial Fund	\$ 17.74	\$ 25.00	\$.90	\$ 41.84
Gardon Grovenor Memorial Fund	\$ 15.58	\$ 110.00	\$ 85.42	\$ 40.16
May Moore Memorial Fund	\$ 37.32	\$ 65.00	\$ 3.33	\$ 98.99
Jane Welch Memorial Fund	\$ 49.62	\$ 25.00	\$ 46.11	\$ 28.51
All Funds	\$1,409.46	\$56,875.55	\$55,679.69	\$2,605.32

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Mrs. A. B. Ewing
Treasurer