

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-third annual report for the year ending December 31, 1947.

The library has been open for reading and for the circulation of books 303 days, eleven hours each day, closing on the usual legal holidays.

Circulation

Adult fiction	45,394
Adult non-fiction	16,116
Juvenile fiction	11,304
Juvenile non-fiction	<u>13,507</u>
Total	86,321

Circulation by classes-Adult department

General works	792
Philosophy	671
Religion	550
Social sciences	1,259
Philology	96
Science	627
Useful arts	1,807
Fine arts	2,271
Literature	2,794
History	1,538
Biography	2,367
Travel	<u>1,344</u>
Total	16,116

	Registrations			Active 12/31/47
	Active 12/31/46	Added 1947	Withdrawn 1947	
Three year period				
Adult	3,223	1,060	0	4,283
Juvenile	1,525	409	217	<u>1,934</u>
Total				1,817
One year or less				
Student	321	702	321	702
County	126	<u>110/04</u>	<u>153/47</u>	83
Rural students	50	35	50	35
Non resident depositors	207	175	382	0
Total	<u>5,452</u>	<u>2,491</u>	<u>906</u>	<u>7,037</u>
		2,485	902	6,920
			1017	

Book Stock

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Dec. 31, 1946	29,762	7,784	37,546
Added 1947	1,175	399	1,574
Withdrawn 1947	887	384	<u>1,371</u>
Total Dec. 31, 1947	30,050	7,799	37,849
Gifts included above	172	9	181
Number of periodicals currently received			123
Number of newspapers currently received			10

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This year has presented many changes to the library. Miss Constant's resignation, which took place after 28 years of service, overshadowed all events. It was almost impossible to picture the Public Library without her gracious presence and guiding hand.

During 1947 circulation increased 3,338 over last year, for a total of 86,321 books. The shelf arrangement on the main floor has been changed to permit easier public access to the books, and to lighten the librarians' work. In the process, every book in the adult department was shifted. All adult books have been carefully reviewed and 887 have been discarded, their usefulness at an end. This is part of a continuous evaluation of the book stock, insuring a live collection and making room for more recent materials. Many books were kept in circulation through the efforts of our own repair department, 1,685 books having been serviced during the year.

Reference needs have not been neglected. The south-east room on the main floor now holds the reference collection that was formerly shelved in six separate places in the library. Periodical files from 1920 to date have been brought up from the basement, making access to them easier, while the older issues were shelved in alphabetic order in the basement.

A change that the public has welcomed is the display table where new books are on exhibit for one week, permitting all to become acquainted with the latest works and to reserve them if desired.

The robbery of the library this summer showed the danger of keeping deposit money in the library and called attention to our outmoded deposit system of registration. This has resulted in liberalized registration requirements, and eliminated the deposit system in the process. It is no longer necessary to secure the signature of a property owner before one can receive a borrowers card. Personal identification showing name and Lawrence address is now sufficient.

A disappointment to many of our regular patrons will be the extending of the numbering on our borrowers' cards, instead of using the same number series over again every third year. This was found necessary since the old system permitted two groups of cards to be in effect at the same time having the same numbers.

The promoting of reading among school children is well under way in Lawrence, thanks to our children's department working in co-operation with the Parent Teacher Association, the Lawrence Recreation Commission, the Lawrence Public Schools and the University of Kansas. This year saw the conclusion of the most successful Summer Reading Program Lawrence has ever had. That and Book Week, with its decorated store windows, school programs, library visits, and newspaper and radio publicity, were the results of Library - P.T.A. co-operation.

Story Hour! A world of enchantment to the children every Saturday morning as they listen to our storyteller, Mrs Elizabeth Smith, who is working for university credit in Social Studies. The Recreation Commission conducts a story hour at the same time every week at Woodlawn School for North Lawrence children.

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Class visits to the library have resulted in a better understanding of library facilities by the grade and junior high school students, who have been our guests this year on conducted class tours. Six junior high school classes visited us at the beginning of the school year and during Book Week nine grade school classes visited the children's room, while one third grade class has been making regular calls every other week during the 1947-1948 school year. School authorities report wonderful progress in reading and have expressed a desire to continue these visits and to include more classes.

The heating plant of the library has been improved during the year by four major improvements. The boiler was re-flued and the worm gear replaced in the stoker, resulting in more efficient operation. A hold-fire control was installed to prevent the fire from going out overnight, and two steam unit heaters have been placed in the children's room to insure a comfortable temperature even during the coldest days of the year.

The library appreciates the gifts of books and of plants and flowers that have ~~been~~ made the library more attractive. We have had an unusual number of such gifts this year. One, the Maud A. Maffet Memorial Collection was purchased with funds sent by her friends for books instead of flowers. A splendid memorial that will bring pleasure to many.

Two book reviews were given during the first part of 1947. That there have been none this winter, reflects the program of the present librarian in organizing the library into workable units for efficient service before concentration on reading projects.

The many changes that have been made are due to the splendid co-operation the library staff has given the librarian. They have shown great patience and have worked hard and long to bring about better service to the public. The librarian takes this opportunity to thank them for their wholehearted support, and to thank the local newspapers for the excellent publicity.

The librarian wishes to express his gratitude and appreciation to the Board of Directors for their encouragement, co-operation and support of the work of the library.

Ralph A. Faw Handell

Librarian