

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

I have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-third annual report for the year ending December 31, 1927.

This has been a banner year. Realizing the growing needs of our library, our Board of Directors and City Commissioners met the demands of the reading public with a levy that enabled us to make this the best year in our history. We were able to pay off the indebtedness caused by the building repairs of a year ago, purchase new equipment and add a generous sum to our book budget.

We now have 20,792 volumes on our shelves. We added last year 1431 volumes, 1232 were purchased and 199 gifts, 839 worn books were discarded. We have repaired in our library 3177 volumes.

Since we are no longer a depository for government documents, we sent our collection back to Washington. The unused Kansas documents were sent to the Kansas University Law School Library. These with a few unrecorded losses reduced our total ~~to~~ 361 volumes.

Our total issue of books has increased from 93,188 in 1926 to 108,839 with an additional 1331 books circulated from two school buildings, making a grand total of 110,170. Of these 28,371 were issued from the juvenile department. *166 daily average reading room*

The model library has been quoted as issuing 5 books per capita, our library the past year issued 7. This was done at a cost to the tax payers of .62 per capita and nine and a half cents per volume of circulation.

Neither the radio, the motor car, nor the movie has been a serious competitor as these figures show.

It is an interesting fact, and a hopeful sign to note that the great leaders in demand this year were works of non-fiction. "The Story of Philosophy", easily leading, followed closely by, "Why we Behave like Human Beings", "Microbe Hunters", and "This Believing World". It is also gratifying to know that "Elmer Gantry" while living a hectic life for a few weeks is now peacefully reposing on

the office shelf. The "Private Life of Helen of Troy" and "Sorrel and Son" were two popular books of fiction running through the year.

Among high school and grade students there has been an insistent demand for the mystery or detective story. This is also favorite literature with the university patron.

Our registration system covers a period of two years. The new period opened August 1. Since then 3488 cards have been issued. Eight hundred seventy were from the juvenile department. This is an unusually good per cent of our population to register in so short a time.

Our frequent change of registration we feel is profitable, particularly as we are a university community. It weeds out undesirable patrons as well as those who are no longer residents. This means a vast amount of routine work as new signatures must be obtained from every one. In the juvenile department the parent's signature as well as the child's is secured. Children's applications are sent home for signature before a card is issued. Miss Perkins told one little girl to take her application home and have her mother sign the name. The little girl's eyes snapped as she said, "But I know her name".

We have for some time been working with the handicap of a crowded catalog file. The purchase of a new filing case made a valuable addition to our equipment, providing the librarians with steady employment for the summer, as the fiction cards were retyped and the entire system refiled.

The librarian and treasurer will enjoy the new adding machine.

Mrs. Henley has again come to the aid of the poor tired librarian by helping to fit out our rest room. During the lunch hours on those zero days when we couldn't face the weather, we found a soft warm blanket waiting us on the couch.

Other donors of gifts are the Garden Club, Friends in Council, Ministerial Alliance, Bells Music Store, Dr. Rudolph, Mrs. A. D. Weaver, Mrs. F. M. Perkins, Mrs. A. C. Mitchell, Caryl Elsey, Misses

Helen and Mary Clarke, Mrs. Wilfred McClain, Miss Welch, Mrs. Goldsborough, Mrs. Saylor, Colonel Sears. Miss Kate Stephens and a few other authors and publishers have contributed their works. Organizations have donated periodicals.

We are now receiving currently 128 magazines and newspapers. Our circulating copies have been issued 1371 times.

The reference department under Miss Carter's able direction has tried to meet the demands of an exacting public. Questions of all sorts have been answered. We have been asked to recommend teachers, to suggest the name of a good lawyer, doctor, nurse. We have furnished information on various subjects, colds, cancers, boils and toothache. A life insurance agent haunts our pamphlet file for the latest news in the field. The Sunday School teacher studies her lessons in our reading room. High school debaters win debates after long hours of study in our reference department. Club women keep our reserve shelf filled with books for which they have made application weeks in advance.

Classes from the high school came twice for the usual instruction in the use of the library.

Our apprentice class has four members. Last year one of our apprentices carried away first honors in library science at Emporia during a high school scholarship contest. This year the local high school is giving credit for work carried by our library apprentices. As a result the girls are giving excellent services.

One member of last year's class is now a student assistant at Watson Library. Another is in charge of the Kansas City, Kansas, high school library. And the third is teacher librarian in the Valley Falls high school.

The evening hours are favorite hours with both student and desk patron. Miss Daum is giving excellent service at this time.

The children's room with Miss Perkins in charge is just as interesting and, if possible, more lively than ever. The little tot coming with mother from the kindergarten to select picture books is just as much at home as the eight grader hunting out the story of the cotton industry.

The state library convention held in Lawrence in October was a great success, according to reports from visiting librarians. Your librarian wishes to thank you for your part in making this a success, and for your loyal support at this time and during the entire year.

The work of the year could not have been so successfully accomplished without the whole hearted support of board and staff. We anticipate another year of achievement. With the increased levy for 1928 we should be able to give valuable service to the readers of Lawrence.

I thank you.