



# **Madison Free Library, Madison, Wisconsin, fortieth annual report, 1915. 40th**

Madison Free Library (Madison, Wis.)

[s.l.]: [s.n.], June 30, 1915

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/OFE7S4JH645LE9E>

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NoC-US/1.0/>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

27.1

H +  
027  
4177583  
M2459

FREE LIBRARY OF MADISON

MADISON, WISCONSIN

# MADISON FREE LIBRARY

Madison, Wisconsin

FORTIETH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
1915

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE BUREAU  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION DIVISION  
MADISON, WISCONSIN



Fortieth Annual Report

OF THE

**MADISON FREE LIBRARY**

Madison, Wisconsin

---

For the Year Ending  
June 30, 1915

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE BUREAU  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION DIVISION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

## LIBRARY BOARD

---

	Term expires
W.M. J. ANDERSON, President.....	July, 1915
R. B. DUDGEON, Vice President.....	<i>Ex officio</i>
E. O. KNEY, Secretary.....	July, 1915
F. C. BLIED .....	July, 1916
S. E. PALMER.....	July, 1916
J. G. WYNN.....	July, 1916
C. E. BUELL.....	July, 1917
MRS. B. W. JONES.....	July, 1917
H. M. LEWIS.....	July, 1917

### Standing Committees

#### BOOKS

MRS. B. W. JONES  
R. B. DUDGEON

F. A. GILMORE  
WM. J. ANDERSON

#### FINANCE

E. O. KNEY  
F. C. BLIED

H. M. LEWIS  
WM. J. ANDERSON

#### ROOMS

S. E. PALMER  
C. E. BUELL

J. G. WYNN  
WM. J. ANDERSON

### Library Staff

MARY A. SMITH, Librarian  
GEORGIA R. HOUGH, Librarian Circulating Dept.  
ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, Reference Librarian, July-Dec.  
MARY KIMBALL, Reference Librarian, Feb.-May  
ANNA A. KOSEK, Cataloguer  
H. MARJORIE BEAL, Children's Librarian  
GRACE WHARE, Assistant  
CLARA ROLFS, Assistant  
FRANCES ELLSWORTH, Sixth Ward Librarian  
RUTH RICE, High School Librarian

## REPORT OF PRESIDENT

---

MADISON, WIS., July 21, 1915.

MAYOR A. H. KAYSER, Madison, Wis.

Dear Sir:—In compliance with the law, the Board of Directors of the Madison Free Library herewith transmits to you its report for the year ending June 30, 1915, the same being the fortieth annual report of the library.

Your attention is especially invited to the fact that during the past six years the circulation of books has increased 97 per cent and the number of borrowers has increased in the same period from 12,174 to 18,341.

Respectfully submitted,

W.M. J. ANDERSON,  
*President Madison Free Library Board.*

## REPORT OF LIBRARIAN

---

*To the Board of Directors of the Madison Free Library, Madison, Wis.*

I present herewith the fortieth annual report of the Madison Free Library for the year ending June 30, 1915.

A fortieth annual report of a library seems like a decided milestone in the history of that library. It is improbable that anyone of those who listened to the reading of the first annual report had even a vision of the growth of that which they were fostering. This library, now housed in two buildings for its use only, and touching the life of men, women and children in their interests of work and pleasure, has attained its present growth by leaps and bounds, since it felt like all public libraries the call to be something more to the people of a city than a storehouse of knowledge for those already blessed with considerable knowledge. In the changes in the life of a library is realized the fact that the public library in this development must adapt itself to the demands made upon it by the people in the city it serves. This library has taken on these new functions and new methods of making books useful and has thereby evolved for itself a library life quite different from that of forty years ago.

It is only in a survey of several years' work that results can often be seen. One starts a work and records the start in an annual report, but one year is too short a time to see the full significance. Only a number of years also shows symmetrical or one sided development, for the same reason, one year many times seeing what may seem undue energy given to the inauguration of one line of work. Again members of a Library Board as well as librarians change and it is well to look back at times and see, if in spite of changes, the best plans have been continued and produced results.

For these reasons, we wish to make this report a survey of five years' work as well as one. Attention is called first to the work with children of the lower grades. What is our duty to these children, a very large proportion of whom get all their education within these years? The records of the school duplicate collection show the good

foundation work that had been done. In 1910, however, the children of grades one through five read 9,101 books, while in 1915 they read 20,848 books. This has been accomplished by furnishing books to the child for individual reading just as fast as he gains the power to read. The school teaches him the art, the library places within easy reach that which enables him to perfect that art. The library does this with a realization that this is one of its truly educational functions and its duty to at least fifty per cent of the children who never reach the higher grades in school.

During these years, the work with the children of the upper grades has not been neglected, but has not been advanced so rapidly on account of lack of funds. While the total circulation of books in the schools was 11,785 in 1910, in 1915 it has been 25,467. Before 1910, it had once reached 17,605 in 1907. In 1910 the school collection contained 2,226 books; in 1915, 5,353, but more books are needed before this collection is able to do all such a collection can do for the children of Madison.

The circulation of children's books from all departments of the library was 66,534 volumes against 37,134 of 1910, which was then the largest circulation on record. There has been then a growth of 79 per cent in the work with children.

The standard of children's books has been kept high and the children of Madison in all parts of the city have demonstrated that, if they can only get the good books they need, they will read despite the moving picture theater and other counter attractions of modern child life. No advertising methods have been used with children. A trained children's librarian, the soundest methods of interesting children in books and a larger supply of books have achieved these results.

We give first place in this report to this work with children, because we believe it one of the most fundamental parts of a modern library's work. If a community wishes a citizenship that enjoys and knows how to use books, it must furnish books to children and people to guide those children.

During the past year, the children's librarian has made 103 visits to public and parochial schools. From Nov. to March at the main library, 11 story hours were held for little children with an average attendance of 84 and total attendance of 929.

At the Sixth Ward Branch, 12 story hours were held for second and third grade children from Dec. to Mar. with an average attendance of 49 and total attendance of 596. These story hours were given by students of the Wisconsin Library School.

**LIBRARY INSTRUCTION**—The systematic instruction in the use of a library has been continued in grade eight of all public schools, St. Raphael's, St. Patrick's and Holy Redeemer parochial schools and the Wisconsin High School. The first and second year classes of the Wisconsin High were given this work also. Seventy-six talks were given by the librarian and 394 children came to the library for the work. We have now been giving this work for four years and results are becoming more and more apparent. Knowledge of book arrangement and how to use the modern library tools of catalogs and indexes is needed by the young men and women of to-day if they are truly to find their way in the public library of their time. In four years, 1,351 children have received this training and probably no work has had more tangible results. We have begun to eliminate from their library work the indefinite time wasting method of searching for information in a library and absolute dependence on a librarian. The high school librarian's report tells of the continuance of this work in high school classes.

**HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**—The past five years have seen the establishment and development of our high school branch. This branch is probably the best known feature of the Madison Free Library. It is considered one of the best types of high school library in the country. Requests for account of its establishment, organization and management have been numerous and we keep at present typewritten accounts on hand to answer such requests. It also has frequent visitors interested in this line of work. We also find it necessary to keep typewritten accounts of our library instruction work to answer requests.

**WORK WITH ADULTS**—While this rapid development of our work for children and young people has taken place, have the interests of the adult patrons of the library been neglected? In 1910, 8,262 adult readers were registered and in 1915, 12,662, a 53 per cent increase. Increase in all registration has been steady until now it takes one half of the time of one assistant to attend to this work. In 1910, 79,150 adult books were read and in 1915, 106,951. In 1910, 20,371 volumes were non-fiction and in 1915, 36,243, or a change from 26 to 34 per cent. One of the most interesting growths of the library has been the steady increase of circulation from the main desk.

**TOTAL 1915 CIRCULATION**—The total circulation the past year has been the largest recorded, 173,485 and including High School 186,631. The table at the end of the report shows its distribution

in the different departments of the library. All departments showed some increase except the Sixth Ward branch.

**SIXTH WARD BRANCH**—The Sixth Ward branch has developed in the use of the assembly rooms the past year. The branch librarian gives the following account of such use: "Activities of educational and recreational value varied enough in scope to interest all who were carried on in the auditorium of the library evenings during the winter months with very satisfactory results. Classes in mechanical drawing, millinery and dressmaking were offered by the Continuation School Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30. Miss Marie L'Hommedieu organized a group of camp fire girls who met Tuesday evening and the fine spirit evinced by this group of twenty young girls reflected great credit on the earnest work of the guardian. As it was impossible to find a hall suitable for basket ball and indoor sports of similar nature, light gymnastic drill and social and folk dancing were offered to two groups under suitable conductors. Miss Dolan of the Continuation School and Miss Cohun of the University took charge of young women Thursday evening and Miss Anita Pleuss and Miss Bodman from Miss Trilling's class in physical culture at the University of a similar group of young men Saturday evening. Both classes were purely recreational and much enjoyed."

The circulation from the branch has slightly decreased, but is probably more a matter of record than use.

**WORK WITH CONTINUATION SCHOOL**—The reference librarian carried on with the Continuation School classes, both adult and young people, a series of talks on books along lines of their class work. Twenty-four talks were given and 9 book lists were made and distributed. Books were taken to the school and distributed by the teachers in the permit classes. Much co-operation was given by the teachers in the school and the results in books read were gratifying.

**OTHER VISITS AND EXHIBITS**—The 4C Business college was visited by librarian and a talk on the library given and later lists of books on business training were distributed.

During the past year on request, an account of the relation of schools and library in Madison, illustrated by pictures, was prepared for the Wisconsin Department of Education and during the past month a similar exhibit has been furnished to the Bureau of Education at Washington.

**BOOK ACCOUNT**—The book account record, Table I, shows we have made a net gain of 1,989 volumes, not a large gain when we consider the increased demands made upon us.

The income from the Pinney fund invested in reference books begins to make itself apparent on the shelves of the reference room. The additions the past year have been as follows:

Askew—Pros and Cons.

Baldwin—Dictionary of philosophy, 4 vols.

Edwards—Dictionary of non-classical mythology.

Field—Poems.

Hopkins—Scientific American cyclopedia of formulae.

McLaughlin & Hart—Cyclopedia of American government, 3 vols.

McSpadden—Opera synopses.

Melitz—Opera goer's complete guide.

Merriam—Civil engineer's pocket book.

Monroe—Cyclopedia of education, 4 vols.

Rand McNally—Library atlas, new ed. 2 vols.

Riley—Complete works, 6 vols.

Schaff-Herzog—Encyclopedia of religious knowledge, 13 vols.

Walsh—Heroes and heroines of fiction.

Webster—New International dictionary, new ed., 2 copies.

From the income of the Steensland fund, a beginning has been made for a collection of books in the Norwegian language.

The Twentieth Century Educational Club has presented to the library a collection of Yiddish books.

Many gifts of magazines have been received and grateful acknowledgement is made the donors.

**SUNDAY LECTURES**—No Sunday lectures were held at the Branch library on account of the occupation of the rooms by the equipment of the Continuation School and the other lines of work being done. At the main library, the occasional lecture plan was tried, and the following speakers gave their services.

Prof. M. H. Haertel—A trip in Germany—Summer of 1914.

Mr. C. H. Crownhart—The workman's compensation act.

Prof. R. T. Ely—New Zealand.

Prof. E. R. Maurer—Airships and aeroplanes

The Madison Horticultural Society has held its meetings regularly at the library and has presented many interesting speakers in illustrated lectures. 111 different meetings have been held in the main library building with a number of small committee meetings of which no record was kept.

**TABLES OF STATISTICS**—The tables at the end of the report give the usual statistics for this library. They show the 1915 growth in different lines of library work.

The newspapers of the city have been generous in space given items of library interest, as they always have been in the past.

**STAFF**—A few changes in the staff occurred during the year. Miss Carol Shaw resigned to enter the library school and Miss Grace Whare was appointed to fill the position. Miss Clara Rolfs was engaged as summer substitute for two months and remained as regular assistant. Miss Elizabeth Williams was called home by illness in January and her place was taken by Miss Mary Kimball. Miss Stella Baskerville and Miss Florence Day served as apprentices for six months. To all the staff in their desire to give the most and best of service is appreciation due.

**THE FUTURE**—After we have looked back over several years' development of a library, we naturally look forward. We feel the usefulness of the library is built on sound principles of development that will serve also for the future. Whatever has been accomplished has been done by exercise of every economy of funds and service. With exception of funds that have been given for maintenance of Sixth Ward branch and High School branch, the main fund has remained stationary while the work has increased 32 per cent and with the branch 49 per cent, judged by circulation alone. That future growth and increased usefulness will come, we do not doubt. How we can meet it without increased resources for books and a larger staff, we sometimes wonder.

Respectfully submitted,  
MARY A. SMITH,  
Librarian.

## HIGH SCHOOL BRANCH REPORT

---

Sixteen reference lists used in former years were revised for use this year and fifteen new lists were prepared jointly by the librarian and the teachers. Some of the material included in these lists was brought to the High School from the main library. Besides the books which were borrowed from the main library, of which number no record was kept, 500 pamphlets and pictures were borrowed for the use of teachers and pupils.

The number of pupils and teachers using the library each of the seven periods of the school day averaged thirty. With crowding, the library seats forty-three people and there were many periods when pupils wishing to study in the library were unable to do so because there was not room for them. The room is at present being enlarged. Pupils read and studied in the library before and after school and during the noon hour, but no record of this attendance was kept.

Instruction in the use of the library was given in the twenty-eight freshman and sophomore English classes. Each class met five times, making a total of 140 classes taught. 580 pupils, 303 freshmen and 282 sophomores received the instruction. This includes the freshmen at the Randall school. The instruction given was practically the same as that given last year.

A thirty-eight per cent increase over the circulation of last year has been made this year. 13,146 books and pamphlets were drawn for use over night. The books in the library circulated on an average four times each. This does not include the books for outside reading in English which are kept at the main library and circulate from there. Seventy-four pupils and teachers, on the average, drew one book from the library each evening. The largest number of persons drawing books any one evening was 189.

During the Easter vacation, the pamphlet collection was revised, useless material being eliminated, and the collection brought up to date and catalogued. Articles clipped from back numbers of maga-

zines which come to the High School library are being made into pamphlets for this collection.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica and the Century Dictionary were valuable additions to the reference collection this year.

Volumes in library July 1, 1914.....	2,450
Added by gift.....	50
Added by purchase.....	656
	_____
	706
Withdrawn .....	37
Volumes in library July 1, 1915.....	3,119

RUTH RICE,  
High School Librarian.

TABLE I  
Book Account, 1914-15

	Main Library	Sixth Ward Branch	High School Branch	School Collection	Total
No. of vols. July 1, 1914	25,011	2,211	1,281	4,287	32,790
Additions:					
By purchase .....	1,090	310	656	1,151	3,207
By gift .....	168	47	...	...	215
Other sources .....	401	52	...	...	453
Total .....	1,659	409	656	1,151	3,875
Withdrawals .....	654	125	22	85	886
No. of vols. July 1, 1915	26,016	2,495	1,915	5,353	35,779

TABLE II  
Rent Collection, 1914-15

<b>Main Library—</b>			
No. of volumes July 1, 1914.....	...		337
Additions .....	230		...
Withdrawals .....	285		...
No. of volumes July 1, 1915.....	...		282
<b>Sixth Ward Branch—</b>			
No. of volumes July 1, 1914.....	...		10
Additions .....	27		...
Withdrawals .....	15		...
No. of volumes July 1, 1915.....	...		22
Circulation of rent books at main library.....	...		5,339
Circulation of rent books at branch library.....	...		255
<b>Total .....</b>	...		5,594

TABLE III  
Circulation Statistics, 1914-15

	Main Library		Sixth Ward Branch		Stations		School Collection	Total
	A	C	A	C	A	C	C	
Periodicals—Bound .....	163	31	15	6	....	....	....	215
Periodicals—Current .....	3,735	349	1,665	67	978	....	....	6,794
General works .....	71	....	....	....	....	....	....	71
Philosophy .....	1,108	3	29	1	9	....	....	1,150
Religion .....	1,091	324	28	130	4	10	367	1,954
Sociology .....	3,072	199	89	43	9	7	339	3,758
Language .....	178	4	5	4	1	1	....	193
Science .....	1,380	1,028	126	449	4	51	1,762	4,800
Useful arts .....	2,360	719	308	417	13	27	212	4,056
Fine arts .....	2,934	537	363	226	25	14	61	4,160
Literature .....	6,048	1,172	276	604	9	84	2,884	11,077
Biography .....	2,166	629	119	256	17	28	927	4,142
Travel .....	2,065	1,151	135	459	42	43	1,791	5,686
History .....	2,557	1,980	115	740	17	76	2,702	8,187
Fairy tales .....	....	3,640	....	1,284	....	216	4,919	10,059
French .....	33	....	....	....	....	....	....	33
German .....	1,078	....	283	....	11	....	....	1,372
Norwegian .....	270	....	231	....	....	....	....	501
Yiddish .....	11	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
Music .....	718	....	....	....	....	....	....	718
Pamphlets .....	279	....	....	....	....	....	....	279
Fiction .....	49,701	16,124	9,988	7,368	5,425	566	9,503	98,675
Rent books .....	5,339	....	255	....	....	....	....	5,594
Total.....	86,357	27,890	14,030	12,054	6,564	1,123	25,467	173,485

TABLE III  
Circulation Statistics, 1914-15 (continued)

Total adult circulation.....	106,951
Total children's circulation.....	66,534
High School branch.....	13,146
Grand total .....	186,631
Percentage of fiction adult and children.....	60
Percentage of children's books circulated.....	38
No. of days main library was open for circulation.....	307
Average daily circulation—Main library.....	372
Average daily circulation—Branch library.....	84
Largest monthly circulation—Main library, March.....	11,593
Largest monthly circulation—Branch library, June.....	2,729
Smallest monthly circulation—Main library, September.....	7,857
Smallest monthly circulation—Branch library, July.....	1,678
No. of pictures circulated.....	8,124
Circulation of books on teachers' cards.....	1,399
No. of Sundays main library was open.....	35
No. of people using library on Sunday.....	1,983

TABLE IV  
Registration 1914-15

	Adult	Children	Total
No. of borrowers July 1, 1914.....	11,931	5,626	17,557
Additions:			
New borrowers .....	1,738	646	2,384
Re-registrations .....	741	246	987
Transferred from children's room..	246	.....	246
Summer borrowers, 1914.....	118	10	128
Deposit borrowers .....	58	.....	58
Total .....	2,901	902	3,803
Withdrawals:			
Cards expired—Re-registered .....	741	246	987
Cards expired—Not re-registered..	1,130	333	1,463
Transferred to adult department..	.....	246	246
Summer borrowers, 1914.....	118	10	128
Deposit borrowers repaid.....	43	...	43
Cards cancelled .....	138	14	152
Total .....	2,170	849	3,019
No. of borrowers July 1, 1915.....	12,662	5,679	18,341

TABLE V

Financial Statement, 1914-15

Unexpended balance July 1, 1914. .... \$5,962.30

Receipts:

City appropriation	12,750.00
Wisconsin Library Commission Rooms	340.46
Rent of rooms	165.00
Postals	14.91
New cards	17.35
Lost books	47.75
Fines	653.81
Waste paper sold	28.61
Subscriptions	33.00
Sixth Ward branch	76.74
From Rent Book fund	200.00
Other sources	4.94
	————— \$20,294.87

Expenditures:

Main library:

Books	\$1,725.47
Supplies and printing	287.65
Salaries	5,122.98
Furniture	35.50
Binding	742.85
Repairs and improvements	204.44
Periodicals	327.41
Janitor service	1,155.50
Fuel	1,037.01
Light	401.60
Insurance	170.10
Janitor and toilet supplies	65.24
Express, freight, dray, postage	168.91
Miscellaneous	70.95
	————— 11,515.61

**Sixth Ward Branch:**

Books .....	\$245.15
Supplies .....	2.38
Salaries .....	610.40
Binding .....	67.50
Repairs .....	28.40
Periodicals .....	78.25
Janitor service .....	121.30
Heat .....	292.20
Light .....	89.34
Janitor and toilet supplies.....	8.61
Dray and postage.....	14.27
Miscellaneous .....	34.86
	1,592.66

**High School Branch:**

Books .....	752.40
Supplies .....	22.73
Salary .....	660.00
Binding .....	25.40
Periodicals .....	66.95
Express .....	.45
	1,527.93
Unexpended balance July 1, 1915.....	5,658.67
	\$20,294.87



