



Annual report of the Madison Free Library for the year ending June Thirtieth, Nineteen Two. [27th]

Madison Free Library (Madison, Wis.)

Madison, Wis.: The Madison Press, June 30, 1902

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Annual Report of the Madison
Free Library for the Year
ending June Thirtieth, Nineteen
Two * * * Madison, Wisconsin

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MADISON FREE LIBRARY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
JUNE THIRTIETH, NINETEEN TWO

MADISON, WIS.
1902



Library Board, 1901-2.

E. A. BIRGE, President.

H. M. LEWIS, Vice-President.

F. W. HALL, Secretary.

F. K. CONOVER. R. B. DUDGEON. F. A. HUTCHINS.

J. H. CORSCOT. F. H. EDSELL. E. O. KNEY.

W. A. P. MORRIS.

STANDING COMMITTEES, 1901-2.

BOOKS.

F. W. HALL.

F. K. CONOVER.

R. B. DUDGEON.

E. A. BIRGE.

ROOMS.

W. A. P. MORRIS. F. H. EDSELL. F. A. HUTCHINS.

FINANCE.

H. M. LEWIS.

J. H. CORSCOT.

E. O. KNEY.

BERTHA M. BROWN, Librarian.

GEORGIA R. HOUGH, Librarian Circulating Dep't.

MADISON, Wis., August 21, 1902.

To His Honor, Mayor J. W. Groves, City:

Dear Sir:

I submit herewith the report of the Madison Free Library for the year ending July 1, 1902. The report of the Librarian, Miss Bertha M. Brown, contains the record of the work of the Library during the past year. The year has been one marked by rapid improvement and by a great development, both of the work and efficiency of the Library. To this increased efficiency the large and more generous appropriation made by the city council to the Library support has been an important element. While this increase discloses a greater interest in the Library itself on the part of the city, it has also enabled the directors to put the Library in a condition to meet greatly increased demands laid upon it. The Library now holds a much more important place in the thought of the citizens, and will soon, under the generous and liberal policy of the council, become an object of pride as well as an important factor in city progress.

A word of acknowledgment and appreciation is due to Miss Bertha M. Brown, the librarian for the past year. Her energy, tact, patience and perseverance has resulted in a new organization of library work and rendered effective this larger expenditure of money which the increased appropriation has made possible. Mention should also be made of the valuable assistance rendered by Miss Georgia Hough, Librarian of the Circulating Department. Her long connection with the Library and her extensive acquaintance with the public has enabled her to be of special and helpful service.

During the past year, also, came the notice of the gift of Mr. Carnegie, on which I need not enlarge at this time. The

erection of the new library building, to which we may look forward in the immediate future, will bring with it an added efficiency and an increase of the usefulness of the institution to the citizens of Madison.

Very respectfully yours,

E. A. BIRGE,

President.

To the Board of Directors of the Madison Free Library:

Herewith is submitted the annual report of the Librarian for the year ending June 30, 1902.

The past year has been a very satisfactory one in many respects. The library rooms have been remodeled, a childrens' department established, and the staff increased. All of which has made it possible to put in operation many plans which have long been contemplated.

It has always been the policy of our library to keep in close touch with the life of the town, and our future success will be in reaching out in all departments to meet the needs of all classes of citizens. As a means to this end, the Library has given special attention to the books on Electricity. A number of new books were bought from a list compiled by Mr. Burgess of the University, and Mr. Burgess was asked by the Board to give a talk on the relative values of electrical books. Invitations were sent out to the electrical plants, and the responses showed the interest of the men. A special alcove with study tables has been given to these books, and it has been much used. This work is to be continued during the coming year by a course in Electricity to be given by members of the University faculty.

With the prospect of a new Library building and added facilities for serving the public, the Library has a bright future.

Following this will be found a fuller report of the various departments, and at the end of the report will be found tables of statistics showing circulation of books and growth of the Library.

Improvements.

During the past year much needed alterations have been made in the Library rooms.

In the book rooms the high stacks were cut down and the one long alcove built over into four shallow alcoves, which are lighter and much easier of access. The railings were taken down and the loan desk moved, giving the public freer access to the fiction shelves.

In the reading room the old tables with sloping tops were fitted with flat tops, and magazine and newspaper racks have been added.

A periodical and study room has been arranged also at the end of the reading room.

With these changes and a fresh coat of kalsomine and paint, the rooms present such an attractive and convenient appearance that the new building can be waited for with much patience.

Reading Room.

It is safe to say that in no other city of this size is there as large an attendance in the reading room of the public Library. Situated—as it is—in the heart of the city, the reading room is a convenient place for all. It is open daily from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M., and on Sunday from 2 to 6 P. M. The number of magazines and newspapers regularly on file is 94, besides which a number are given and appear irregularly.

Rent Collection.

With the increasing number of books published, it is impossible to supply the immediate demand for new books.

To meet this emergency, many public libraries have started what is known as a “rent collection” of books. Extra copies of the popular books on the library shelves are bought and rented for a small fee. As soon as the books

have been rented long enough to pay for themselves, they are put into the regular library.

In March the Library Board decided to try such a plan in this library.

The collection has been added to gradually until we have, July 1st, 132 books at a cost of \$126.10.

A fee of five cents a week was decided on, and \$75 has so far been collected.

The plan has met with great success. Many of the patrons of the Library have been glad to be able to rent copies of the popular books. And those not renting books are also benefited; they have so much better chance of getting the copies on the regular shelves.

Childrens' Department.

The most important work undertaken this year by the Library was the establishing of a separate department for children. The room facing on Wisconsin avenue, heretofore used as a storeroom and catalog room was taken for this purpose. With a new floor, put in by the city at their expense, freshly tinted walls and low book-cases, this old room has been turned into one of the most attractive of Childrens' Rooms.

The work with the children could not have started with the same spirit and enthusiasm if it had not, from the first, met with the greatest help and interest of the common council, the Woman's Club and the citizens. Money, books, pictures and furniture were generously contributed, showing the interest of the public in the childrens' work. The value of the work is shown in the few months that the room has been open, and the interest and value of the room will increase as each year goes by.

In the Childrens' Room our boys and girls become familiar with books, learn to use them as tools, and to depend

upon them to make clear some of the problems that come to them in work and play. Besides the familiarity with books, the room does more; it trains the child to be a good citizen; there he is taught to be careful of public property, and to respect the rights of others.

Cleanliness and order is the rule. The child is treated with the same respect and courtesy which is expected from him in return. A number of exhibits have added to the interest of the children, and the use of the magic lantern in showing bird pictures has been greatly enjoyed.

Work With the Schools.

The support and co-operation of the schools is one of the most important parts of work with the children. The teacher can aid the Librarian in interesting the children and in presenting their needs, and the Librarian can do much to supplement the work of the teacher. Books can be sent to the school-room bearing on the subject of greatest importance; the separate rooms can be invited to visit the Library to examine special books, and exhibits can be made to interest teacher and child alike.

Our Library Board recognized the need of this close sympathy which should exist between the school and the Library, and in October, 1901, school circulating libraries were sent out to all the graded schools in the city, and to one of the parochial schools. These libraries contain from 20 to 40 books each, and are made up of a collection of books bought for the purpose and duplicates of books on the regular shelves in the Childrens' Room. The libraries have been changed every two or three months, according to the grade, the books in the higher grades being changed oftener than those in the lower grades. Each room has been visited several times, and talks given to the children about the books and their care.

For the circulation, care of the books and sympathetic interest much credit is due to the Superintendent of Schools and the teachers of the city, without whose aid the work could not have been carried on with such successful results. Recognition is also due Miss Edna Lyman, under whose efficient direction the work was organized.

All the work with the children—in the Childrens' Room and in the schools—is still in its infancy. Permanent branches with reading rooms will become a necessity, and much time and strength will be needed to bring the benefits of a free circulation of good books within the reach of every child in the community.

BERTHA M. BROWN.

BOOK ACCOUNT.

Additions.

Number of books in library at beginning of fiscal year.....	18 281
Number added by purchase.....	1 887
Gift.....	165

Total additions for fiscal year.....	2 052

Withdrawals.

Number of books condemned.....	1 873
Books lost by borrowers.....	6
Of this number 2 were paid for.	

Total withdrawals for fiscal year.....	1 879
Number of volumes in the library.....	18 454

BINDING.

Number of books rebound.....	1 333
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CIRCULATION STATISTICS.

	FROM MAIN LIBRARY.	
CLASSES.	Adults.	Children.
{ Philosophy.....	750	327
{ Religion.....		
Sociology	611	51
Natural science.....	719	1 228
Useful arts.....	431	199
Fine arts.....	853	299
Literature	2 946	937
Travel	1 088	635
History	1 506	836
Biography.....	1 462	388
Fiction	41 699	17 021
{ German books.....	1 374	
{ French books.....		
Total...	53 439	21 921

Number of days library has been open for circulation.....	306
Average daily circulation.....	240
Largest daily circulation.....	628
Smallest daily circulation.....	85
Smallest weekly circulation.....	1 054
Increase in circulation of books for adults.....	3 227
In what class is the gain largest.....	Biography
Number of volumes in the renting collection of duplicates.....	132

Circulation from this collection	1 500
Cost of the collection.....	\$126 10
Income from the collection	\$75 00

WORK WITH SCHOOLS.

Number of visits to schools made by librarian.....	105
talks given in school rooms by librarian.....	35
books circulated through the schools.....	8 556

FINANCE.

Receipts.

Unexpended balance	\$ 972 56
City appropriation	5 200 00
Gifts	445 00
Fines	173 47
Lost and injured books	1 40
Fees from non-residents	1 00
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Total receipts.....	\$6 793 43

Expenditures.

Salaries	\$2 925 71
Repairs and improvements	377 30
Furniture and fixtures.....	276 80
{ Printing.....	153 82
{ Stationery and catalog supplies	
Books.....	2 523 60
Periodicals	196 25
Binding	568 63
Insurance	75 00
Miscellaneous.....	127 88

SUMMARY TABLE.

Number of volumes in the library.....	18 454
Total circulation during the fiscal year.....	74 916
Total receipts for the fiscal year.....	\$6 793 43
expenditure for the fiscal year.....	\$7 224 99

GIFTS TO CHILDRENS' ROOM.

Madison Woman's Club.....	\$100 00
Madison Woman's Club.....	200 00
Mr. Halle Steensland.....	100 00
Mrs. S. U. Pinney	25 00
Mr. Romanzo Bunn.....	10 00
Mr. G. B. Burrows	10 00

FURNITURE.

Mr. W. W. Warner.....	Piano
Mr. J. H. Findorff.....	Case for new books
Mr. F. A. Averbeck	3 bas-relief (in plaster)
Miss Mary McGovern's Shakespeare class.....	Picture
Mrs. Romanzo Bunn	Picture
Mr. H. M. Lewis.....	Picture
Mrs. A. L. Averill.....	Picture
Mrs. E. A. Birge.....	Picture
Master George Willoughby	Picture
Mrs. W. F. Allen.....	Picture

BOOKS.

American Book Company.....	5 books
Attic Angel Association.....	85 books
Mrs. H. W. Chynoweth.....	
Current numbers of Youths Companion and Frank Leslie	

