

## **Annual report of Librarian of the Wausau Free Public Library 1908.**

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# Annual Report of Librarian

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Wausau, Wis., July 1., 1908.—  
To Mr. L. Marchetti, president, and  
the board of directors of the Wau-  
sau Free Public library:

I have the honor of submitting  
the eleventh annual report of the  
library for the fiscal year ending  
June 30, 1908.

This year has been an important  
one in the library's history as it is  
the first year in our new building.  
The statistical record at the close  
of this report will show the close  
some increase in circulation of books  
compared with the previous year in  
the old building—due no doubt to  
our beautiful new home and also  
to the frequent additions to the  
number of books.

## Reading and Reference Room.

Our well lighted reading and ref-  
erence room has drawn many vis-  
itors. Our reading tables are well  
supplied with the best current mag-  
azines and our stock of back files  
of magazines have been added to  
making reference work with high  
school debaters and club workers  
much more efficient. There is no  
way of keeping an accurate record  
of the amount of reference work  
done and yet it is here that the

most effective library service is ac-  
complished.

## Children's Department.

The children's shelves at the be-  
ginning of the year resembled those  
of old Mother Hubbard and the few  
books that we had were ragged and  
dirty. In September \$100 was spent  
for children's books and during the  
year a large percentage of the book  
fund has been devoted to this de-  
partment. As the children consti-  
tute more than fifty per cent. of  
our readers their wants must be  
supplied.

In January a story hour was in-  
augurated for the children of the  
third and fourth grades. One  
school at a time was invited, the  
average attendance being 48 and the  
total 487. The object of the story  
hour is to interest the child in class-  
es of literature that he may not be  
attracted to if left to himself, to  
give him a good time, and to win  
his confidence that you may guide  
his reading. That the story hour  
was a success was shown by the  
fact that the books containing stor-  
ies told were always in circulation  
—many of the children waiting their  
turn for these books. The Norse

and Greek myths were the basis for these stories with now and then a good old classical fairy tale for pure pleasure.

#### **Work With Schools.**

Teachers are given the special privilege of drawing ten or more books to use as long as necessary in their school work. Our meager supply of children's books at the opening of the school year made it necessary to limit the number to ten. Next year it will be possible to allow more books to each teacher. At the beginning of the year a circular letter was sent to the principals in the various schools stating the library's resources and the privileges granted to teachers. Fifty-four of the teachers have availed themselves of these privileges.

During the winter the librarian gave a talk to the high school on the use of the library, its catalog and indexes. Brief talks were also given to the fifth and sixth grades of five of the ward schools. Application blanks were left with the teachers and so many children flocked in "to start the library" that our shelves were empty and the complete round of the schools had to be given up.

Two hundred of the Hood geographical views and 190 of the Singer Sewing machine views of the United States together with a lot of Perry pictures were mounted in the fall and have been loaned to the teachers for school use.

#### **Exhibits.**

During the year the library has had the fish exhibit of the Beloit library and the silk and silk worm exhibit of the Belding Silk company. Both were very interesting and instructive and attracted many visitors.

#### **Library School Students.**

In February and March the library had the free services of two Wisconsin Library school students, Miss Harwood and Miss True. Both did good work in re-cataloging.

#### **Catalog.**

Both the children's and the adult catalogs have been thoroughly revised during the year—subject cards have been added and a great deal of analytical work done.

#### **Publicity Work.**

We have tried to keep the people informed in regard to library hours, new books and library resources. Large cards stating the library hours have been placed in the street cars and in the railway stations. The press has extended every courtesy to the library and library items have been a regular feature in the daily paper.

In closing this report, I wish to express my appreciation to the library board for their support and co-operation.

Respectfully submitted,

KATHERINE CRAMER,  
Librarian.

## STATISTICS.

### Accessions.

Books in library, August 1, 1907 .....	4,262
Books purchased during the year .....	1,310
Books added by binding .....	14
Books added by gift .....	8
Books withdrawn during the year .....	464
Number of volumes in library, June 30, 1908 .....	5,130

### Borrowers.

Re-registration was begun in June, 1907.

No. of borrowers July 1, 1907 .....	568
No. of new borrowers registered during the year .....	2,544
Cards withdrawn during the year .....	39
No. of cards in force, June 30, 1908 .....	3,073

### Circulation by Classes.

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Current periodicals .....	601		601
Philosophy and religion .....	198	541	739
Sociology .....	361	2,371	2,732
Natural Science .....	306	1,285	1,591
Useful Arts .....	272	519	791
Fine Arts .....	312	164	476
Literature .....	625	3,435	4,060
History .....	434	1,300	1,734
Travel .....	369	2,014	2,383
Biography .....	447	268	715
Fiction .....	19,171	13,610	32,781
German books .....	1,882		1,882
Norwegian books .....	278		278
Polish and Bohemian books .....	192		192
Total .....	25,448	25,507	50,955

Largest daily circulation .....	540
Average daily circulation .....	166
Largest monthly circulation, February .....	6,569
Books issued to adults .....	25,448
Books issued to children .....	25,507
Total number of books issued .....	50,955
Books issued last year .....	24,225
Gain in circulation .....	26,730