



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

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Annual Report of Librarian

Wausau, Wis., July 1., 1908.—
To Mr. L. Marchetti, president, and
the board of directors of the Wausau
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 hand-
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 reference room has drawn many visitors. Our reading tables are well supplied with the best current magazines 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 accomplished.

Children's Department.

The children's shelves at the beginning 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 department. As the children constitute more than fifty per cent. of our readers their wants must be supplied.

In January a story hour was inaugurated 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 classes 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 stories 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