

Annual Report 1953

## Lawrence Free Public Library

Lawrence, Kansas

To the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Free Public

LIBRARY:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to submit to you the forty-ninth annual

reports for the year ending December 31, 1953.

The library has been open for reading and circulation of  
books 304 days, eleven hours each day, closing on the usual  
local holidays.

## CIRCULATION

Adult fiction	43,082		
Adult non-fiction	21,249	-	63,341
Juvenile fiction	42,383		
Juvenile non-fiction	7,733		59116
Total	113,447		

## NON-FICTION BY CLASSES

General	1,067		
Philosophy	783		
Religion	1,046*		
Social Sciences	3,073*		
Languages	183		
Science	1,349		
Useful arts	3,957*		
Fine arts	4,037*		
Literature	5,1574*		
History	2,771*		
Biography	4,478		
Travel	1,930		
Pamphlets	133		
Total	26,962		

\*Increase of 100 or more over 1952.

## REGISTRATION

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
December 31, 1952	4,310	1,473	5,682
Added	1,946	868	2,814
Withdrawn	1,780	453	2,233
December 31, 1953	4,376	1,717	6,093

## BOOK STOCK

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
December 31, 1952	35,437	9,580	42,997
Added by purchase	1,560	1,364	2,730
Added by gift	75	34	99
Total	34,978	10,948	43,826
Lost or withdrawn	1,273	999	2,272
December 31, 1953	33,605	9,949	43,554

Lawrence Free Public Library  
Lawrence, Kansas

To the Honorable Mayor and the Commission of Lawrence,  
Kansas.  
Gentlemen:

We herewith respectfully submit the forty-ninth annual report of the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Free Public Library for the year ending December 31, 1953.

MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance  
Receipts  
Warrants

\$ 864.03  
24,380.00

Library Maintenance

Salaries	\$14,852.98
Books	3,900.23
Periodicals	480.35
Binding	283.70
Library supplies	1,002.85
	<b>\$20,520.11</b>

Building Maintenance

Janitor's salary	\$1,948.80
Bldg. supplies	244.23
Repairs & Equip.	271.97
Utilities	943.74
Insurance	360.16
Miscellaneous	89.24
	<b>3,858.14</b>

Balance

865.78

**\$25,244.03**      **\$25,244.03**

DESK COLLECTIONS  
(Fines & Gifts)

Balance	\$ 484.39
Receipts	1,960.99
Warrants	
Balance	<b>\$1,966.48</b>
	478.90
	<b>\$2,445.38</b>

Balance	\$ 118.00
Receipts	25.00
Warrants	
Balance	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
	143.00
	<b>\$ 143.00</b>

VIRGINIA S. EDWARDS MEMORIAL FUND

Balance	\$ 126.37
Receipts	25.00
Warrants	
Balance	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
	151.37
	<b>\$ 151.37</b>

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GORDON GROSVENOR MEMORIAL FUND

Balance	\$ 216.67
Receipts	100.00
Warrants	
Balance	\$ 316.67

MARY MOORE MEMORIAL FUND

Balance	\$ 113.94
Receipts	69.64
Warrants	
Balance	\$ 183.58

JANE WELCH MEMORIAL FUND

Balance	\$ 62.50
Receipts	25.00
Warrants	
Balance	\$ 87.50

ALL FUNDS

Balance	\$ 1,985.90
Receipts	26,525.63
Warrants	
Balance	\$ 28,511.53

President

Secretary

Lawrence Free Public Library  
Lawrence, Kansas

## CIRCULATION

The circulation of books reached its highest point since 1940 at which time 118,000 books were circulated. The largest increase was in the use of children's books which rose nearly 9,000 over the preceding year. This rise was in spite of heavy competition for a child's limited time and reflects a healthy trend which, as far as can be immediately determined, is purely local. (To your librarian this means that adults are kidding themselves when they say they got the TV set for the kiddies!) In addition to books, 1089 children dropped in for the regular Saturday morning story hours. A new feature of this hour has been the using of phonograph records with the stories.

Adult fiction took a downward turn while the use of factual materials rose appreciably. The sharpest rises were in the fields of history (people are very much concerned about our times), useful arts (father's becoming a little more handy around the house) and fine arts (the old masters are being joined by a few new ones).

We further note that these books are being read by more people since the number of registered borrowers has increased by roughly 5%.

## FINANCES

Library service cost the people of Lawrence slightly more than \$1.00 for every thousand dollars of taxable property owned. On a per person basis (not including students) the figure is \$1.27 plus. This figure still falls short of the American Library Association standard of \$1.50 per person for minimum service.

The big thing in the financial program was the matter of increasing staff salaries which, in years past, have been taking mincing steps beside the giant strides of the cost of living. This has resulted in bettering the position of the present staff as well as for the staff of the future.

In the transferring of funds necessary for these salary adjustments, the maintenance of the building was allowed to slide. This fact coupled with an extremely dry year means that the 50-year-old section of the library building has some aches and pains which need some attention. A survey of the building for immediate needs as well as those which can be met with another year's budget is in order.

## GIFTS

Many organizations and individuals have come to the library bearing gifts. Two garden clubs made contributions to the library's holdings of books for those who would putter around the pots and posies. These were the Lawrence Flower Club and the Home Garden Club. The Sons and Daughters of New England saw to it that new books concerning their ancestral neck of the woods were added. The library's section on Abraham Lincoln grew more in proportion with the man when the Round Table presented the Library with "The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln."

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friends and relatives of Mrs. W. E. Koehring contributed to a fund for the express purpose of buying additional children's books for the children of Lawrence in her memory.

The American Association of University Women sparked a fund raising campaign for the purpose of establishing a record library. At the year's end enough had been realized through contributions made by eight organizations and individuals so that steps could be taken for the procurement of records and equipment toward this end.

THANKS

The librarian appreciates the continued support of a grand Board of Directors and a fine staff. If progress can be reported at this or any other time, it is due to these two factors. Those people making up the Board are these:

President	Harold G. Barr
Vice-pres.	Mrs. R. C. Manley
Sec-Treas.	Mrs. Marie D. Pendleton
	Richard A. Barber
	Max Wilhelm
	Kelvin Hoover
	W. D. Wolfe

The staff is made up of these people:

Asst librarian	Francis Carter
Children's Lib'n	Bessie Daum
Cataloger	Helen Osma
Parttimers	Nancy Jo Smith
	Bob Harper
Janitor	Ivan C. Bowers

BUQUEETS

To Miss Bessie Daum who has kept the children's room humming with the activities of happy children. Those murmur one can hear in the background are those of their parents who are very happy, too.