

Library copy

REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Thirty-fifth annual report of the Board of Directors of the Public Library of the City of Decatur, Illinois
To the Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen:

Herewith we submit the annual report of the librarian of the Decatur Public Library, together with a statement of the receipts and disbursements during the year ending May 31, 1910.

We are pleased to report that there is a constantly growing interest of the public in good books. We have continued our policy of branch libraries at three of the ward schools viz: Durfee, Roach, and Jackson street. By this means many children who are not accessible to the library building can have books. This has stimulated a greater interest among the people in these localities.

It is gratifying to report that the number of books in the library has passed the 30,000 mark.

This Board has been greatly pleased at the interest taken in Decatur's great store house of knowledge by the Mayor and Council. We should welcome any member of your body at the meetings of this Board held at the library building at 4:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. We desire to express our special appreciation of a pleasant visit by Mayor Borchers at the April meeting of this Board.

Respectfully submitted,

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

To the Board of Directors, Decatur Free Public Library:

Herewith is submitted the thirty-fifth annual report of the library for the year ending May 31, 1910.

The Library has with this year passed the 30,000 volume point, having now a total of 30,250 volumes. This number of books, together with a circulation of over 100,000 volumes a year seems to place us in the class with larger libraries. The total number of additions was 2,007, and 614 volumes were withdrawn, leaving the net accessions 1,393. Of this number 1,482 were added by purchase, 182 by gift, 340 by bindery, and 3 books were found which were previously missing. The purchases included 777 new books, 610 renewals and 95 added to the school collection. Of those withdrawn 586 were worn out, and 28 missing at inventory.

Among the important additions are the following:

American book prices current, 1909.
 American school of correspondence- Cyclopedia of textile work. 7v.
 Brereton- Life of Henry Irving. 2v.
 Cambridge modern history. v.6.
 Catholic encyclopedia. 7v.
 Dyer- Compendium of the war of the rebellion.
 Ferrero- Greatness and decline of Rome. 5v.
 Greenshields- Landscape painting and modern Dutch artists.
 Jewish encyclopedia. 12v.
 New international encyclopedia, 1908.
 Rand, McNally & Co.- Indexed atlas of the world. 2v.
 Beade, Charles- Works. 12v.
 Sloane- Life of Napoleon Bonaparte. 4v.
 Swedenborg- Works. 19v.
 U.S.- Census, Bureau of the- Heads of families at the first census of the United States, 1790. 12 pts.

Circulating Department.

The total registration for the year was 1,743; 1,184 cards were issued to adults and 559 to children. The total number of cards now in force is 6,852. Seventy-four cards were issued to non-residents.

The number of books loaned for home use from the main department was 66,716 and from the children's room 37,609, making a total circulation of 104,325. In addition the circulation of the school libraries in the Durfee, Roach and Jackson street schools was 6,092. This makes the total circulation 110,417. This year, January carried off the honors in circulation both as to month and day: 10,936 books for the month, and 791 on the largest day; while September records show both the smallest month, 7,255, and the smallest day, 117. The library was open 305 days.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Children's Department.

There were 37,609 volumes loaded in the children's room, 10,915 of these were non-fiction. 367 pictures were loaned to the schools.

The usual bulletins and lists have been posted for special holidays and seasons. The popular books of the year in this department were:

Alcott-	Little women.
Alcott-	Under the lilacs.
Baldwin-	Fifty famous stories.
Baldwin-	Thirty more famous stories.
Beard-	What to do and how to do it.
Church-	Story of the Iliad.
Clemens-	Tom Sawyer.
Dodge-	Hans Brinker.
Dodgson-	Alice's adventures in wonderland.
Dopp-	Tree dwellers.
Franklin-	Autobiography.
Johnston-	Mary Ware.
Kaler-	Toby Tyler.
Kipling-	Captains courageous.
La Rame-	Nürnberg stove.
Montgomery-	Anne of Avonlea.
Paine-	Hollow tree and deep woods book.
Pier-	Harding of St. Timothy's.
Riggs-	Birds' Christmas carol.
Riggs-	New chronicles of Rebecca.
Robin Hood	stories.
Seton-	Lobo, Rag, and Vixen.
Stevenson-	Treasure island.

Reference Department.

It is difficult to give any statistics which will accurately show the work done in the reference department. No record is kept of the number of visitors, but during the year 5,466 volumes were brought from the stack to this room, for reference use. Books on special subjects have been reserved for study clubs, debating societies, etc. Special lists of references for clubs, students, and other individuals have been prepared as usual; the following are the most important lists:

Abolition of the feudal system in England.
Alabama claims.
Attitude of the middle ages toward Virgil.
Caribs of Central America.
Chicago artists of today.
Connecticut charter.
Early churches and colleges of North America.
Healing power of royal touch during Queen Anne's reign.
Indian arrowheads.
Political questions in France at the present time.
Present colonial possessions of Holland.
Present status of the home.
Probation system for adults.
Reclamation of the Zuyder Zee.
Southern mountain people.
Value of the art of painting from a sociological standpoint.
Value of Latin as a study.
Value of the pure food laws and the use of harmless adulterants to the housewife.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Reading Room.

The reading room has been well patronized during the year. No exact count can be kept of the visitors through the week, but the total number of Sunday visitors was 1,883,- 827 men, 563 women, and 493 children.

There are 210 periodicals and newspapers on file in the reading room, 129 are subscribed for and 81 are gifts. The following are the new subscriptions for the year:

Biblical world.
Bibliotheca sacra.
Bulletin of photography.
Edinburgh review.
School arts book.
Spirit of missions.
Yale review.

Cataloging Department.

The number of new books classified, cataloged, shelf-listed and prepared for circulation was 1,395. This included 95 books which were added to the school collection.

The total number of cards added to the catalog was 4,324,- of these 1,635 were printed cards from the Library of Congress and 1,265 were type-written for the main catalog. The children's catalog had 574 cards added for new books, and 850 cards were re-written because of their soiled and worn appearance, and the trays were fitted out with new guides. Judging by this it would seem that the boys and girls of to-day know how to use some library tools.

Additions to the reference, series, and continuation cards already in the catalog made necessary the removal and refiling of 1,214. Hundreds of government serials have been received, checked, classified, and filed with the bound volumes of public documents. Many monographs in pamphlet form have been put in Gaylord binders, accessioned and otherwise treated as books.

School Libraries.

The collection of school duplicates now consists of 386 volumes. These were divided between two schools,- The Durfee and Jackson street, and sent to them in October. The Jackson street school was obliged to give up its library in March because the room used for this purpose was needed for school purposes. In April this library was sent to the Roach school. The total circulation in the schools was 6,092.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Exhibits.

The annual drawing and manual training exhibit of the public schools was held in the Library from June 2d through the 5th. Beginning September 9th the School Art League had an exhibit which lasted through Sunday afternoon, October 3d. This exhibit consisted of pictures from an art firm, also photographs by local photographers.

The best exhibit of the year was that held November 13th to 21st, when Mr. Sylvester's paintings were shown and some of the work of Miss Chiselle Durfee, sculptor. There was also a reception one evening to the members of the Municipal Art League, at which the guests had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Sylvester read from his poems.

Staff.

One change follows another in the children's room. Miss Anne Boyd who was children's librarian for ten months resigned to accept the position of librarian at the James Millikin university. Miss Clara Hunt, of the public library of Clinton, Ill. was appointed to the place and assumed her duties March 1st. Miss Florence McNeil, head of the loan department was granted a four-months' leave-of-absence beginning May 1, and has gone to Oregon. Miss Mollie Hitchcock, who took the apprentice course in March and April, was added to the staff during Miss McNeil's absence.

Miss Dorothy Kautz, of Moweaqua, was given the apprentice training in our library for three months, as a preparation for entering library school this fall.

For four years our library has cooperated with the University of Illinois Library School by taking one of the senior students into our library for a month's practical experience. As in previous years the student was with us in February, and as this is one of our busiest months she got much practical work in all departments, and we found Miss Margaret Wood, one of the best if not the best "field-worker" yet sent us.

Staff meetings, as last year, were held every two weeks for the discussion of library topics, and much interest is manifested. The staff one and all have shown earnestness in their work and loyalty to the institution.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

The Library has at all times tried to keep in touch with library affairs of the country and with new developments in the library profession. To this end the librarian usually attends the annual conferences of the American Library Association and of the Illinois Library Association. The former was held in June and July last year, in the White Mountains, at Bretton Woods, N.H. and was attended by the librarian. In October both the librarian and cataloger attended the meeting of the Illinois Library Association at East St. Louis.

In closing we wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to the press of the city for the space given to library matters: the printing of lists of new books, special lists, book notes, announcements and information about the Library which is of general interest.

We desire to express appreciation for the unfailing interest and hearty cooperation of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Oliver G. Evans

Librarian.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Contents of library.

June 1, 1909- books on hand ----- 28,857

Additions:

By purchase	(New)	-----	777
"	"	(renewal) -----	610
"	"	(school collection) -----	95
" donation		-----	182
" bindery		-----	340
" books found	(missing previous to May 31, 1909)	---	3

Total added -----2007

Losses:

Worn out and withdrawn	-----
Lost and paid for	-----
Lost and not paid for	-----
Unaccounted for in inventory	-----

Total loss ----- 614

May 31, 1910- books on hand ----- 30,250

Accessions according to Classification.

	No.vols.in Lib'y June 1, 1909	1909 Additions (new and renewal)	1910 Withdrawals (worn out and missing)	No.vols.in Lib'y May 31, 1910	Per cent
General works	2759	190	7	2942	9.72
Philosophy	422	19	0	441	1.46
Religion	909	77	10	976	3.22
Sociology	2496	144	8	2632	8.70
Philology	93	3	1	95	.31
Natural science	1486	89	3	1572	5.20
Useful arts	1516	124	2	1638	5.42
Fine arts	1121	123	11	1233	4.08
Literature	2968	153	49	3072	10.16
Travel	1665	52	13	1704	5.60
Biography	1990	45	9	2026	6.70
History	2042	85	13	2114	6.99
Fiction	8333	790	484	8639	28.56
Foreign books	67	15	0	82	.28
Medical books	698	0	0	698	2.31
School coll.	292	98	4	386	1.28
Total	28857	2007	614	30250	

Division of Classes.

Circulating bks.	16803	833	227	17409
Children's bks.	4201	578	379	4400
Reference bks.	1573	96	4	1665
Bound period.	2902	267	0	3169
Public docs.	2388	135	0	2523
Medical books	698	0	0	698
School coll.	292	98	4	386
Total	28857	2007	614	30250

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes. (Adult)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per cent.	Books loaned in Room
General works	23	18	15	16	27	33	31	29	15	22	21	18	268	.40	1386
Philosophy	60	80	61	53	55	77	51	65	46	51	65	65	729	1.09	68
Religion	36	49	32	46	76	63	60	101	57	71	55	57	703	1.05	136
Sociology	43	55	52	59	61	86	82	106	109	93	86	85	917	1.37	303
Philology	1	3	1	3		1	4	3	3	6	8	8	41	.06	7
Natural science	55	51	42	46	45	49	42	70	64	59	59	64	646	.97	137
Useful arts	49	82	68	82	105	145	113	123	121	116	92	96	1192	1.79	156
Fine arts	96	98	95	85	137	142	122	167	154	133	158	114	1501	2.25	191
Literature	276	204	261	308	407	491	419	396	388	353	430	341	4274	6.41	799
Travel	45	67	55	86	113	81	64	122	118	109	128	108	1096	1.64	155
Biography	52	54	43	39	85	72	76	119	104	133	100	85	962	1.44	174
History	90	78	68	124	145	171	128	178	186	198	150	123	1639	2.46	844
Fiction	3711	4195	3965	3775	4091	4330	3863	4602	4205	4333	4113	3740	48923	73.33	382
Foreign books	6	8	8	7	3	7	15	15	18	13	6	19	125	.19	17
Magazines	281	341	246	297	302	317	331	380	294	332	290	289	3700	5.55	586
Totals	4824	5383	5012	5026	5652	6065	5401	6476	5882	6022	5761	5212	66716		5341
Days open	26	26	26	25	26	25	26	25	22	27	26	25	305		
Daily average	186	207	193	201	217	243	208	259	267	223	222	208	219		
Largest day	322	368	373	396	447	471	392	482	487	408	391	318			
Smallest day	98	105	95	75	119	157	120	132	126	143	116	129			

Total number of books issued during the year 1909-1910 ----- 110,417 (Adult, Juvenile and School).

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes. (Juvenile)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per cent.	Books loaned in room.
General works	28	28	16	15	15	32	28	23	40	36	37	43	341	.91	125
Philosophy			1	2	2	1		5	1				12	.03	
Religion	36	29	25	38	52	57	53	52	49	47	35	39	512	1.36	
Sociology	62	51	61	58	85	89	77	98	80	90	96	92	939	2.47	
Philology	8	8	6	7	12	14	13	12	3	11	5	8	107	.29	
Natural science	76	65	56	66	95	106	92	114	81	94	97	77	1019	2.71	
Useful arts	27	23	19	25	16	34	21	22	16	23	29	33	288	.77	
Fine arts	65	70	71	62	74	92	55	70	64	79	64	73	839	2.23	
Literature	202	169	148	142	216	295	249	251	213	261	222	203	2571	6.84	
Travel	121	125	107	101	149	197	137	167	204	146	150	148	1752	4.66	
Biography	37	31	39	37	75	101	60	77	97	72	65	68	759	2.02	
History	76	83	63	74	175	232	134	176	197	148	117	119	1594	4.24	
Fiction	2138	2199	2002	1589	2140	2688	2105	2514	2305	2463	2426	2125	26694	70.99	∞
Magazines	12	14	14	13	7	13	19	28	19	28	9	6	182	.48	
Total	2888	2895	2628	2229	3113	3951	3043	3609	3369	3498	3352	3034	37609		
Days open	26	26	26	25	26	25	26	25	22	27	26	25	305		
Daily average	111	111	101	89	120	158	117	144	153	129	129	122	123		
Largest day	173	169	149	157	195	268	206	309	279	210	220	229			
Smallest day	56	54	39	42	85	73	66	51	71	77	56	72			

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

School Circulation.

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.
Religion	66	47	18	44	41	18	31	27	292
Sociology	169	151	82	126	114	56	73	54	825
Philology						1			1
Natural science	139	88	47	78	105	35	54	26	572
Useful arts	7	2	4	2	10	2	3	1	31
Fine arts	16	12	6	5	10	7	3	11	70
Literature	86	97	52	59	69	27	48	23	461
Travel	169	87	24	79	115	27	51	33	585
Biography	49	39	24	19	30	17	17	27	222
History	85	69	43	57	83	48	30	17	432
Fiction	556	472	258	382	383	193	218	139	2601
Total	1342	1064	558	851	960	431	527	358	6092

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulating Department.Registration.

Number of cards issued during the year	Main dept.	1184
	Children's room	559
Number of cards expired during the year	Main dept.	1071
	Children's room	510
Total number of cards in force June 1, 1910	-----	6852

Notices sent.

Delinquent postals -- 2224

Reserve postals -- 787

Binding and Repair.

Books newly bound -----	340
Books rebound -----	1117
Books repaired in library -----	3719

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.APPENDIX.Donors.

Abbot, Dr. E. S.
 Ambition.
 American library association
 publishing board.
 American Swedenborg printing co.
 Amherst college.
 Appeal to reason.
 Armour institute of technology.
 Association for international
 conciliation.
 Association of life insurance
 presidents.
 Association of medical librarians.
 Aurora (Ill.) public library.
 Baptist church.
 Barnes, Lynn.
 Belleville (Ill.) public library.
 Bethany echo.
 Blake, G. H.
 Blue Mound leader.
 Braddock (Pa.) Carnegie free
 library.
 Bradford (Pa.) Carnegie public li-
 brary.
 Brooklyn institute of arts and
 sciences.
 Brooklyn (N.Y.) public library.
 Bryn Mawr college.
 Bureau of railway news and
 statistics.
 Burlington (Ia.) free public
 library.
 Burrows, Maud.
 Carus, Paul.
 Chicago public library.
 Chicago university.
 Christian woman's board of missions.
 Cleveland public library.
 Cook, Thomas & son.
 Cornell university.
 Davenport (Ia.) public library.
 Dayton (O.) public library and
 museum.
 Decatur Board of education.
 Decatur herald.
 Decatur labor world.
 Decatur review.
 Detroit public library.
 Durfee, Mrs. George.
 East St. Louis public library.
 Epworth league.
 Erie (Pa.) public library.
 Evanston drama club.
 Evanston public library.
 Farnsworth, E. C.
 First church of Christ scientists.
 Friedwald, Dr.
 Galesburg (Ill.) public library.
 Gardner, S. E.
 Gillette, K. C.
 Grand Rapids public library.
 Griswold, S. M.
 Haines & Essick.
 Hamilton, Nellie.
 Hartford (Ct.) public library.
 Harvard university.
 Helena (Mont.) public library.
 Herald of the cross.

Horsburg, James.
 Illinois college.
 Illinois high school conference,
 Committee of the.
 Illinois state government.
 Illinois state historical library.
 Illinois state normal university,
 Normal.
 Illinois state university.
 Illuminating engineer.
 Independent, Kansas City.
 Indiana public library commission.
 Iowa library commission.
 James Millikin university.
 Jersey City free public library.
 Johns Hopkins university.
 Joliet (Ill.) public library.
 Lake Mohonk conference of friends
 of the Indian.
 Lake Mohonk conference of inter-
 national arbitration.
 Lincoln library, Springfield, Ill.
 Lovington reporter.
 Lutheran.
 McClurg, A.C. & co.
 Minneapolis park commissioners,
 Board of.
 Minneapolis public library.
 Modern American.
 Moffat, R. D.
 Moore, J. H.
 Mount Holyoke college.
 Mystic worker.
 National farmer.
 National prohibitionist.
 New-church league.
 New York state education dept.
 New York state library.
 Northern Pacific railway.
 Northwestern university.
 Omaha (Neb.) public library.
 Pahmeyer, Mrs. Laura.
 Pennsylvania prison society.
 Peoria public library.
 Philadelphia free library.
 Philadelphia McKinley memorial
 association.
 Phillips Exeter academy.
 Pittsburgh Carnegie institute.
 Pittsburgh Carnegie library.
 Portland (Ore.) library association.
 Practical engineer.
 Pratt institute free library.
 Providence (R.I.) public library.
 Public service.
 Raymond, G. L.
 Reisinger, Hugo.
 Review of religions.
 Rockford (Ill.) public library.
 Rosenberg library, Galveston, Tex.
 St. Joseph (Mo.) public library.
 St. Louis mercantile library.
 St. Louis public library.
 Salem (Mass.) public library.
 San Francisco city health commission.
 Schilling press.
 Scranton (Pa.) public library.
 Scribner, Charles Scribner's sons.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.APPENDIX.Donors.

Sedalia (Mo.) public library.
Shaffer, Mrs. R. T.
Shaw, J. B.
Shelbyville (Ill.) free public library.
Shlaudeman, Frank.
Smith college.
Spalding, A. G. & Bros.
Springfield (Mass.) city library.
Stephenson public library,
Marinette, Mich.
Syracuse (N.Y.) public library.
Thomas Crane public library,
Quincy, Mass.
Towle manufacturing co.
Uncle Remus's home magazine.
United States brewers' association.
United States government.
Van Hook, Weller.
Warner & Swasey co.
Warran county (Ill.) library.
Warrensburg times.
Wayne, Mrs. W. J.
Western empire.
Western reserve university.
Wisconsin civil service commission.
Wisconsin free library commission.
Yale university.
W. C. T. U.

PERIODICALS.

* indicates donated.

- * A.L.A. booklist.
- * Albany medical annals.
- Ambition.
- American field.
- American historical review.
- American homes and gardens.
- American journal of sociology.
- American journal of theology.
- * American library association.
- Bulletin.
- American magazine.
- * American medicine.
- American monthly magazine.
- American monthly review of reviews.
- Annals of the American academy of political and social science.
- * Appeal to reason.
- Architectural record.
- Atlanta (Ga.) constitution.
- Atlantic monthly.
- * Aurora, Ill.- Public library.
- Library guide.
- * Bethany echo.
- Biblical world.
- Bibliotheca sacra.
- Bird lore.
- Blackwood's Edinburgh magazine.
- * Blue Mound leader.
- * Book buyer.
- Book review digest.
- Bookman.
- Boston transcript.
- * Brooklyn- Public library.
- Bulletin.
- * Brooklyn institute of arts and sciences. Museum news.
- Building age.
- Bulletin of photography.
- Canadian magazine.
- Cassell's little folks.
- Cassier's magazine.
- Catholic world.
- Century magazine.
- * Chicago- Public library.
- Bulletin.
- Chicago record-herald.
- Chicago tribune.
- Children's magazine.
- Chautauquan.
- * Christian science journal.
- * Christian science monitor.
- * Christian science sentinel.
- Collier's.
- Contemporary review.
- * Cook's American traveller's gazette.
- Cosmopolitan.
- Country life in America.
- Craftsman.
- Cumulative book index.
- Current literature.
- * Decatur herald.
- * Decatur labor world.
- * Decatur review.
- Delineator.
- Dial.
- Edinburgh review (N.Y. ed.)
- Education.
- Educational review.
- Electrical world.
- Elementary school teacher.
- Engineering magazine.
- * Epworth herald.
- Everybody's magazine.
- Forest and stream.
- Fortnightly review.
- Forum.
- * Galesburg, Ill.- Public library.
- Bulletin.
- (Die) gartenlaube.
- Good housekeeping.
- * Grand Rapids, Mich.- Public library.
- Bulletin.
- Harper's bazar.
- Harper's monthly magazine.
- Harper's weekly.
- * Hartford, Ct.- Public library.
- Bulletin.
- * Helena, Mont.- Public library.
- Bulletin.
- * Herald of the cross.
- * (Der) herold der Christian science.
- House beautiful.
- * Ice and refrigeration.
- * Illuminating engineer.
- Illustrated London news.
- Independent. (N.Y.)
- * Independent. (Kansas City)
- * Indiana- Public library commission.
- Library occurrent.
- * Indianapolis medical journal.
- International studio.
- * Iowa- Library Commission.
- Quarterly.
- * James Millikin university.
- Bulletin.
- * Jersey City public library.
- Library record.
- * Joliet, Ill.- Public library.
- Bulletin.
- Journal of American folk-lore.
- Journal of political economy.
- Judge.
- * Kansas City medical index-lancet.
- Kindergarten-primary magazine.
- Ladies' home journal.
- Leslie's weekly.
- Library.
- Library journal.
- Library work.
- Life.
- * Lincoln library, Springfield, Ill.-
- Bulletin.
- Lippincott's monthly magazine.
- Literary digest.
- Little folks.
- Living age.
- * Living church.
- * Long Island medical journal.
- Louisville courier journal.
- * Lovington reporter.
- * Lutheran.
- McClure's magazine.
- Manual training magazine.

PERIODICALS.

- Masters in art.
 * Medico-pharmaceutical critic and guide.
 Missionary review of the world.
 * Missionary tidings.
 * Modern American.
 * Moweaqua news.
 Munsey's magazine.
 Musical America.
 Musician.
 * Mystic worker.
 Nation.
 * National farmer.
 National geographic magazine.
 * National prohibitionist.
 Nature.
 * New-church league journal.
 New England magazine.
 New York times. (Sunday ed.)
 New York times Saturday review.
 Nineteenth century. and after.
 North American review.
 * Omaha- Public library.
 Bulletin.
 Outing.
 Outlook.
 Overland monthly.
 * Pennsylvania medical journal.
 * Peoria, Ill.- Public library
 Bulletin.
 Photographic times.
 * Pittsburgh-Carnegie library.
 Monthly bulletin.
 Poet-lore.
 Political science quarterly.
 Popular science monthly.
 * Portland, Ore.- Library associa-
 tion. Bulletin.
 * Practical engineer.
 * Pratt institute free library.
 Monthly bulletin.
 * Providence, R.I.- Public library.
 Quarterly bulletin.
 Public libraries.
 * Public service.
 Publisher's weekly.
 Puck.
 Putnam's magazine.
 Quarterly journal of economics.
 Reader's guide to periodical
 literature.
 * Review of religions.
 (La) revue.
 * Rockford, Ill- Public library.
 Bulletin.
 * St. Joseph, Mo.- Free public
 library. Bulletin.
 St. Louis globe-democrat.
 * St. Louis medical review.
 St. Louis republic.
 St. Nicholas.
 * St. Paul medical journal.
 Salem, Mass.- Public library.
 Bulletin.
 San Francisco chronicle.
 Saturday evening post.
 Saturday review. (London)
 School arts book.
 School review.
 Scientific American.
 Scientific American supplement.
 * Scranton, Pa.- Public library.
 Bulletin.
 Scribner's magazine.
 Speaker's magazine.
 Spirit of missions.
 * Springfield, Mass- City library.
 Bulletin.
 Springfield (Mass.) weekly
 republican.
 Success magazine.
 Sunday school times.
 Survey.
 * Syracuse, N.Y.- Public library.
 Bulletin.
 System magazine.
 Technical world.
 Travel magazine.
 * Twentieth century magazine.
 * Uncle Remus's home magazine.
 * Union signal.
 * U.S.- Agriculture, Dept. of.
 Crop reporter.
 * U.S.- Congress. Congressional
 record.
 * U.S.- Documents office. Monthly
 catalogue of U.S. public
 documents.
 * U.S.- Patent office. Official
 gazette.
 * U.S.- Weather bureau. Monthly
 weather review.
 * U.S.- Weather bureau. Illinois
 section of the climatological
 service. Report.
 Vogue.
 * Warren co. (Monmouth, Ill.) library.
 Bulletin.
 * Warrensburg times.
 * Western empire.
 Westminster review.
 * Wisconsin- Free library commission.
 Bulletin.
 * Woman's home companion.
 * Woman's home missions.
 World today.
 World's chronicle.
 World's work.
 Yale review.
 Youth's companion.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the following report of the financial condition of the Public Library for the year ending May 31, 1910.

RECEIPTS.

From appropriation	\$8691.82
" balance on hand	355.22
" fines	358.94
" non-resident cards	44.00
" reserve postals	14.80
" lost and damaged books	11.69
" Municipal art league for lights	8.00
" money refunded on magazine	.97
Total -----	\$9485.44

EXPENDITURES.

For salaries	\$4212.68
" books	1544.08
" periodicals	350.00
" printing and supplies	141.71
" binding	868.46
" fuel	162.66
" repairs	298.89
" light	278.13
" miscellaneous	405.72
" balance on hand	1223.11
Total -----	\$9485.44

10

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

State of Illinois,
County of Macon,

I, Alice G. Evans, Secretary of the Board
of Directors of the Free Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do solemnly
swear that the foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of
the library is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Secretary, Library Board.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, this
_____ day of June, A. D. 1910.

Library copy

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Thirty-sixth annual report of the Public Library of the City
Decatur

To the Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen:

Herewith is submitted the annual report of the librarian of the
Decatur Public Library, together with a statement of the receipts and dis-
bursements during the year ending May 31, 1911.

The Public Library never was in a more satisfactory condition
to the people of Decatur. The almost entire absence of complaints and the
large patronage demonstrate this.

Little more than ordinary routine has been done during the past
year. A few points of special ^{interest} may be mentioned-

1.- The plan of taking books to those remotely situated has been con-
tinued. Branch libraries have been maintained in the following ward
schools- H. B. Durfee, Jasper and Jackson, and special privileges to
the Roach school. These have been under control of the principals of
the various schools. Many children have thus been given library privileges
that would otherwise have been denied.

2- The board of directors have taken advantage of the provision in the
franchise of the Decatur Railway and Light Company and had city heat in-
troduced in place of running our own plant. This change has saved much
labor and has preserved the books from the dust and dirt incident to main-
taining heat in the building. At the reduced rate provided in the fran-
chise the cost will remain about the same.

3- During the year the building has been put in good condition by ex-
tensive interior painting and renovating. The grounds have been im-
proved by placing ^{trees and} shrubbery where they were needed.

At the end of the ^{year the} library is found to contain 30,983 volumes.
During the past three years the board has made appropriations for the
various purposes for which expenditures were to be made. By means of
this the largest sum possible has been utilized for the purchase of
books and periodicals.

During the time named there has been a small surplus each year
from the fund produced by the two mill tax provided by law for library

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

purposes. At the close of the present year we find there is the sum of \$909.93 after all bills and accounts have been paid.

Under the change from the ward system to commission government the terms of all the nine members of this board will expire at the announcement of the new board of three to be appointed by your body.

As we retire from this free service in caring for this interest, so vital to the people of our fair and progressive city, permit us to express the pleasure it has been to engage in this good work. We wish for your new board greater success as the city's growth and development come.

Respectfully submitted,

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

To the Board of Directors, Decatur Free Public Library:

Herewith is submitted the thirty-sixth annual report of the Library for the year ending May 31, 1911.

Contents and Accessions.

During the past year there were added to the Library 2,143 volumes, 1,414 were withdrawn, making a total of 30,983 volumes in the Library May 31, 1911. The volumes added by purchase included 999 new books, 585 renewals, and 140 for the school collection; 206 volumes were gifts, and 213 were periodicals bound; 4 books were found during the year which were missing previously. Of the volumes withdrawn 641 were worn out and 75 were unaccounted for in inventory. The Medical library of 698 volumes, which had been a gift, was turned over to the Decatur Medical society.

Among the important additions may be mentioned:

Aiton's encyclopedia.	5v.
Appleton's new practical encyclopedia.	6v.
Cambridge history of English literature.	4v.
Catholic encyclopedia.	3v.
Century dictionary supplement.	2v.
Evans- American bibliography.	v.6.
Faust- German element in the United States.	2v.
Grove- Dictionary of music and musicians.	5v.
Burton Holmes- Travelogues.	3v.
National conference of charities and correction. Proceedings.	20v.
National cyclopedia of American biography: Supplement.	v.1.
National educational association. Journal of proceedings, 1894-1910.	18v.
Rand, McNally & co. Commercial atlas.	2v.
Stoddard- The Stoddard library.	12v.

Circulating Department.

The total registration for the year was 1814,- 1269 cards were issued to adults and 545 to children. The number of non-resident cards issued was 84. The total number of cards in force is 7,308.

The number of books loaned for home use from the main department was 65,383 and from the children's room 34,472, making a total circulation of 99,855. The library was open 304 days. March was the largest month when 9,737 books were issued, and September the smallest with only 7,333 books. The largest day was January 11, with 762 books, and the smallest December 22, with 113 books.

Popular Books for year in Main Circulating Dept.

Abbott-	Molly Make-Believe.
Bachelor-	Keeping up with Lizzie.
Barclay-	Mistress of Shenstone.
Barclay-	The rosary.
Beach-	Going some.
Begbie-	Twice born men.
Bosher-	Mary Cary.
Brunham-	Clever Betsy.
Churchill-	Modern chronicle.
Clemens-	Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
Forman-	Bianca's daughter.
Fox-	Trail of the lonesome pine.
Herrick-	Life for a life.
King-	Wild olive.
Parrish-	My lady of the South.
Phillips-	Second generation.
Porter-	At the foot of the rainbow.
Porter-	Freckles.
Porter-	Girl of the Limberlost.
Reed-	Master of the vineyard.
Wright-	Calling of Dan Matthews.
Wright-	Shepherd of the hills.
Wright-	That printer of Udells.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Children's Department.

There are now 4,573 volumes in the Children's room, and the shelves are crowded almost to their limit.

The circulation of books from this department was 34,472, of these 9,947 were non-fiction. 405 pictures were loaned to the schools.

October 1, we began closing the children's room at 8 o'clock because of the curfew law.

Bulletins and lists of suggestive reading have been posted throughout the year. Pictures displayed on the new screen at the entrance of the children's room have created much interest. The popular books in this department were:

Adams-	Harper's electricity book for boys.
Adams-	Harper's outdoor book for boys.
Alcott-	Little women.
Alcott-	Old-fashioned girl.
Barbour-	Captain Chub.
Baum-	Magical monarch of Mo.
Clemens-	Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
Clemens-	Adventures of Tom Sawyer.
Collins-	Boys' book of model aeroplanes.
Grinnell-	Jack, the young canoeman.
Hough-	Story of a cowboy.
Hughes-	Tom Brown's school days.
Jacobs-	Indian fairy tales.
Kipling-	Captains courageous.
Montgomery-	Anne of Green gables.
Paine-	Hollow tree and deep woods book.
Paine-	Hollow tree snowed-in book.
Pynelle-	Diddy Dumps and Tot.
St. Nicholas	book of plays and operettas.
Scudder-	Children's book.
Seton-	Boy scouts of America.
Seton-	Two little savages.
Webster-	When Patty went to college.

Reference Department.

The usual reference work with debaters, clubs, students, etc. has been done,- 6,453 books were brought from other departments for reference use. Lists on the following subjects have been compiled.

Bibliography of English history from the beginning of the reign of King John to the death of Henry 8.
 Bibliography of Roman history from the beginning through the reign of the Caesars.
 Books of interest on current social problems.
 Color in school interior decoration.
 Co-operation between the community and the school through organized clubs, etc.
 Diet: its relation to age, occupation, etc.
 Development of the Northwest.
 Education of Chinese women.
 Florence Nightingale.
 German system of education.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Immigration: its effect on the homogeneity of the American people.
 Lafcadio Hearn.
 Literature of the Bible.
 Modern drama and dramatists.
 Pre-Shakespearean and Shakespearean drama.
 Public lands in the United States.
 Public problems in American fiction.
 Scandinavian literature.
 Teaching temperance to children in the Sabbath school.
 W. C. T. U. in foreign lands.

Reading Room.

The reading room, as usual, has been one of the best patronized parts of the library. There are 220 periodicals and newspapers on file, 139 of which are subscribed for and 81 donated. The following have been added to the periodical list for 1911:

Child lore.
 Editor.
 Hampton's magazine.
 Popular electricity.
 Popular mechanics.
 Science.
 Theatre magazine.
 Die woche.

No exact count is kept of visitors through the week, but the total number of Sunday visitors was 1476,- 723 men, 383 women, and 370 children.

Cataloging Department.

The number of new books classified, cataloged and otherwise prepared for circulation was 1,418. In addition to this 140 books were added to the school collection.

Books were worn out and replaced to the number of 585, 70 of these being in the school collection. The total number of cards added to the catalog was 4,312. There were 1,156 cards removed from the catalog for additions to continuation, series cards, etc, and 429 were rewritten owing to their soiled condition.

The entire card catalog was shifted in order to make some more room in the trays and 3,000 new guides were filed. The shelf cards for the entire class, Biography, were typewritten.

Work with the schools.

There are now 525 volumes in the School collection,- all duplicates of books in the main library. These libraries were sent this year to

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

the Durfee, Jackson, and Jasper street schools. As the special collection was not large enough to go around the Roach school was granted the use of a small lot of duplicates from the Children's room. The circulation through the schools was 7,560.

In order to help the teachers in the selection of books from the main library a copy of the "Children's catalog" issued by the H. W. Wilson company has been placed in each of the grade schools. Our library has most of the books listed in this catalog and will gradually add the others.

The Library issued in January a pamphlet of 16 pages entitled "Books useful to teachers". This is a list of books on education and allied subjects, and it was compiled by Miss Dill, the cataloger. Copies were distributed to all the teachers.

Exhibitions.

The Drawing and Manual training exhibition of the high school began June 2 and lasted for a week.

Beginning September 30 the Municipal Art League held an exhibition of the paintings of Mr. and Mrs. Cameron and Mr. Clusmann. A painting by Mr. Roy Brown, formerly of Decatur, was loaned to the library for several months.

Library meetings.

The librarian attended the annual meeting of the American Library association which was held at Mackinac Island, June 30- July 6, and in October the librarian and cataloger attended the joint meeting of the Iowa and Illinois library associations, held in Davenport and Rock Island.

Building and Grounds.

The walls of the main floor of the Library have all been redecorated during the last year, and the light fixtures were reburnished, both of which have improved the appearance of the rooms very much. The Library was kept open during the process, except in the evening when it was impossible to do so because of the lack of lights.

The Library has passed its first winter with city heat in the building and has found it a great convenience and comfort, besides giving the janitor more time for his other duties.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

A concrete wall was built between the Library yard and that of the Bullard building, also one at the west line of the Library lot running to the T. L. Evans property. The Library lawn has been beautified by the planting of three trees,- two elms and a horse chestnut, and various shrubs. Most of these are placed at the rear of the lot.

Staff.

There have been several changes on the staff during the year. Miss Florence McNeil who was granted a four-months' leave-of-absence remained in the west, and has a position in the Portland library. Miss Vera Gher was appointed assistant at the loan desk. Miss May Coleman took the entrance examination and has been doing apprentice work, and will do supply work during the summer.

Miss Grace Herrick, a senior from the Library School of the University of Illinois, was in our Library doing "field work" for a month beginning February 6. Miss Herrick was very efficient and gave us good service during our busiest time of the year. We have been cooperating with the Illinois Library school for five years in this way and have found it profitable to both the student and the Library.

We wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to the press of the city for the space given in the papers to library matters,- book lists, book reviews, announcements, and items of general interest about the Library.

In closing up the year I wish to express my appreciation to the Library Board for your interest in all the various problems we have had, and your hearty cooperation, and my pleasure in meeting with you as secretary for the past two years. I regret that under the Commission law, we must part with so large a number of members but hope that some of you may be returned to help carry on this important work.

Respectfully submitted,

Librarian.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Contents of library.

June 1, 1910- books on hand ----- 30,250

Additions:

By purchase (new) ----- 999
 " " (renewal) ----- 585
 " " (School collection) ----- 140
 " donation ----- 206
 " bindery ----- 213
 " books found (missing previous to May 31, 1910) --- 4

Total added ----- 2147

Losses:

Worn out and withdrawn ----- 607
 Lost and paid for ----- 25
 Lost and not paid for ----- 9
 Medical library ----- 698
 Unaccounted for in inventory ----- 75

Total loss ----- 1414

May 31, 1911- books on hand ----- 30,983

Accessions according to Classification.

	No.vols.in Lib'y June 1, 1910	Additions (new and renewal)	Withdrawals (worn out and missing)	No.vols.in Lib'y May 31, 1911	Per cent
General works	2942	120	9	3053	9.85
Philosophy	441	15	0	456	1.47
Religion	976	42	9	1009	3.26
Sociology	2632	316	17	2931	9.46
Philology	96	3	1	98	.32
Natural science	1571	64	8	1627	5.25
Useful arts	1637	100	8	1729	5.58
Fine arts	1233	111	12	1332	4.30
Literature	3073	193	45	3221	10.40
Travel	1704	74	7	1771	5.71
Biography	2026	65	10	2081	6.72
History	2114	97	19	2192	7.07
Fiction	8639	735	500	8874	28.64
Foreign books	82	2	0	84	.27
Medical books	698	0	698	0	
School coll.	386	210	71	525	1.70
Total	30250	2147	1414	30983	

Division ^{by} of Classes.

Circulating bks.	17393	860	219	18034
Children's bks.	4400	582	409	4573
Reference bks.	1680	140	13	1807
Bound period.	3169	161	1	3329
Public docs.	2524	194	3	2715
Medical books	698	0	698	0
School coll.	386	210	71	525
Total	30250	2147	1414	30983

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes. (Adult.)

Books
loaned
in
roomPer
cent

Totals

May.

Apr.

Mar.

Feb.

Jan.

Dec.

Nov.

Oct.

Sept.

Aug.

July.

June.

1017

.35

228

17

15

21

36

23

18

16

25

18

12

16

11

62

1.10

723

87

54

50

51

39

40

53

58

78

63

77

73

93

1.33

871

82

73

82

94

87

84

76

59

81

48

55

50

280

1.30

851

100

82

107

79

95

82

73

46

42

48

50

47

9

.08

50

4

6

5

4

3

1

2

5

5

7

5

8

139

1.13

739

78

86

66

64

71

70

58

73

60

32

35

46

165

1.63

1063

71

64

96

116

102

89

89

93

93

77

94

75

203

2.03

1326

124

107

152

165

121

105

98

117

83

68

106

80

857

6.79

4442

376

464

504

491

473

373

429

417

275

219

187

234

288

1.46

953

52

116

85

95

107

89

88

98

65

52

37

69

470

1.23

805

85

85

95

93

90

86

68

58

43

36

40

26

1599

2.28

1494

81

164

164

185

161

95

144

146

142

72

67

73

453

73.38

47978

3485

4218

4569

4522

4737

3703

3817

3987

3684

3799

3846

3611

8

.16

107

4

1

9

8

13

6

13

15

6

8

7

17

612

5.75

3753

243

318

324

271

340

311

354

377

284

319

325

287

6255

65383

4889

5853

6329

6274

6462

5152

5386

5565

4959

4860

4947

4707

Totals

304

26

25

27

23

25

24

25

26

25

27

25

26

215

188

234

234

273

258

215

215

214

198

180

198

181

Days open

303

303

472

449

519

545

415

362

394

419

370

385

355

Daily average

114

114

123

138

174

133

78

148

141

139

106

112

102

Largest day

Smallest day

Total number of books issued during the year 1910-1911 ----- 107,415 (Adult, Juvenile and School).

OK.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes. (Juvenile.)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per cent.	Books loaned in room.
General works	21	28	25	25	26	22	39	27	31	26	19	22	311	.90	198
Philosophy	3					2		1		1			7	.02	
Religion	20	15	25	30	33	44	36	51	49	42	36	26	407	1.19	
Sociology	74	84	69	81	120	108	102	125	130	149	132	118	1292	3.75	
Philology	4	1	10	2	8	9	6	7	9	3	6	3	68	.20	
Natural science	55	48	49	68	102	81	65	61	95	95	112	120	951	2.76	
Useful arts	16	15	34	13	18	17	12	15	27	17	23	17	224	.66	
Fine arts	76	80	71	45	68	79	72	80	67	70	67	53	828	2.40	
Literature	164	134	119	133	227	243	216	201	245	216	187	182	2267	6.58	
Travel	89	101	69	91	107	130	107	135	150	119	109	90	1297	3.77	
Biography	36	27	33	57	51	59	42	62	87	68	65	49	636	1.84	∞
History	88	73	68	102	133	156	92	136	158	175	136	107	1424	4.13	
Fiction	2058	1965	1946	1703	1989	2102	1928	2326	2265	2388	2069	1786	24525	71.11	
Magazines	5	16	13	24	29	23	12	12	29	39	20	13	235	.69	
Total	2709	2587	2531	2374	2911	3075	2729	3239	3342	3408	2981	2586	34472		
Days open	26	25	27	25	26	25	24	25	23	27	25	26	304		
Daily average	104	103	94	95	112	123	114	130	145	126	119	99	113		
Largest day	174	163	139	166	210	214	208	261	253	220	235	148			
Smallest day	34	29	64	55	79	72	35	58	81	75	65	57			

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

School Circulation.

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.
Religion	27	45	38	49	36	31	18	3	247
Sociology	87	136	127	145	126	93	97	23	834
Natural science	105	144	115	142	129	87	93	12	827
Useful arts	22	24	21	20	19	15	16	3	140
Fine arts	19	17	14	11	15	11	17	4	108
Literature	63	100	106	97	83	69	76	7	601
Travel	53	141	76	105	112	63	69	9	628
Biography	40	44	35	38	36	19	29	3	244
History	30	79	59	84	63	50	53	9	427
Fiction	357	539	539	650	493	414	427	85	3504
Total	803	1269	1130	1341	1112	852	895	158	7560

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulating Department.Registration.

Number of cards issued during the year	{	Main dept.	1269
Number of cards expired during the year		Children's room	545
		Main dept.	969
		Children's room	389
Total number of cards in force June 1, 1911			7308

Notices sent.

Delinquent postals -- 2244

Reserve postals -- 730

Binding and Repair.

Books newly bound	213
Books rebound	889
Books repaired in library	2958

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the following report of the financial condition of the Public Library for the year ending May 31, 1911.

RECEIPTS.

From appropriation	\$8972.98
" balance on hand	1223.11
" fines	356.35
" non-resident cards	50.00
" reserve postals	13.24
" lost and damaged books	15.22
" Municipal Art League for lights	8.00
" Rent from Ill. Library Extension Commission	400.00
" sale of newspapers and catalog cards	3.04
" sale of old ed. of Groves- Dict. of music	4.00
" money refunded on magazine subscription	2.00
Total -----	\$11047.94

EXPENDITURES.

For salaries	\$4381.03
" books	2027.32
" periodicals	368.27
" printing and supplies	269.63
" binding	705.76
" fuel, heat, etc.	235.74
" repairs	1022.45
" light	420.96
" miscellaneous	432.70
" furniture	223.75
" insurance	50.40
" balance on hand	909.93
Total -----	\$11047.94

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

State of Illinois,

County of Macon,

I, Alice G. Evans, Secretary of the Board
of Directors of the Free Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do solemnly ^{hereby}
~~swear~~ ^{certify} that the foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of
the library is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Secretary, Library Board.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, this
day of June, A. D. 1911.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

State of Illinois,
County of Macon,

I, Alice G. Evans, Secretary of the Board
of Directors of the Free Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do solemnly
swear that the foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of
the library is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Secretary, Library Board.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, this
day of June, A. D. 1911.

Decatur, Ill., June 6, 1912.

The thirty-seventh annual report of the Trustees of the Decatur Free Library.

To the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Decatur.

Gentlemen:

I herewith have the honor to hand you the thirty-seventh annual report of the Trustees of the Decatur Free Library. The enclosed report of the Librarian to the Board covers all the details of the work done during the year; and for that reason, it is not necessary for me to report item by item. The year's work, as you can readily see, has been a good one, and many people have been benefited by the use of the library.

One of the first acts of the Board was to increase the salaries of the members of the library staff. This was just and necessary on account of the marked increase in the cost of living and increase in the amount of work in handling the business of the library, since the salaries were placed at the figures we found them on assuming our offices.

During the last year we have tried to make the library an instrument of good to all its patrons; but more especially to those who were unable to secure but a very limited number of books and periodicals for themselves.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman of the Board.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

To the Board of Directors, Decatur Free Public Library:

Herewith is submitted the thirty-seventh annual report of the Library for the year ending May 31, 1912.

Contents and Accessions.

The number of bound volumes in the Library at the last report was 30,983. There were added during the year 2,403 volumes as follow: 1154 new books, 854 renewals, 30 to the school collection, 129 gifts, 223 bound periodicals, and 13 books were found which had been missing in inventory. The total losses were 997 volumes,- 888 of these were out and were withdrawn, 23 were lost by borrowers, and 86 were unaccounted for in inventory. The total number of volumes now in the library is 32,389.

In addition to this there was begun in April a small duplicate collection of popular novels known as the Rental collection. This contains only 32 volumes (15 different titles) at present but is paying for itself at five cents a week per book, besides filling a long felt want at the library in more nearly satisfying the demand of the patrons for late fiction, at the same time giving more opportunity for the free copies to those who do not care to rent. This rental collection is independent of the library fund and sustains itself by the small fee charged, new books being added as often as possible. The titles of this first collection are:

Abbott-	Molly Make-Believe.
Bachelor-	Keeping up with Lizzie.
Barclay-	The rosary.
Beach-	Ne'er-do-well.
Bosher-	Man in lonely land.
Bosher-	Miss Gibbie Gault.
Deland-	Iron woman.
Harrison-	Queed.
Norris-	Mother.
Patterson-	Rebellion.
Porter-	Freckles.
Porter-	Girl of the Limberlost.
Porter-	The harvester.
Rinehart-	Amazing adventures of Letitia Carberry.
Wright-	Winning of Barbara Worth.

Among the important books purchased during the year may be mentioned:

American art annual,	1910-11.
Catholic encyclopedia.	v.11-13.
Americana supplement.	2v.
Anderson-	Artistic side of photography in theory and practice.
Bingham-	Across South America.
Bowker-	Copyright, its history and its law.
Bury-	Cambridge medieval history. v.1.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Franklin-	Works of Benjamin Franklin; ed. by John Bigelow. 12v.
Gracie-	Truth about Chicamauga.
Hall-	Educational problems. 2v.
Hamilton-	Works of Alexander Hamilton: ed. by H. C. Lodge. 12v.
Hawthorne-	Lure of the garden.
Hitt-	Electric railway dictionary.
International	who's who, 1911-1912.
Irish literature;	ed. by Justin McCarthy. 5v.
Jefferson-	Works of Thomas Jefferson; ed. by P. L. Ford. 12v.
Keppel-	Golden age of engraving.
Mee & Thompson-	Book of knowledge. 24v.
Monroe-	Cyclopedia of education. v.2.
Nicholson-	Nicholson on factory organization and cost.
Pier-	Pottery of the Near East.
Piggott-	Studies in the decorative art of Japan.
Shakespeare-	Works. 40v. (Booklovers edition.)
Standard musical	encyclopedia. 2v.
Sylvester-	The great river.
Tissot, illus.-	Old Testament. 2v.
Warren-	History of the American bar.
Webb-	New dictionary of statistics.
Welles-	Diary of Gideon Welles. 3v.
Wells & Hooper-	Modern cabinet-work, furniture and fitments.
Wright-	New century book of facts.
Zerr-	Tests for coal-tar colour in aniline lakes.

Circulating Department.

The total registration for the year was 1924, 1399 cards were issued to adults and 525 to children. The total number of cards now in force is 7261.

The number of books loaned for home use from the main department was 68,924 and from the children's room 33,507 making a total circulation of 102,431. In addition to this 8,153 volumes circulated through the four school libraries making the grand total circulation 110,584.

The Library was open 307 days. March was the largest month when 12,231 books were issued, and June the smallest when only 6,749 books went out. On the largest day March 14, 805 books were issued and on the smallest, March 17, only 73,- this was because of the sleet storm as the small days never fall in March without good reason.

The following books were the most popular in this department:

Abbott-	Molly Make-Believe.
Barbour-	House in the hedge.
Barbour-	Joyce of the Jasmines.
Barclay-	The rosary.
Beach-	Ne'er-do-well.
Bennett-	Man from the north.
Bosher-	Miss Gibbie Gault.
Deland-	Iron woman.
Ferber-	Buttered side down.
Harrison-	Queed.
Norris-	Mother.
Parker-	Pomander walk.
Patterson-	Rebellion.
Porter-	Freckles.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Porter-	Girl of the Limberlost.
Porter-	The harvester.
Smith-	Kennedy Square.
Wharton-	Ethan Frome.
Wright-	Calling of Dan Matthews.
Wright-	Winning of Barbara Worth.

Children's Department.

The circulation of books in the children's room was 33,507,-
24,033 of these being fiction and 9,474 non-fiction. 525 cards were
issued during the year. The total number of cards in force is 2,215.

Much reference work has been done for the children in connection
with their school work. Pictures and lists have been posted for the
usual holidays and other special occasions.

The popular books in this department were:

Brooks-	True story of George Washington.
Clemens-	Adventures of Tom Sawyer.
Clemens-	Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
Collins-	Boys books of model aeroplanes.
Dunton-	Betty Wales decides.
Grinnell-	Camping and scouting.
Harris-	Uncle Remus and the little boy.
Johnston-	Famous scouts.
Johnston-	Mary Ware, the little colonel's chum.
Kipling-	Just so stories.
Maule-	Little knights of the X bar B.
Montgomery-	Anne of Green Gables.
Paine-	Hollow tree snowed-in book.
Powell-	Scouting for boys.
Pyle-	Men of iron.
Pyle-	Merry adventures of Robin Hood.
Quirk-	Freshman Dorn, pitcher.
Richards-	Toto's merry winter.
Riggs-	Birds' Christmas Carol.
Riggs-	Polly Oliver's problem.
Seton-	Boy scouts of America.
Seton-	Rolf in the woods.
Seton-	Two little savages.
Webster-	When Patty went to college.
Wells-	Patty's motor car.

Reference Department.

During the year, 4,972 books were taken from other departments for
use in the reference room. Books were reserved temporarily for the
English and History classes of the high school and university, also
for a number of the study clubs. Lists of books on art, gardening,
and current social questions have been compiled and the books displayed
where they would be most likely to attract those interested.

In addition to work with our own patrons we have had constant de-
mands for lists and references on all sorts of subjects from the
smaller surrounding towns. The following are some of the reference
questions for which lists have been compiled:

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Accounts of locust invasions.
 American newspaper men.
 Arnold Bennett.
 Arthur Benson.
 Arthur W. Upson.
 Austin Dobson.
 Bliss Carman.
 Byron and Greek liberty.
 Cause and prevention of disease.
 History of the periodicals "Life" and "McClure".
 Dante Gabriel Rossetti.
 Eden Phillpotts.
 Frederick Locker-Lampson.
 Holman Day.
 Little ways of saving in the home.
 Nobel prize; its history and the awards.
 Origin and development of English political parties.
 Origin and legends of St. Patrick's day.
 Other people's children.
 Poems about the months.
 Relation of the French revolution to Burns and Wordsworth.
 Richard Burton.
 Richard Hovey.
 Richard Le Gallienne.
 Sanitary and Christian commissions in Illinois during the Civil war.
 Teaching of art in the public schools.
 Temperance in Germany.
 William E. Henley.
 William Watson.

Reading Room.

The reading room has been well patronized during the year. No exact count can be kept of the readers through the week but the total number of Sunday visitors was 1911,- 1083 men, 423 women, and 405 children.

The reading room is supplied with 192 periodicals and newspapers, 140 of which are subscribed for and 52 donated. The most important American and English publications will be found here and the majority of these are indexed in the "Readers guide to periodical literature" which is the key to the valuable subject matter in periodicals. These periodicals when removed from the reading room are later collected in volumes and bound and then added to the periodicals stacks, where they form an invaluable adjunct to the reference part of the library.

Cataloging Department.

The number of new books classified, cataloged, shelf-listed and prepared for circulation was 1536.

The total number of cards made for these books and added to the catalog was 3849, of these 2367 were printed cards from the Library of Congress. The number of books worn out, lost or damaged which had to be withdrawn was 854. When these were replaced many were in different editions which necessitated recataloging. Cards to the number of 1739

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

were removed from the catalog for additions, revision or to be rewritten. Hundreds of government serials and other pamphlets have been recieved. These were checked, classified, and filed with other documents. Some of these were bound in volumes like other periodical publications, while others of a monographic nature were put in individual binders and cataloged as books.

School Libraries.

The collection of school duplicates now contains 554 volumes. These books were sent to four schools this year: the Durfee and Roach, Jackson and Jasper street schools where they remained the entire year. The total circulation in the schools was 8,153.

Exhibitions.

The Municipal Art League had an exhibition of the paintings of Birge Harrison which began on October 30th and lasted through Sunday November 5th, during this time thousands of people visited the library to see the pictures.

A second exhibition of the League was held March 6-17 when the chief attraction was the Roy Brown pictures, the artist being a former Decatur man; and second in interest were the ^{Pictures of} Walter Marshall Clute.

Bulletins and Book Displays.

Several times through the year there have been picture bulletins posted on the screens for some special season or timely event, and books illustrating the subject were collected and placed in the delivery room for examination. Chief among these might be mentioned the Dickens centenary exhibition in February when the works of Dickens were put out and pictures of the author, his home, places he had written about, scenes from his novels, and pictures of his characters were attractively displayed on screens in the delivery hall. The screens were later loaned to the Woman's club for its Dickens evening.

Other authors and subjects bulletined were Browning, Shakespeare, Howard Pyle, gardening, lithography, birds and eggs, art and artists.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Building and Grounds.

In order to give more room on the overcrowded shelves of the reference and children's rooms one more shelf was placed on top of those around the walls. This gives quite a good many feet more book room and relieves the situation for the time. It makes the top shelf rather high for the little folks, however, but with the movable step the topmost shelves may be reached, and are possibly enjoyed the more by the children because difficult to reach.

The children's room has two new ceiling lights which are much lower and give better results than the old ones did. The redecoration of the walls in the large room and the directors' room on the second floor has greatly improved their appearance.

Library Meetings.

The librarian and the cataloger, Miss Dill, attended the annual meeting of the American Library association which was held in California, May 18-June 3. The regular meetings were held in Pasadena but the post conference trip included much of library interest in the many stops on the coast trip up to San Francisco and then on to Sacramento, where the party finally separated.

The sessions of the Illinois Library association meeting, held in Joliet, October 11-13, were attended by the librarian.

Staff.

Miss Estella Bryant who had been connected with the library since 1904, and was for some time the head of the loan department resigned at the end of last May to take up church work. Miss Florence Love who had assisted in the library previously during vacation periods was appointed assistant in the loan department. Miss Nellie Melchers was added to the staff as supply and evening attendant.

Miss Dill was granted a four-months' leave-of-absence and remained in California after the A. L. A. meeting until the last of September. As usual we co-operated with the Library school of the University of Illinois in February by taking one of their senior students for a month's practical experience during our busiest time. The "field worker" this year was Miss Emma Felsenthal who proved to be very satisfactory as a library worker and was an inspiration to the staff.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

During the year the librarian read papers before the Mothers' clubs of the Dennis and Sangamon street schools, and also before the Women's section of the Farmers' institute. These were on the selection of books for children.

The children's librarian, Miss Hunt, read a paper and told stories to the Mothers' club of the Jasper street school, and a paper on Vacation reading followed by stories was given to the Girls' club of the Jackson street school.

In closing we wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to the press of the city for the space given in the daily papers to library matters: new book lists, special lists, book notes and reviews, announcements and information about the Library which is of general interest.

We desire to express appreciation to the Library Board for the interest shown and for the support of the members and their hearty co-operation in carrying on the work of the Library.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Appendix.

Contents of library.

June 1, 1911- books on hand ----- 30,983

Additions:

By purchase	(new)	-----	1154
"	"	(renewal)	-----
"	"	(school collection)	-----
" donation		-----	30
" bindery		-----	129
" books found (missing previous to May 31, 1911)		-----	223
			13

Total added ----- 2403

Losses:

Worn out and withdrawn	-----	888
Lost and paid for	-----	18
Lost and not paid for	-----	5
Unaccounted for in inventory	-----	86

Total loss ----- 997

May 31, 1912- books on hand ----- 32,389

Accessions according to Classification.

	No.vols.in Lib'y June 1, 1911	Additions (new and renewal)	Withdrawals (worn out and missing)	No.vols. in Lib'y May 31, 1912	Per cent
General works	3052	168	6	3214	9.92
Philosophy	457	14	1	470	1.45
Religion	1007	36	3	1040	3.21
Sociology	2940	206	38	3108	9.59
Philology	97	5	3	99	.30
Natural science	1627	66	17	1676	5.18
Useful arts	1729	150	8	1871	5.78
Fine arts	1330	107	17	1420	4.38
Literature	3223	280	59	3444	10.63
Travel	1773	75	10	1838	5.68
Biography	2081	37	11	2107	6.52
History	2193	75	35	2233	6.89
Fiction	8866	1070	719	9217	28.46
Foreign books	84	14	0	98	.30
School coll.	524	100	70	554	1.71
Total	30983	2403	997	32389	

Division of Classes.

Circulating bks.	18035	1337	496	18876
Children's bks.	4572	601	414	4759
Reference bks.	1806	75	17	1864
Bound period.	3329	195	0	3524
Public docs.	2717	95	0	2812
School coll.	524	100	70	554
Total	30983	2403	997	32389

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes (Adult.)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per cent.	Books loaned in room.
General works	9	9	7	20	16	19	38	55	44	34	12	10	273	.40	1048
Philosophy	51	54	46	36	61	58	45	62	74	77	43	48	655	.95	27
Religion	40	54	51	75	75	71	63	62	63	69	68	48	739	1.07	92
Sociology	35	41	57	53	75	76	90	85	71	114	71	103	871	1.26	222
Philology	3	2	10	15	7	2	5	2		10	3	1	60	.09	6
Natural science	39	58	62	50	61	44	44	70	57	66	72	68	691	1.00	77
Useful arts	46	56	56	56	123	88	85	108	86	119	84	74	981	1.42	161
Fine arts	68	84	117	123	146	105	116	168	185	194	124	95	1525	2.21	169
Literature	232	272	296	384	413	428	402	495	416	490	374	354	4556	6.61	989
Travel	51	55	67	78	82	99	73	114	113	113	63	102	1010	1.47	130
Biography	36	42	44	66	71	93	83	95	159	178	130	95	1092	1.59	261
History	59	55	80	121	155	135	143	176	206	201	151	150	1632	2.37	755
Fiction	3454	4252	4349	3921	3710	4135	4140	5084	4775	5176	4047	3914	50957	73.93	381
Foreign books	4	8	8	6	10	16	10	13	18	22	8	13	136	.20	4
Magazines	255	275	298	305	294	307	295	328	281	359	302	258	3557	5.16	528
Rental coll.											48	141	189	.27	
Total	4382	5317	5548	5309	5299	5676	5632	6917	6548	7222	5600	5474	68924		4850
Days open	26	25	27	25	26	25	25	26	24	26	26	26	307		
Daily average	168	212	205	212	204	227	225	266	273	278	215	210	224		
Largest day	325	365	400	406	367	452	398	508	478	532	403	381			
Smallest day	121	119	116	119	101	130	84	158	68	50	115	139			

Total number of books issued during year 1911-1912 ----- 110,584 (Adult, Juvenile and School).

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes (Juvenile.)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per Cent.	Books loaned in room.
General works	11	6	19	15	13	18	19	18	22	26	13	20	200	.61	122
Philosophy	2				1								3	.02	
Religion	23	25	18	24	20	45	17	11	24	20	21	8	256	.77	
Sociology	71	98	71	79	126	123	142	134	135	162	123	113	1377	4.12	
Philology	5	4	4	7	7	19	8	8	11	12	7	4	96	.28	
Natural science	57	57	52	41	62	65	88	104	66	98	81	70	841	2.48	
Useful arts	7	10	9	13	20	15	41	31	31	49	28	31	285	.86	
Fine arts	53	74	72	60	84	74	62	76	72	85	64	52	828	2.44	
Literature	121	144	140	158	223	250	242	192	217	270	168	153	2278	6.50	
Travel	49	60	45	81	114	142	102	101	96	114	92	68	1064	3.18	
Biography	34	32	26	27	41	70	40	51	88	98	62	57	626	1.88	
History	76	73	78	99	118	181	124	135	158	183	119	106	1450	4.32	
Fiction	1842	1900	1859	1433	1825	2277	2117	2303	2231	2575	2008	1663	24033	72.02	
Magazines	16	7	4	12	22	25	6	12	16	18	13	19	170	.52	
Total	2367	2490	2397	2049	2676	3304	3008	3176	3167	3710	2799	2364	33507		
Days open	26	25	27	25	26	25	25	26	24	26	26	26	307		
Daily average	91	99	89	82	103	132	120	122	132	143	108	99	109		
Largest day	138	137	131	160	184	219	204	221	270	273	217	168			
Smallest day	49	52	47	46	60	72	54	65	33	23	43	49			

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

School circulation.

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.
Religion	15	29	16	38	29	33	22	27	209
Sociology	73	113	132	172	163	168	97	83	1001
Natural science	77	118	91	144	146	132	72	60	840
Useful arts	19	29	14	20	26	30	11	16	165
Fine arts	12	27	15	25	26	21	11	16	153
Literature	48	63	72	93	94	85	64	47	566
Travel	77	116	101	134	152	126	49	61	816
Biography	24	51	28	45	51	45	24	31	299
History	34	53	55	82	89	90	53	43	499
Fiction	259	454	410	608	639	569	361	305	3605
Total	638	1053	934	1361	1415	1299	764	689	8153

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulating Department.

Registration.

Number of cards issued during the year	Main Dept.	1399
	Children's room	525
Total number of cards issued during the year	-----	1924
Number of cards in force June 1, 1912	Main Dept.	5046
	Children's room	2215
Total number of cards in force June 1, 1912	-----	7261

Notices sent.

Delinquent postals --- 2358	Reserve postals --- 914
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Binding and Repair.

Number of books sent to bindery -----	2000
Number of books repaired in library --	3090

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council:
Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the following report of the financial condition of the Public Library for the year ending May 31, 1912.

RECEIPTS.

From appropriation	\$8687.24
" balance on hand	909.93
" fines	358.81
" non-resident cards	56.50
" reserve postals	18.16
" lost and damaged books	19.19
" rent from Ill. Library Extension Commission	500.00
" sale of old newspapers, etc.	7.89
" rental collection	9.45
" rebate on insurance	57.88
Total	----- \$10625.05

EXPENDITURES.

For salaries	\$4473.77
" books	2009.20
" periodicals	370.70
" printing and supplies	312.16
" binding	969.15
" heat	235.64
" repairs	351.19
" light	362.79
" miscellaneous	183.89
" furniture	163.75
" balance on hand	1192.81
Total	----- \$10625.05

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

I, Alice G. Evans, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of the library is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Secretary, Library Board.

Decatur, Ill., June 5, 1913.

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF DECATUR

To the Honorable Mayor and Commissioners.

Gentlemen:

The Directors of the Public Library of the City of Decatur herewith respectfully submit their thirty-eighth annual report, which is for the year ending May 31, 1913. We commend to your consideration, as a part of this report, the attached copy of the detailed report of the Librarian to the Board.

The appointment of two additional members to the Board, at the beginning of the year has materially assisted in the prompt and uniform performance of its duty and the act of the Commissioners is duly appreciated. At the beginning of the term Charles Laux was re-appointed and J. S. McClelland and Frank Shlaudeman were the new members added. In November, 1912, Dr. George P. Hoster, president of the Board, resigned and Warren F. Hardy was appointed to fill the unexpired term. Frank Shlaudeman was then elected president.

Your attention is called to the increase in circulation, 114,348 volumes having been taken from the library this year and 110,584 the year before. The total number of volumes in the library is 73,905.

The balance on hand is \$1,168.38 which is practically the same as a year ago.

An important problem, the solution of which must soon be taken under consideration, is the fitting up and maintaining of a larger reading room on the second floor. With our limited income and ever increasing expenses this will not be an easy matter. The Board will give this question its careful attention in the hope that a satisfactory conclusion will eventually be arrived at.

Respectfully submitted,

Directors.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors, Decatur Free Public Library:

Herewith is submitted the thirty-eighth annual report of the Library for the year ending May 31, 1913.

Contents and Accessions.

There were 32,389 volumes in the Library at the beginning of the library year and the number now is 33,905. Of the 2,375 volumes added 1,623 were new books, 740 renewals, and 12 books found which had been missing. The number of volumes worn out and withdrawn was 811, and 48 were unaccounted for in inventory, making the total number withdrawn 859.

Among the important purchases may be mentioned:

Bryan-	Speeches.	2v.
Cambridge	modern history:	Atlas.
Catholic	encyclopedia.	v.14-15.
Century	dictionary, cyclopedia, and atlas.	Revised ed. 12v.
Chaucer-	Complete poetical works, now first put into modern English.	
Cicero-	Works.	8v.
Dictionary of	national biography: Second supplement.	2v.
Encyclopaedia	Britannica.	Ed. 11. 29v.
Evans-	American bibliography.	v.7.
Hubbard-	American history and encyclopedia of music.	v.11-12.
Hunter-	Tapestries: their origin, history and renaissance.	
Le Camus-	Life of Christ.	2v.
Mallory-	Compiled statutes of the United States: Supplement, 1911.	
Monroe-	Cyclopedia of education.	v.4.
Morgan-	Canadian men and women of the time.	
Paine-	Mark Twain; a biography.	3v.
Rand, McNally & Co.-	Library atlas of the world.	2v.
Raymond-	Le cuir; decorative compositions for leather work.	
Rogers-	History of Babylonia and Assyria.	2v.
Ropes & Livermore-	Story of the civil war in the United States of America.	v.3, Pts. 1 & 2.
Scott-	Hague peace conferences of 1899 and 1907.	2v.
Shakespeare-	Comedies, Histories, tragedies, and poems. (New Grant White Shakespeare)	12v.
Sonnenschein-	Best books.	2v.
Stevenson-	Home book of verse.	
United States	Catalog; books in print January 1, 1912.	
Wagner-	My life.	2v.

The Library was the recipient of more than the usual number of books donated. Besides single volumes from authors, publishers, and other individuals, small collections were given by Mr. R. A. Wilson, the R.P. Lytle estate, and Mrs. Helen Pratt Vance. The French classics in Mrs. Vance's collection were especially acceptable, as we are making an effort to add to our small collection of books in the foreign languages. Many of the books donated were already in the Library but can be used for replacing worn out copies or for duplicates if needed.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Circulating Department.

The total registration for the year was 1870. In the adult department 1,281 cards were issued and 589 in the children's room. There were 90 non-resident cards purchased, and 11 temporary cards issued to transients. The total number of cards now in force is 7,353.

The number of books loaned for home use from the adult department was 71,963 and from the children's room 33,468, making a total circulation of 105,431. In addition the circulation of the books in the school libraries was 8917, making a grand total circulation of 114,384 volumes.

The library was open 306 days. March was the largest month when 12,018 books were issued, and September the smallest with a circulation of only 7,349. On the largest day, February 8, 794 books were issued, and on October 27, the smallest, only 108.

From the reserved postals the following books were the most popular but many other books, of both fiction and non-fiction, are much in demand for which there is no accurate way of keeping a record.

Popular books in the adult department were:

Allen-	Heroine in bronze.
Barclay-	The rosary.
Barclay-	Through the postern gate.
Barclay-	Upas tree.
Beach-	The net.
Deland-	The voice.
Fox-	Heart of the hills.
Fox-	Trail of the lonsome pine.
Johnson-	Stover at Yale.
King-	Street called straight.
Lippmann-	Martha-by-the-day.
London-	Smoke Bellew.
Montessori-	Montessori method.
Norris-	Mother.
Parker-	Judgment house.
Porter-	Freckles.
Porter-	Girl of the Limberlost.
Porter-	The harvester.
Porter-	Moths of the Limberlost.
Rice-	Romance of Billy-Goat Hill.
Robins-	My little sister.
Sidgwick-	Herself.
Waller-	Cry in the wilderness.
Williamson-	Guests of Hercules.
Williamson-	Heather moon.
Wright-	Their yesterdays.

The Rental collection of duplicates has proved to be a success, in that it helps satisfy the demands of the library patrons for late, popular fiction without being a drain on the regular library funds. From the small fee of five cents a week the books have not only paid for themselves

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

but have earned enough to purchase others and keep the collection up to date. Fifty-six books were added to this collection during the year and some, as they ceased being popular and had paid for themselves, were withdrawn.

Children's Department.

The children's room now contains 4,910 volumes. The crowded condition of the shelves was somewhat relieved by placing a bookcase for reference books in the center of the room.

The circulation of books in this department was 33,468,- 23,172 of these being fiction and 10,296 non-fiction. Cards were issued to 589 children during the year, making the total number in force 2,219.

The reference work done for and by the children increases each year. During the school year the room presents a busy and crowded appearance.

The popular books of this department were:

Alcott-	Little women.
Arabian nights-	entertainments.
Baum-	Sea fairies.
Beard-	American boy's handy book.
Carpenter-	North America.
Church-	Story of the Iliad.
Clemens-	Adventures of Tom Sawyer.
Davis-	Harper's boating book for boys.
Dickens-	Story of Oliver Twist.
Dunton-	Betty Wales decides.
Harris-	Nights with Uncle Remus.
Harris-	Uncle Remus and the little boy.
Johnston-	Mary Ware's promised land.
Kaler-	Wireless station at Silver Fox farm.
Kipling-	Captains courageous.
Kipling-	Jungle book.
Perkins-	Dutch twins.
Rice-	Mrs. Wiggs of the cabbage patch.
Riggs-	Birds' Christmas Carol.
Riggs-	Polly Oliver's problem.
Seton-	Book of woodcraft and Indian lore.
Stevenson-	Treasure island.
Swift-	Gulliver's travels.
Webster-	When Patty went to college.
Woodward-	Peter Pan picture book.

Reference Room.

The number of books used in the library can only be estimated, but 12,246 volumes is probably a conservative estimate.

The increased use of the reference room is such as to indicate that it has quite outgrown its quarters. Much of the reference reading during the busy season has been done at the tables, on the counters and on the window sills of the stack room, as the seating capacity of the reference room was inadequate.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

During the entire school year, books have been reserved at the request of the teachers, for five or six high school classes and these have been in constant use.

The following are a few of the questions on which special assistance has been given:

- American illustrators.
- Artistic improvement of our cities.
- Civic responsibility.
- Conservation.
- Eradication of the thistle.
- Faults in American civilization.
- Illumination of manuscripts.
- Indian music and songs.
- Jesuits in California.
- Modern journalism as a reform agent.
- Mothers' day.
- Opportunities of the American youth.
- Perry celebration.
- Polish music and musicians.
- Roman philosophy.
- Russian art, architecture, etc.
- Third parties in American politics.
- Value of a four years' high school course.
- What laws have been secured in Germany by the socialists.

Reading Room.

The reading room is supplied with 204 periodicals and newspapers, 142 of which are subscribed for and 62 donated. This room is in constant use summer and winter by all kinds and conditions of people who can find here, among the large and assorted lot of periodicals, anything to suit the taste, whether it be ^{for} recreation or information.

No exact count of the readers can be kept during the week. The total number of Sunday visitors was 1,457,- 911 men, 338 women, and 208 children, for the Sundays from October to May inclusive.

Cataloging Department.

The number of new books classified, cataloged, shelflisted and prepared for circulation was 1,623. The total number of catalog cards made for these books was 5,653,- 3131 of these were printed cards from the Library of Congress, and 2,522 were typewritten.

The number of cards rewritten or revised was 6,220. 3,400 of these were cards for the children's catalog which had become much soiled from usage. New guides were also made and filed. About every three years it is necessary to rewrite the cards in this catalog.

Revision of subject headings, new editions of replaced books, additions to continuation cards, besides soiled cards, necessitated the revising

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

or typing of 2,522 cards for the main catalog. The total number of cards made for new books or revised ~~books~~ was 11,873.

School Libraries.

The School Duplicate collection now contains 636 volumes,- 165 were added during the year. These books were divided among the four schools: Durfee and Roach, Jackson and Jasper street schools. The total circulation in the schools was 8,917.

Exhibits.

The Municipal Art League held a loan exhibition of paintings by noted artists owned by Decatur people, on the second floor of the library, October 4-13.

A second exhibition took place January 13-27. This was called the Johnston collection and consisted of paintings by American artists. The total value of the pictures is said to be \$47,000.00. This was a pay affair in order to cover expenses of bringing it here, but the other exhibit was free. Both were well attended.

Bulletins and Book Displays.

Several picture and book displays were made during the year, the principal one being that during "Riley week" when James Whitcomb Riley's birth week was celebrated throughout the country by libraries and schools. Here we posted pictures and lists on the screen, also some of his poems. A collection of his books in attractive editions were on exhibition for the week. The posters were furnished by the Bobbs-Merrill Co.

Library Meetings.

The librarian attended the annual meeting of the American Library Association which was held in Ottawa, Canada, June 26-July 2.

The joint meeting of the Missouri and Illinois Library associations, held in St. Louis, October 24-26, was attended by the librarian and cataloger.

Staff.

There were no changes on the regular staff this year. During the busiest part of the year we were granted an extra assistant for half day. Miss Mollie Hitchcock assisted until March when Miss Lyda Coleman took her place until June.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Miss Nellie Melchers who for a short time did supply work of evenings resigned to move to North Dakota. Three young women took the apprentice course: Miss Ilda Dearth, Miss Ruth Montgomery, and Miss Lucy Henderson.

Staff meetings were held once a month during the year when papers on library subjects were read and discussed, and problems of every day work considered.

As has been customary for several years past our library cooperated with the University of Illinois by taking one of the seniors of the Library school for a month's "field work". Miss Mary Torrance who was with us during the month of February proved a very efficient assistant and an agreeable fellow-worker.

We wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to the press of the city for space given for lists of books and book notes, announcements, and general information about the Library.

In closing I wish to express my gratitude to the Library Board for the hearty support given at all times, and to the staff for faithfulness and efficient service.

Respectfully submitted,

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Appendix.

Contents of library.

June 1, 1912- books on hand ----- 32,389

Additions:

By purchase	(new)	-----	1033
" "	(renewal)	-----	740
" "	(school collection)	-----	82
" donation		-----	177
" bindery		-----	331
" books found (missing previous to May 31, 1912)		-----	12
Total added			2375

Losses:

Worn out and withdrawn	-----	787
Lost and paid for	-----	16
Lost and not paid for	-----	8
Unaccounted for in inventory	-----	48
Total loss		859

May 31, 1913- books on hand ----- 33,905

Accessions according to Classification.

	No.vols.in Lib'y June 1, 1912	Additions (new and renewal)	Withdrawals (worn out and missing)	No.vols.in Lib'y May 31, 1913	Per cent
General works	3214	178	5	3387	9.99
Philosophy	470	20	0	490	1.44
Religion	1040	50	6	1084	3.20
Sociology	3163	201	35	3329	9.82
Philology	99	21	4	116	.34
Natural science	1674	99	14	1759	5.19
Useful arts	1871	181	12	2040	6.02
Fine arts	1421	98	14	1505	4.44
Literature	3440	222	58	3604	10.63
Travel	1838	74	22	1890	5.57
Biography	2107	65	11	2161	6.37
History	2233	75	27	2281	6.73
Fiction	9167	900	568	9499	28.02
Foreign books	98	26	0	124	.34
School coll.	554	165	83	636	1.87
Total	32389	2375	859	33905	

Division of Classes.

Circulating bks.	18877	1166	376	19667
Children's bks.	4760	544	394	4910
Reference bks.	1862	148	6	2004
Bound period.	3524	195	0	3719
Public docs.	2812	157	0	2969
School coll.	554	165	83	636
Total	32389	2375	859	33905

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes. (Adult.)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per cent.	Books loaned in room.
General works	17	7	15	10	15	26	22	28	20	19	18	5	202	.28	4579
Philosophy	42	41	42	40	49	37	43	59	48	47	46	49	543	.76	36
Religion	24	47	47	49	61	58	37	56	42	47	47	38	553	.77	71
Sociology	59	61	59	60	82	96	78	87	114	109	85	148	1078	1.44	1065
Philology	1	4	1	1	1	1		2	1	2	3		17	.02	2
Natural science	44	64	72	53	58	59	54	77	64	76	107	98	826	1.15	452
Useful arts	52	75	87	67	93	115	88	135	120	139	131	100	1202	1.67	356
Fine arts	88	85	73	124	144	122	121	153	147	155	138	146	1496	2.08	175
Literature	219	257	216	220	399	363	267	406	403	430	404	341	3925	5.45	777
Travel	41	52	61	49	88	73	60	92	110	121	102	54	903	1.26	451
Biography	48	66	49	72	71	63	62	80	100	89	51	57	808	1.12	530
History	83	90	69	164	190	173	130	141	175	198	124	112	1649	2.29	2134
Fiction	3973	4224	4391	3826	4247	4543	3942	4992	4765	5324	4508	4100	52835	73.42	319
Foreign books	45	8	8	3	3	4	2	19	19	22	36	21	190	.26	11
Magazines	273	317	296	300	318	357	332	413	254	314	315	264	3753	5.22	1093
Rental coll.	120	141	170	148	187	214	163	192	167	177	158	186	2023	2.81	
Total	5129	5539	5656	5186	6006	6304	5401	6932	6549	7269	6273	5719	71963		12051
Days open	25	26	27	24	27	25	25	26	23	26	26	26	306		
Daily average	205	213	210	216	223	252	216	267	285	280	241	220	275		
Largest day	363	340	332	390	445	440	386	530	547	541	535	424			
Smallest day	110	93	104	139	74	88	128	151	141	146	122	133			

Total number of books issued during year 1912-1913 ----- 114,348 (Adult, Juvenile and School).

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes (Juvenile.)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per cent.	Books loaned in room
General works	14	36	11	11	10	25	23	25	35	26	15	13	244	.73	
Philosophy								1					1		
Religion	9	9	11	14	18	19	23	17	18	18	15	15	186	.56	
Sociology	104	108	123	167	252	255	219	260	257	287	255	211	2498	7.36	
Philology	4	3	5	3	6	11	10	5	6	11	17	7	88	.26	
Natural science	31	47	49	32	55	73	54	76	63	71	79	45	675	2.01	
Useful arts	16	17	25	22	40	28	17	22	30	36	26	17	296	.88	
Fine arts	53	62	65	53	73	68	56	97	77	81	80	56	821	2.45	
Literature	103	176	158	140	230	286	226	200	170	211	205	158	2263	6.76	
Travel	68	67	63	56	80	85	60	106	117	145	124	96	1067	3.19	
Biography	22	33	34	38	61	57	51	63	90	63	53	48	613	1.86	
History	80	72	66	109	107	159	99	134	138	189	162	95	1410	4.28	
Fiction	1875	1911	1912	1506	1834	2168	1847	2123	2037	2368	1996	1595	23172	69.26	
Magazines	14	16	22	12	7	16	11	8	7	5	7	9	134	.40	
Total	2393	2557	2544	2163	2773	3250	2696	3137	3045	3511	3034	2365	33468		195
Days open	25	26	27	24	27	25	25	26	23	26	26	26	306		
Daily average	91	98	94	90	103	130	108	121	135	135	116	91	109		
Largest day	140	145	132	149	160	213	190	257	247	251	245	179			
Smallest day	52	43	53	50	34	54	64	46	71	66	52	50			

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

School circulation.

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.
Religion	36	35	22	27	30	30	22	24	226
Sociology	164	202	117	145	144	154	141	75	1142
Natural science	145	152	75	96	131	118	94	55	866
Useful arts	28	55	24	24	39	29	21	10	230
Fine arts	38	32	27	31	21	30	23	11	213
Literature	77	88	65	68	86	87	73	28	572
Travel	142	135	69	80	117	104	79	40	766
Biography	41	45	28	21	56	32	28	19	270
History	102	93	58	71	75	90	78	47	614
Fiction	588	652	420	515	538	564	490	251	4018
Total	1361	1489	905	1078	1237	1238	1049	560	8917

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.
APPENDIX.

Circulating Department.

Registration.

Number of cards issued during the year	Main Dept.	1281
	Children's room	589
Total number of cards issued during the year	-----	1870
Number of cards in force June 1, 1913	Main Dept.	5134
	Children's room	2219
Total number of cards in force June 1, 1913	-----	7353

Notices sent.

Delinquent postals ---- 2509

Reserve postals ---- 659

Binding and Repair.

Number of books repaired in library	----	3275
Number of books sent to bindery	-----	1387

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the following report of the financial condition of the Public Library for the year ending May 31, 1913.

RECEIPTS.

From appropriation	\$8681.95
" balance on hand	1172.68
" fines	396.63
" non-resident cards	51.00
" reserve postals	13.20
" lost and damaged books	21.42
" rent from Ill. Library Extension Commission	300.00
" sale of old newspapers, etc	8.70
" rental collection	101.15
" overcharge by Library Bureau	2.00
" refund on street lights	2.84
Total -----	\$10,751.57

EXPENDITURES.

For salaries	\$4938.75
" books	2172.00
" periodicals	381.40
" printing and supplies	334.39
" binding	741.46
" heat and light	637.39
" repairs	48.44
" miscellaneous	252.21
" furniture	77.15
" balance on hand	1168.38
Total -----	\$10751.57

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

I, Alice G. Evans, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of the library is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Secretary, Library Board.

Decatur, Ill. June 8, 1914.

THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF DECATUR

To the Honorable Mayor and Commissioners.

Gentlemen:

The Directors of the Public Library of the City of Decatur herewith present you with their thirty-ninth annual report which is for the twelve months ending May 31, 1914. You will ^{find} accompanying this report a copy of the report of the Librarian to the Board of Directors and you are respectfully requested to consider the same a part of this report.

In the report of the Board of Directors under date of June 5, 1913, was mentioned the necessity of soon putting into use some of the space on the second floor. After much discussion on the part of the Board it was finally decided to move the children's room to this floor. When this had been accomplished a large opening was cut through the wall between the former children's room and the reference room resulting in a practical doubling of the space devoted to reference purposes. This additional space was very much needed and to secure it was really the prime object in moving the children's room. The Librarian's report will give more in detail just what has been done in both the children's and reference rooms.

The cost of making the changes above mentioned will probably reduce somewhat the size of the appropriation that could otherwise have been made for the purchase of new books and the Directors regret that this will be true. They realize, however, that it is just as necessary to take care of what the Library now possesses and that it is just as necessary to make those possessions as available and useful to the public as possible, as it is to acquire new reading matter and they have kept this carefully in mind while the above mentioned improvements were being discussed and planned.

The total number of volumes taken from the Library during the past year was 110,298 and the number of books on hand is 34,728.

Our balance on hand is \$752.75 against \$1168.38 a year ago.

This difference is due to the cost of fitting up the children's room on the second floor and the purchase of fire insurance which runs for a period of five years.

A new floor was laid in the work room in the basement, new shades were put up on most of the front windows on the lower floor and the screens have been put into good condition for use. Altogether the Library property is in very good repair.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors, Decatur Free Public Library:

Herewith is submitted the thirty-ninth annual report of the Library for the year ending May 31, 1914.

The past year in the Library has shown substantial progress and a broadening of its resources in many ways.

The most important change, since the move into the new building eleven years ago, was made at the close of this year when the large room on the second floor was fitted up for the children's room. Shelves were built around the wall and a well-planned loan desk made, back of which are cupboards and shelves and plenty of working space. Cork carpet was laid over the floor and in part of the hall leading to the children's room. A rod was placed above and extended out from the stair railing as an extra precaution against accident to venturesome children.

The children's room is not only attractive and convenient in its appointments but has plenty of floor space for more tables and chairs and shelving when needed. The chief reason for moving the children's room upstairs was that the reference room might be enlarged, for while the children's room was crowded it could have been used for several years but the reference room was taxed to the limit both as to shelving and table space. This has now been remedied by having an opening cut between the reference room and the previous children's room making one large room allowing ample shelving, and table and seating capacity for future growth. The room is well arranged for supervision, and its roominess and light will make it a comfort to students, club workers, and other library users when the busy season begins next fall.

When the Library was built it was intended, when the main floor was outgrown, to use the large room on the second floor for a reading room, and the present reading room for the children's room, but when planning for the change it was found that the space in the reading room would not be enough for the books and equipment of the children's room as it is, regardless of growth. Stacks would have been necessary at first and this would have decreased table and seating capacity, so the only thing left to do was to take the children's room upstairs or down in the basement. To the latter there were more objections also more complications in planning for its use.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The rooms formerly occupied by the Illinois Library Extension Commission, from March 1910 until January of the present year, were taken for the public documents and these moved from the lower stack and the store room, where about half of the collection had been forced to go because of the crowded condition in the lower stack. After the documents were moved the periodicals were shifted so they now occupy the whole lower stack.

The entire collection of books in the Library, with the exception of the adult circulating books, was handled in the various moves. The planning for these improvements, the shifting and adjusting and systemizing has taken much of the time of several members of the staff, but now that it is done, and the Library is in such good condition, it is hoped the work will run along easier next year.

Many repairs and improvements were made in other parts of the building: several new sections of glass were put in the stack floors to replace cracked ones; a new floor was laid in the work room; new shades were hung at some of the windows; and awnings were placed at the west windows in the children's room.

Contents and Accessions.

There were 33,905 volumes in the Library at the time of the last report. The total accessions for the year was 1850 volumes. The number of books purchased was 1560 volumes,- 173 were received by gift, 95 were added by binding magazines, and 22 books were found which had been missing. Of those purchased 749 were new books, 733 replaced wornout copies, and 78 were new additions to the school collection.

The number of books withdrawn during the year was 1027,- 917 were worn out, 28 were lost, and 82 unaccounted for in inventory. The total number of volumes in the Library at this time is 34,728.

Gifts were received from many sources, chiefly United States and state publications, association reports, etc, but there were also many books given by individuals. The largest single donation was 44 bound volumes of the Deatur Herald, dating from July 1896. The most unusual gift was a large volume of the Gospel of St. Mark in raised letters for the blind. This was presented by Miss Crea.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Among the important purchases may be mentioned:

Austen-Leigh-	Jane Austen; her life and letters.	
Baker-	Guide to the best fiction in English.	
Bays-	American commercial law series.	9v.
Caffin-	Dancing and dancers of today.	9v.
Cambridge history of English literature.		v.10.
Catholic encyclopedia.	v.16, Index.	
Donville-Pife-	Great states of South America.	
Hunk & Wagnalls new Standard dictionary of the English language.		
Green-	Pioneer mothers.	3v.
Guerard-	French prophets of yesterday.	
Hodgkin-	Italy and her invaders.	9v.
Illinois-	Revised statutes, 1912; ed. by Hurd.	
Machiney's handbook.		
Monroe-	Cyclopedia of education.	v.5.
New international encyclopaedia.		20v.
Shakespeare-	New variorum edition; ed. by Furness.	2v.
	v.17- Tragedie of Julius Caesar.	
	v.18- Tragedie of Cymbeline.	
Tappan-	Children's hour.	10v.
Taylor-	Mediaeval mind.	2v.
Trevelyan-	John Bright.	
Vauthier-	Technique of painting.	
Woman's who's who in America,	1914-1915.	

Circulation Department.

The total registration for the year was 2038. In the adult department 1380 cards were issued and 658 in the children's room. There were 87 non-resident cards purchased, and 11 temporary cards issued to transients. The total number of cards now in force is 7574.

The number of books loaned for home use from the adult department was 72,510 and from the children's room 31,342, making a total circulation of 103,852. In addition the circulation of the books in the school libraries was 6,446, making a grand total circulation of 110,298 volumes.

The Library was open 305 days. March was the largest month when 11,650 books were issued, and September the smallest with a circulation of only 7,205. On the largest day Feb. 14, 888 books were issued, and on Feb 23, the smallest, only 55. This was the day of the heavy snow storm.

The Rental collection of duplicates still proves popular. These books circulated 2,477 times this year, earning \$123.85. This money is used to keep up the collection which has proved a great help in supplying late, popular fiction. It not only accommodates those who do not want to wait their turn for the regular copies but also helps those who do not care to pay for rental copies by giving them more chances for the free ones.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Children's Department.

The most important event in this department was the opening of the new room upstairs on May second.

The planning and preliminary work took much time but the children's room was only closed two days while the books and equipment were being moved and everything was being adjusted.

Not only the children but the grown people seem to be delighted with the room and its arrangement. One little boy urged his mother to come up to see the new room saying "Why we have a big desk like they have downstairs". On the day of the opening the room was attractively decorated with flowers, and May baskets occupied the center of the tables. Many appropriate bulletins were posted around the room.

The catalog cabinets are now placed on a long, low table opposite the loan desk which makes the catalog much easier to consult than in the old room where the only place to be found for this useful tool was on the top of a radiator, this location causing the cards to become soiled much more quickly. The other end of the table supplies space for consulting reference books which are shelved nearby. A framed picture of the flag containing the origin and history of the stars and stripes was presented to the children's room by Mrs. Inez J. Bender.

The number of volumes added to the children's room was 423,- 146 of these were new books and 277 were replacements; 301 wornout volumes were withdrawn making the total number on hand 5,032. The circulation in this room was 31,342,- 21,040 being fiction and 10,302 non-fiction. The number of pictures loaned was 145. Cards were issued to 658 children during the year making the total number in force 2,318.

The children's room now closes at six o'clock, as is the custom in many libraries. This does not seem to have worked any hardship as the children can and should get their books before dark, or as soon after as possible. Books brought in after six which belong in the children's room and are due that day are checked off the next morning and no fine charged.

Pictures and bulletins for national holidays and special days have been posted throughout the year, as usual.

REFERENCE LIBRARY

Reference Department.

Several large sets of works have been completed this year, among which the most important are Monroe's History of education and the Catholic encyclopedia. Two new volumes have been added to the Variorum edition of Shakespeare's works, and new editions of the New international encyclopedia and the Standard dictionary have been purchased.

The estimated number of volumes used in the library was 8,278.

The usual amount of reference work was done, the busiest time coming during the theme, thesis and debate seasons at the high school and university. The work on the club programs was done early in the fall and the programs were posted for use in a convenient place at the entrance to the reference room. Upon request, books have been reserved for the use of students, individuals and club workers.

The enlarging of the reference room has relieved the cramped condition which has annoyed us for several years and the patrons of this department will surely appreciate and enjoy the improvement.

The following are some of the subjects on which special assistance was given:

Child welfare.
Conservation of human life.
Institutional church.
Marriage customs, dress, etc of the Jews.
Natural wonders of the world.
New farming.
Preparation for civic duties.
Relation of Arabian nights' entertainments to Arabian history.
Relation of dress to income.
Responsibility of the church for the social conditions in our cities.
Stranger within our gates.
Women in public positions.
Wordsworth's theory of education.

Reading Room.

The reading room is supplied with 203 periodicals and newspapers, 151 are subscribed for and 52 donated. This room is usually well patronized even when the circulation falls off and the reference room is deserted.

The Sunday afternoon visitors to this room, October to May inclusive, was 1694, 1028 men, 463 women, and 203 children. No exact record can be kept of visitors during the week.

New periodicals subscribed for at the beginning of the calendar year

Were:	American industries.	The mentor.
	Cook's Amer. traveller's gazette.	Municipal engineering.
	The drama.	The playground.
	Heat and ventilating magazine.	Story tellers' magazine.
	Industrial engineer and engineering digest.	Vocational education.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Catalog Department.

A new 60-tray catalog cabinet was purchased for the main catalog, and the cards shifted, which eased up the congested condition of the other two cabinets. New drawer labels were made and many new guides added.

The number of new books classified, cataloged, shelf listed and prepared for circulation was 1095. Catalog cards for these books numbered 4,255, of these 2,213 were printed cards from the Library of Congress, and 2,042 were typed. New editions of replaced books, additions to series, continuation cards, etc., and copying soiled cards caused 1,496 cards to be removed from the catalog, then revised or rewritten and refiled. The total number of cards added to the catalog was 5,751.

Hundreds of serial publications issued by the government, institutions, or societies have been received. These were checked and classified, and filed in pamphlet cases with similar material. Many volumes of these serials were sent to the bindery. Unnumbered pamphlets of monographic nature have been put in Gaylord or Barrett binders, classified and cataloged, and shelved with the books of their respective classes.

It was decided to make a list of all the subject headings used in cataloging on cards, as the old printed list in book form was very nearly worn out and filled up. About half of this work is done and it is hoped the rest may be accomplished during the coming year.

Binding and Mending.

The total number of books sent to the bindery was 1,608, of this number 218 volumes were periodicals or serials bound for the first time, and 1,390 were books rebound.

The books received in the publishers' bindings are not very durable, as a rule, and are frequently rebound in their first year. The hard usage given books in an open-shelf library is one of the causes of more rebinding and likewise of more mending.

The number of books mended, relabelled or in any way repaired was 2,347. This does not include pasting in leaves or dating slips, making new book cards, etc which is done before books are returned to the shelves, after being loaned.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

School Libraries.

There are now 708 volumes in the school duplicate collection,- 200 volumes were added during the year, 78 being new books and 122 replacements; 128 were withdrawn, being worn out.

The books were divided among the five schools: Durfee, Roach, Oglesby, Jackson and Jasper street schools. They were sent in October and kept until the close of school. The total circulation among the pupils this year was 6,446.

Exhibitions.

The Municipal Art League held an exhibition on the second floor of the Library November 18-26 and another, March 14-24. The first consisted of original illustrations made for books and magazines. Those of Howard Giles illustrating Churchill's "Inside of the cup" received the most attention. There was also a pottery display from the Newcomb school of New Orleans, loaned by Mrs. G. E. Fellows.

The exhibition in March was of paintings by various artists,- Philip Little being the principal exhibitor. A bust of the late Capt. George R. Bacon, the work of our local sculptor, Miss Giselle Durfee, was also exhibited and received much favorable comment.

The Stephen Decatur chapter of the D. A. R. held an exhibition of historic relics, December 3-8. The articles were all loaned by Decatur people and the exhibit was most interesting and instructive to all who saw it. It was a surprise to every one that so many valuable things of historic interest were in the possession of Decatur citizens. The proceeds of the exhibition went into the fund for the new Macon county hospital.

Many of the best paintings belonging to the public school collection have been hung in the Library for the summer.

Bulletins and Book Displays.

There are always posted in the back of the stack near the fiction alcoves lists of different kinds of stories often asked for by readers. These lists have been used so much that it has been necessary to rewrite them all, at least once, and some several times. The following subjects were included:

Business stories.
Newspaper stories.
Political stories.
Railroad stories.

Detective stories.
Stories of the South.
Stories of the West and Canada.
Stories for girls beginning to read fiction.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

A list of historical fiction about Great Britain was made placed in a conspicuous place. This was done to supplement English history in the high school, with the hope that a greater interest in the subject might be developed and the students induced to read a better class of fiction.

In order to bring the classed books to the notice of the borrowers, books on the following subjects have been displayed and people urged to take one of them with a book of fiction or if they preferred, two of these without fiction:

Art
Biography
Electricity
Drama
Essays

Gardening.
House decoration.
Music.
Travel.

On the large screen pictures are displayed, as a rule these are the pictures issued with the Mentor.

The information bulletin boards contain such lists and notices as:

Lists of United States, state and local officials; Information about U.S. documents; Post office information; Carnegie hero fund publications; Rules and by-laws of the Decatur public library; Statistics of the Library; List of the periodicals in the reading-room, and current miscellaneous information such as about the Pageant and masque held in St. Louis in May to commemorate its 150th anniversary.

Library meetings.

The librarian attended the meeting of the American Library association which was held at Kaaterskill, in the Catskill mountains, June 23-28, 1913. The meeting of the Illinois Library association, held in Chicago, December 29- January 2 was attended by the librarian and cataloger.

The national conference for 1914 came earlier than is usual, being held in Washington, D. C. May 25-30. This meeting was attended by the librarian.

Staff.

There were two changes on the staff this year. Miss Florence Love resigned June 30 to enter the Wisconsin Library School, at Madison, in the fall. Her place as assistant in the loan department, was taken by Miss Lucy Henderson who had done some supply work.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Miss Vera Gher, who had been at the head of the loan department, resigned the last of December to accept the position of librarian at Harvard, Ill. Miss Henderson took her place, and Miss Helen Roby who had taken the apprentice course and been doing evening work was made assistant. Miss Eleanor Ferris took the two months' apprentice course beginning in March.

During the past year the schedule has been changed so that each attendant is on duty only two evenings a week instead of three as formerly.

Staff meetings were held as usual once a month when papers on library subjects were read and discussed, news items brought in, and problems of our own library considered. At the meeting in February, Miss Elizabeth Davis, a senior from the University of Illinois Library School who was with us for a month's "field work", gave a very interesting talk on the work of the Illinois Library School.

Press.

The newspapers have been generous in furnishing free copies for the reading room and for binding, and in giving space for book lists and library news in their columns. We wish to extend to them sincere thanks for their interest and assistance.

Library Board and Staff.

To the Library Board it is a pleasure to acknowledge the hearty cooperation and cordial support given at all times, and the Staff is to be commended for intelligent and loyal service.

Respectfully submitted,

librarian.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Appendix.

Contents of library.

June 1, 1913- books on hand ----- 33,905

Additions:

By purchase	(new)	-----	
"	(renewal)	-----	749
"	(school collection)	-----	733
" donation		-----	78
" bindery		-----	173
" books found (missing previous to May 31, 1913)		-----	95
		-----	22

Total added ----- 1850

Losses:

Worn out and withdrawn	-----	917
Lost and paid for	-----	26
Lost and not paid for	-----	2
Unaccounted for in inventory	-----	82

Total loss ----- 1027

May 31, 1914- books on hand ----- 34,728

Accessions according to Classification.

	No.vols.in Lib'y June 1, 1913	Additions (new and renewal)	Withdrawals (worn out and missing)	No.vols.in Lib'y May 31, 1914	Per cent
General works	3387	128	22	3493	10.05
Philosophy	490	19	6	503	1.45
Religion	1084	36	10	1110	3.19
Sociology	3328	185	48	3465	9.97
Philology	116	8	2	122	.35
Natural science	1759	52	12	1799	5.18
Useful arts	2039	81	10	2110	6.07
Fine arts	1505	69	24	1550	4.46
Literature	3604	159	57	3706	10.67
Travel	1890	58	30	1918	5.52
Biography	2161	43	12	2192	6.31
History	2281	66	24	2323	6.74
Fiction	9501	709	640	9570	27.55
Foreign books	124	37	2	159	.45
School coll.	636	200	128	708	2.04
Total	33905	1850	1027	34728	

Division of Classes.

Circulating bks.	19656	970	574	20052
Children's bks.	4910	423	301	5032
Reference bks.	2004	63	24	2043
Bound period.	3719	124	0	3843
Public docs.	2980	70	0	3050
School coll.	636	200	128	708
Total	33905	1850	1027	34728

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes. (Adult.)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per cent.	Books loaned in room
General works	6	16	11	5	4	7	13	11	4	12	7	4	100	.14	2023
Philosophy	33	44	42	49	36	44	68	66	65	77	83	75	682	.94	29
Religion	36	49	47	53	51	68	71	76	66	73	54	62	706	.97	64
Sociology	56	65	72	98	124	102	102	127	87	118	143	119	1213	1.67	773
Philology	2	1	4	3	7	5	5	3	1		5	1	37	.05	3
Natural science	49	39	47	78	54	65	57	69	68	67	56	50	699	.96	841
Useful arts	83	95	71	96	114	97	96	122	123	130	104	86	1217	1.68	261
Fine arts	81	98	86	75	128	142	160	201	168	194	116	95	1544	2.13	176
Literature	227	232	242	269	369	371	384	411	337	448	370	277	3937	5.43	873
Travel	54	62	49	60	71	84	81	108	138	112	81	55	955	1.32	111
Biography	33	44	41	44	56	50	98	81	114	113	67	61	802	1.11	208
History	63	77	74	103	151	133	121	143	177	163	141	115	1461	2.01	821
Fiction	3833	4300	4181	3977	4346	4393	4350	5159	4794	5064	4268	3669	52334	72.18	368
Foreign books	25	20	29	20	17	22	29	28	14	54	32	15	305	.42	4
Magazines	253	294	304	310	355	300	345	465	426	414	303	272	4041	5.57	1658
Rental coll.	192	194	175	154	176	184	239	294	250	255	206	158	2477	3.42	
Total	5026	5630	5475	5394	6059	6067	6219	7364	6832	7294	6036	5114	72510		8213
Days open	25	26	26	25	27	24	26	26	23	26	26	25	305		
Daily average	201	217	211	216	224	253	239	283	297	280	232	205	238		
Largest day	402	443	377	428	501	470	546	508	629	520	436	363			
Smallest day	99	122	110	118	88	153	125	185	43	187	139	126			

Total number of books issued during year 1913-1914 ----- 110,298 (Adult, juvenile and school)

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes (Juvenile.)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per cent.	Books loaned in room
General works	8	8	5	6	15	20	17	33	16	31	16	12	187	.60	
Philosophy	1												4	.01	
Religion	4	8	5	5	8	11	13	25	10	18	27	21	154	.49	
Sociology	200	214	142	184	244	257	216	264	251	295	234	207	2708	8.64	
Philology	2	5	5	3	8	14	10	9	7	9	6	8	86	.28	
Natural science	37	53	59	54	73	60	65	80	62	90	87	73	793	2.53	
Useful arts	16	19	14	13	33	38	28	30	30	35	18	25	299	.95	
Fine arts	65	63	69	50	93	101	85	95	74	86	70	52	903	2.88	
Literature	138	104	98	113	217	214	224	175	188	242	217	155	2085	6.65	
Travel	63	57	38	49	80	128	99	99	109	130	86	79	1017	3.25	
Biography	37	39	27	37	45	45	49	50	76	69	32	29	535	1.70	
History	99	70	66	104	132	184	145	139	158	162	110	56	1425	4.55	
Fiction	1595	1530	1394	1188	1755	1970	1864	2155	2033	2389	1710	1457	21040	67.13	
Magazines	5	5	5	5	12	12	11	8	8	16	8	11	106	.34	
Total	2270	2175	1927	1811	2715	3054	2825	3162	3022	3573	2623	2185	31342		65
Days open.	25	26	26	25	27	24	26	26	23	26	25	24	303		
Daily average	91	83	74	72	101	127	108	122	126	137	105	91	104		
Largest day	138	126	117	159	182	239	220	252	267	310	197	163			
Smallest day	43	41	46	34	58	69	53	54	12	68	55	40			

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

School Circulation.

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.
Religion	14	30	18	20	21	10	12	8	133
Sociology	107	228	126	167	146	116	83	61	1034
Philology	1	5	1	2		2		3	14
Natural science	80	146	68	86	87	70	29	29	595
Useful arts	17	40	21	21	27	25	10	7	168
Fine arts	19	36	11	9	13	13	6	4	111
Literature	41	87	45	62	52	48	21	21	377
Travel	91	156	70	75	60	57	26	25	560
Biography	23	71	32	29	24	28	23	11	241
History	50	67	47	57	73	75	54	32	455
Fiction	293	588	332	472	394	340	199	140	2758
Total	736	1454	771	1000	897	784	463	341	6446

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

APPENDIX.

Circulating Department.

Registration.

Number of cards issued during the year	Main Dept.	1380
Total number of cards issued during the year	Children's room	658
Number of cards in force June 1, 1914	-----	2038
	Main Dept.	5256
Total number of cards in force June 1, 1914	Children's room	2318
	-----	7574

Notices sent.

Delinquent postals	-----	2530
Reserve postals	-----	713

Binding and Repair.

Number of books repaired in library	-----	2347
Number of books sent to bindery	-----	1608

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the following report of the financial condition of the Public Library for the year ending May 31, 1914.

RECEIPTS.

from appropriation	\$8722.41
" balance on hand	1168.38
" fines	393.13
" non-resident cards	49.50
" reserve postals	12.52
" lost and damaged books	21.06
" rent from Ill. Library Extension Commission	300.00
" sale of old newspapers, etc	7.64
" rental collection	123.85
" rebates on books, insurance & push-cart	44.47

Total ----- \$10,842.96

EXPENDITURES.

for salaries	\$4845.91
" books	1541.83
" periodicals	410.05
" printing and supplies	246.38
" binding.	855.61
" heat and light	619.16
" repairs	128.30
" insurance	391.34
" miscellaneous	204.22
" furniture	847.41
" balance on hand	752.75

Total ----- \$10,842.96

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

I, Alice G. Evans, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of the library is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Secretary, Library Board.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of June, 191 .

Notary Public.

Decatur, Ill. June 4, 1915.

THE FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF DECATUR

To the Honorable Mayor and Commissioners.

Gentlemen:

In making to you this, their annual report, the Board of Directors of the Public Library of Decatur find but little to add to the very complete report of the librarian, a copy of which is attached hereto.

When our budget of estimated expenses was compiled at the beginning of our fiscal year, it seemed a certainty that our disbursements for books must necessarily be considerably reduced. It is very gratifying, therefore, to be able to report that our book account is but little less than for the previous year and that our balance on hand is nearly double the amount on hand a year ago. Of this accumulated balance, much will probably have to be spent for exterior painting this fall and for interior decorating.

The renewal of the bulk of our insurance for five years and the fitting up of the children's room on the second floor during the year 1913-1914 were largely responsible for the reduction of our balance on hand one year ago. In the next nine years we will have yearly payments to make on the cost of paving North Main street last year, which is an extra item of expense we have not hitherto had.

In the last twelve months the matter of branch libraries has been discussed. The members of the Board are unanimous in the opinion that beginning should be made in this direction. It is difficult to see at present how much can be done along this line on account of the lack of funds. There is pending before the Legislature of Illinois a bill that will, if it becomes a law, make it possible to levy, with the approval of the City Commissioners, a tax for library purposes not to exceed two mills. If this bill becomes a law, it will be easily possible, with the aid and concurrence of your Honorable Body, to raise such funds as will be necessary to do all that is at present needed in the way of branch libraries without in any way making sacrifices that will be detrimental to the work of the main library.

1914-15

Your Library Board has aided this bill to the best of its ability and we hope for your approval. As we understand the bill, it will be optional with the City Commissioners as to how much, if any, of the additional library tax of eight tenths of one mill shall be levied.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors, Decatur Free Public Library:

Herewith is submitted the fortieth annual report of the Library for the year ending May 31, 1915.

The year just closed has been marked by no unusual event but there can be recorded twelve months of continuous patronage and steady work in all departments.

The increasing of the Library's working space last year by removing the children's room upstairs and enlarging the reference room has proved a great advantage in many ways. Although no large undertaking has been launched, much thought and time for investigation have been given to future extension, - if the appropriation of the coming year permits - and steps have already been taken towards opening a regular branch library in the new Durfee School building. It is also hoped that the Library may be able later to open up deposit stations.

Contents and Accessions.

The number of volumes in the library June 1, 1914 was 34,728. The number of volumes added during the year was 1958, the number withdrawn 1036, leaving a net increase of 922, and the total number of volumes May 31, 1915, 35,650.

Not many expensive books or sets were added during the year because of the limited book fund, but among the titles of special interest may be mentioned:

- A. L. A. index to general literature; Supplement, 1900-1910.
- Abridged agricultural records. 7v.
- Cross- History of England and Greater Britain.
- Cyclopedia of American government; edited by McLaughlin and Hart. v.2-3.
- Evans- American bibliography. v.8.
- Johnson- Readings in American constitutional history, 1776-1876.
- Reid- American and English studies. 2v.
- Riley- Complete works. 6v.
- Roosevelt- Through the Brazilian wilderness.
- Webb- Famous living Americans.

There were also added new editions of several standard works such as:

- Bartlett- Familiar quotations.
- Adler- German and English dictionary.
- Dyke- Automobile encyclopedia.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Loan Department.

The total registration for the year was 2100. In the adult department 1506 cards were issued and 594 in the children's room. There were 108 non-resident cards purchased and 13 temporary cards issued to transients. The total number of cards now in force is 7934.

The number of books loaned for home use from the adult department was 75,005, from the children's room 30,119, and through the school libraries 3,244, making the total circulation 108,368.

The Library was open 306 days. January was the largest month when 10,805 books were issued, and September the smallest with a circulation of only 7,217. The largest day was Dec. 5 when 799 were issued, and June 10 the smallest with 156.

The scarlet fever epidemic caused much extra work in this department, besides the loss of 39 books which were destroyed by order of the State Board of Health. New cases were reported by the city authorities to the library every day, and these names were compared with our borrowers' index to see if any members of the household were card holders, and if so the file of borrowers' cards was consulted to see if any cards were out, in which case borrowers were notified to have the books fumigated and then return them to the Library where they would be destroyed. To keep a systematic record of these cards took an hour or more each morning, also required an index of persons and one of streets.

The circulation was considerably reduced in February and March during the quarantine.

The rental collection still proves its reason for being by taking some of the burden from the limited book fund and making it possible to come somewhat nearer to supplying the heavy demand for the new books, especially new fiction. There is no book in the rental collection which is not also on the free shelves. Copies which have paid for themselves are transferred to the free collection. Fifty new books were added to the rental collection. The total circulation of the entire collection was 1,735, earning \$86.75.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Children's Department.

The opening of the library year found the children very much at home in their new location.

The summer was exceedingly hot but the large room with its many windows proved to be a pleasant place for the little readers. When the children came in large numbers after school hours in the fall, they climbed the stairs so easily and quietly that these arguments against the move upstairs were proved to be unjustified.

Just at the time we were having our largest circulation the city was visited by an epidemic of scarlet fever. Like a Pied Piper it passed through our midst, and from February 10 to March 27 no children were seen on the streets or in the Library. All the schools were closed and the Public Library was indeed a blessing furnishing good reading for the little "shut-ins", who had escaped the epidemic. Some visited the department to see what it looked like without children. Many parents came for books who had not been in the Library before, and messages of thanks were sent to the librarian by the children, making it a pleasure to send books to them.

While the schools were closed the city teachers worked on the new course of study using the juvenile books, and the department was a busy place.

Bulletins and lists have been posted marking the holidays. A very useful poster is one showing different bird houses, as many of our boys and girls are greatly interested in birds this spring. The Boy Scouts and Indian posters also attracted much attention.

The following is a summary of the year's work:

Number of volumes added -----	414
Number of volumes withdrawn -----	361
Total number of volumes in children's room	5,086
Number of volumes loaned:	
Fiction -----	20,086
Non-fiction -----	10,033
Total -----	30,119
Number of pictures loaned -----	30
Number of cards issued -----	594
Total number of cards in force -----	2,367

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Reference Department.

The needs of this department have been more easily met since the enlargement of the reference room over a year ago. The work has consisted of the usual help given to students, club-women and the various other classes of library visitors. As far as possible, the demands have been anticipated and material looked up in advance. It has been interesting to note that subjects of a social and economic nature have been asked for most often. A representative list of subjects on which help has been given follows:

- Bible chronology.
- Chinese children in the United States.
- Government ownership of telegraph and telephone lines.
- Historic spots in Illinois.
- Honor system in high schools.
- Metallic railroad ties.
- Nautical astronomy.
- Neutrality.
- State forestry in Illinois.
- Supervised play of children.
- The war from an economic standpoint.

The vertical file, which is to include pictures, pamphlets and clippings, has been started.

Since January the reference room has been thrown open for use on Sunday afternoons from two until six.

Definite statistics as to the reference use of the Library can scarcely be compiled, but the estimated number of books used in the building is 8,623.

Reading Room.

The reading room is always one of the most popular places in the Library, every day from nine until nine, and on Sunday afternoons from two until six.

The total attendance on Sundays, the only time a record is kept, was 1700, the average being 48.

The reading room has on file 227 periodicals and newspapers. Pamphlets on the European war and government bulletins of popular interest are also placed here.

New periodicals subscribed for were:

- American Oxonian.
- Electric railway journal.
- Hibbert journal.
- New republic.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Catalog Department.

The total number of new books classified and cataloged was	1,069
New editions of old books recataloged -----	135
Library of Congress cards used -----	1,431
Cards typewritten:	
Main catalog -----	1,588
Children's catalog -----	514
Cards revised or added to -----	1,280
Total number of cards added to the catalog -----	4,813

In addition to books, many serials were checked, classified and added to cards. Pamphlets of an ephemeral nature were arranged alphabetically in a vertical file.

The most important and tedious piece of extra work done was the typing on cards of all subject headings used in the catalog. This was most necessary as the list in book form was completely worn out, and it was simpler and better for future use to arrange on cards than to check up a new printed list. The work was begun last year, and there still remains to be done the collation of the list with the catalog, in order to unify the whole and make needed revisions and additions to the reference cards.

Binding and Mending
Withdrawing and Replacing.

The total number of books sent to the bindery was 1278; of this number 223 volumes were periodicals, and 1055 were books to be rebound. The number of books mended or labelled was 2603, and those beyond repair to the number of 1036 were withdrawn and new copies ordered if needed.

These figures do not give an adequate idea of the work necessary to keep the collection in even fairly good condition. Each and every process requires the careful attention of some one skilled in that particular line, and at the height of the busy season the circulation and reference work make such demands on the time of the attendants that the repair, binding and withdrawal work gets very much in arrears.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

School Libraries.

There are now 697 volumes in the school collection. In October a library was deposited in each of the following schools: Durfee, Roach, Oglesby, Oakland, and Jackson street schools where they remained until the close of the school year.

The circulation was only 3,244 this year as against 6,446 of the previous one. This falling off was because of the epidemic of scarlet fever, during which time most of the libraries were not circulated.

Exhibitions.

The Municipal Art League held two exhibitions in the Library this year. The first one, January 5-12, was of the paintings of Mr. Roy Brown, formerly of Decatur. This was largely attended and unusual interest shown both because of the merit of the pictures and in that the painter was a Decatur boy. Mr. Brown was in and out during the exhibition, busy greeting old friends and explaining the pictures to visitors. He was particularly interested in the comments of the children who came by school rooms to see them. Decatur people noted with pride Mr. Brown's wonderful development in style since he last exhibited here.

The second exhibition has just closed, being held May 10 to 24. This consisted of paintings by American painters, selected by the American Federation of Arts. There were forty canvases in the collection which more than filled the two south rooms and the hall upstairs, - two pictures being hung in the delivery room. The paintings were by noted artists and the subjects and treatment were varied enough to suit all tastes.

Bulletins and Book Displays.

Bulletins and lists for the usual holidays and some special occasions have been posted in the delivery room. The information bulletin boards have been kept supplied with library statistics and other local information answering questions often asked at the desk; also, lists of State and United States officials, etc.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Small groups of books, other than fiction, are kept in display cases in the delivery room near the loan desk. By this simple advertising, many good books have been loaned that would otherwise have remained on the shelves. Some of the subjects displayed were:

Biography.

Essays.

European war.

Gardening.

Home university library (series)

United States travel.

House plans and decoration.

Household science.

Modern drama.

South America.

United States travel.

Frequently lists are printed in the papers calling attention to the books displayed.

In connection with the vacation privilege of allowing six books on card, railway and steamship folders and attractive booklets showing picturesque places to be visited are displayed, giving suggestions to patrons about planning their summer trips.

Cooperation.

Our library cooperated with the Western Reserve Library school by taking one of its prospective students, Miss Lucille Standiford, for a month's practical experience before taking up her work in that school last fall.

As has been customary for the past nine years, the Library had one of the seniors of the University of Illinois Library School for a month's field work. Miss Norma Lee Peck was the student this year, and was here in March and April instead of February as heretofore.

Instruction in the use of the library was given to two groups of Miss Lutz's students from the Academy of the James Millikin university. Photographs of the exterior and interior of the library were sent to be used in the library exhibit at the Panama-Pacific exposition, and afterwards to form part of a permanent exhibit at the University of Illinois.

The Library has made use of the inter-library loan system by borrowing books from the John Crerar library and a special bibliography from the Library of Congress, and has in turn loaned books, and made lists for some of the smaller libraries in the state. Reference work is often done for students or club workers in nearby towns.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Building and Grounds.

After last year's extensive improvements, not so much was needed this year for the upkeep of the building. The walls in the stack room, small hall, librarian's and cataloger's rooms were redecorated, and additional shelving placed in the librarian's room.

The iron gratings at the basement windows were all repaired, and the grounds and parking put in good condition by sodding.

Library Meetings.

The Illinois Library association which met in Springfield in October was attended by the librarian and four members of the staff.

The American Library association holds its annual conference this year in Berkeley, Calif., June 3-9. The librarian is now in attendance at that meeting.

Apprentices.

As usual, the Library has had some apprentices in training at the loan desk and in the children's room to provide for substitute and evening work. Those taking the course were Miss Eleanor Ferris, Miss Edith Davis, and Miss Helen Stevenson, - the last two being students in the Library school of the James Millikin university.

Staff.

Miss Mabel Wayne, who for fifteen years had been a valued assistant, resigned in July to enter the Wisconsin Library school in the fall. Miss Wayne began as an apprentice and later took the Library Summer school course conducted by the Iowa Library commission. She was made head of the loan department when the new building was opened, and had been reference librarian for ten years when she resigned. Miss Wayne was very thorough and efficient in all departments and her going was a distinct loss to the Library and the community.

The Library was fortunate in securing Miss Florence Love, formerly a member of the staff and who had just finished the course in the Wisconsin Library school, as reference librarian.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Miss Helen Roby resigned as desk assistant in July. Miss Eleanor Ferris who had taken the apprentice course was appointed a regular assistant in September only to resign in November to join her family in Indianapolis. Miss Florence Newell took the place on the staff left vacant by Miss Ferris.

In January Walter Henry was appointed page to put up books and keep the shelves in order, working after school and all day on Saturdays.

Because of the steady pressure of work, with a small and constantly changing staff, it has been a particularly hard year on all. The staff is to be commended for faithful and interested service.

Newspapers.

Hearty thanks are due the daily papers of our city for their courtesy in publishing lists of books and library news of interest to the public, also for furnishing free copies of their papers for the reading room and for binding.

Library Board.

Changes on the Library Board this year were occasioned by the death of Mr. Charles Laux, in December, and the appointment of Dr. W. H. Penhallegon to fill out Mr. Laux's unexpired term.

Mr. Laux had served since 1911 and was on the Building and grounds committee where he had been an efficient member.

With grateful appreciation for the consideration and support of each member of the Library Board, this report is respectfully submitted.

Librarian.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

1914-15

Appendix.

Contents of library.

June 1, 1914- books on hand ----- 34,728

Additions:

By purchase (new) ----- 526
 " " (renewal) ----- 874
 " bindery ----- 308
 " donation ----- 235
 " books found (missing previous to May 31, 1914) ----- 15

Total added -----1958

Losses:

Worn out and withdrawn ----- 889
 Lost and paid for ----- 17
 Lost and not paid for ----- 27
 Destroyed on account of scarlet fever ----- 39
 Destroyed in Linn & Scruggs and Decatur Hotel fires -- 8
 Unaccounted for in inventory ----- 56

Total loss -----1036

May 31, 1915- books on hand ----- 35,650

Accessions according to Classification.

	No.vols.in Lib'y June 1, 1914	Additions (new and renewal)	Withdrawals (worn out and missing)	No.vols.in Lib'y May 31, 1915	Per cent
General works	3493	178	4	3667	10.29
Philosophy	503	14	17	500	1.42
Religion	1111	41	17	1135	3.18
Sociology	3465	205	25	3645	10.22
Philology	122	5	2	125	.35
Natural science	1799	82	33	1848	5.18
Useful arts	2110	135	19	2226	6.24
Fine arts	1550	82	30	1602	4.49
Literature	3706	160	73	3793	10.64
Travel	1918	48	39	1927	5.40
Biography	2192	25	7	2210	6.20
History	2323	59	34	2348	6.58
Fiction	9570	770	596	9744	27.33
Foreign books	159	25	1	183	.51
School coll.	707	129	139	697	1.95
Total	34728	1958	1036	35650	

Division of Classes.

Circulating bks.	20053	902	526	20429
Children's bks.	5033	414	361	5086
Reference bks.	2042	80	9	2113
Bound period.	3843	276	1	4118
Public docs.	3050	157	0	3207
School coll.	707	129	139	697
Total	34728	1958	1036	35650

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT. 1914-15

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes. (Adult)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per cent.	Books loaned in room
General works	2	4	5	10	13	15	5	25	17	34	17	10	157	.21	1481
Philosophy	60	80	62	47	93	77	74	82	82	85	67	64	873	1.17	94
Religion	46	69	80	65	119	97	70	86	107	129	92	51	1011	1.35	181
Sociology	77	73	72	98	136	135	135	145	166	188	166	146	1537	2.05	486
Philology	2		1		1	2	4	3	2	4	2	1	22	.03	3
Natural science	60	53	71	62	73	78	50	71	82	74	92	71	837	1.10	247
Useful arts	96	101	78	115	134	144	133	169	148	178	169	140	1605	2.14	260
Fine arts	125	111	135	150	172	158	129	164	213	227	204	164	1952	2.60	332
Literature	208	267	269	246	356	407	373	539	512	510	510	452	4649	6.20	946
Travel	51	69	69	73	117	105	102	142	158	167	111	100	1264	1.69	287
Biography	34	38	59	58	63	107	90	128	108	164	124	126	1099	1.47	165
History	69	47	49	131	214	213	218	225	195	216	168	194	1939	2.59	599
Fiction	3604	4038	4284	3619	4239	4207	4351	5346	5113	5165	4146	4348	52460	69.94	535
Foreign books	17	13	23	16	30	23	31	35	26	19	7	11	251	.34	7
Magazines	284	265	286	285	327	349	325	298	263	311	284	337	3614	4.81	2906
Rental coll.	165	204	187	167	174	147	117	100	86	138	131	119	1735	2.31	
Total	4900	5432	5730	5142	6261	6264	6207	7558	7278	7609	6290	6334	75005		8529
Days open	26	26	26	25	27	24	26	25	23	27	26	25	306		
Daily average	188	209	220	206	232	261	239	302	316	282	242	253	245		
Largest day	354	379	421	380	445	455	530	539	565	601	530	466			
Smallest day	112	106	104	135	133	165	116	173	180	174	156	156			

Total number of books issued during year 1914-1915 ----- 108,368 (Adult, juvenile and school)

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT. 1914-15

APPENDIX.

Circulation by Classes (Juvenile)

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Totals.	Per cent.	Books loaned in room
General works	6	9	15	6	9	7	16	13	10	9	10	15	125	.41	
Philosophy		1				1	1						3	.09	
Religion	18	32	19	17	22	22	43	43	24	24	27	19	310	1.02	
Sociology	216	234	265	238	281	301	271	360	164	227	231	260	3048	10.11	
Philology	8	3	7	7	6	6	10	11	4	6	9	8	85	.28	
Natural science	72	65	48	68	63	75	68	67	41	50	73	49	739	2.45	
Useful arts	18	16	19	29	32	43	37	43	16	30	41	36	360	1.19	
Fine arts	39	70	69	72	115	97	101	105	49	76	47	103	943	3.13	
Literature	185	174	121	131	204	252	226	256	108	148	199	163	2167	7.19	
Travel	84	64	70	70	82	120	114	116	55	90	58	65	988	3.27	
Biography	17	18	13	24	24	40	42	49	39	20	28	28	342	1.13	
History	67	54	47	61	94	103	104	84	50	64	56	50	834	2.76	
Fiction	1618	1742	1646	1348	1686	1991	1996	2083	1210	1455	1640	1671	20086	66.68	
Magazines	6	10	5	4	1	10	6	17	5	6	6	13	89	.29	
Total	2354	2492	2344	2075	2619	3068	3035	3247	1775	2205	2425	2480	30119		94
Days open	26	26	26	25	27	24	26	25	23	27	26	25	306		
Daily average	90	96	90	83	97	128	117	130	77	82	93	99	98		
Largest day	125	138	159	157	182	199	269	242	217	188	212	181			
Smallest day	41	56	52	51	60	83	48	51	37	37	60	37			

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT. 1914-15.

APPENDIX.

School Circulation.

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Totals.
Religion	18	23	16	15			2	74
Sociology	116	129	102	119			29	495
Natural science	72	74	54	50			19	269
Useful arts	22	23	23	15			7	90
Fine arts	23	13	16	6			4	62
Literature	48	44	44	42			16	194
Travel	99	107	71	64			17	358
Biography	25	29	23	25			11	113
History	46	36	36	56			15	189
Fiction	344	387	284	290			95	1400
Total	813	865	669	682			215	3244

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1914-15

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the following report of the financial condition of the Public Library for the year ending May 31, 1915.

RECEIPTS.

From appropriation	\$9,417.93
" balance on hand	752.75
" fines	421.86
" non-resident cards	59.50
" reserve postals	13.20
" lost and damaged books	15.75
" sale of old newspapers, etc.	3.99
" rental collection	86.75
" rebates on books	61.31
Total -----	\$10,833.04

EXPENDITURES.

For salaries	\$4,975.50
" books	1,444.22
" periodicals	394.75
" printing and supplies	280.16
" binding	798.87
" repairs	441.08
" light and heat	526.88
" insurance	98.65
" furnishings	70.51
" paving	180.37
" miscellaneous	184.05
" balance on hand	1,438.00
Total -----	\$10,833.04

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

I, Alice G. Evans, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the
Free Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do hereby certify that the
foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of the Library
is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Secretary, Library Board.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of June, 191 .

Notary Public.

Decatur, Ill. May 17, 1916.

THE FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF DECATUR.

To the Honorable Mayor and Commissioners.

Gentlemen:

The Board of Directors of the Decatur Public Library take pleasure in submitting to you their annual report for the year ending April 30, 1916.

The report of the librarian is so full of information and complete in detail of the work done in each department of the Library, and the advance in library affairs generally, that we find it quite impossible to add anything of value or real information.

Special mention should be made, however, of the Durfee school branch just established. One year ago the President of the Library Board, in his report to you, called attention to the need of this Branch library and the purpose of the Board of Directors to establish it. We now have the pleasure of reporting it in operation, and we bespeak for it a rapidly increasing growth in size, in usefulness, - a profit and pleasure to the community it serves.

No one thing would give the Directors of the Library more pleasure than the establishment of more branch libraries. May we hope that our financial ability will soon enable us to do so!

We have had the usual expense of good housekeeping during the year. In addition to that, we have refinished most of the rooms in the building, bought new furniture for certain departments, and looked after the property generally.

In conclusion, we respectfully commend to you a careful reading of the Librarian's report, which gives you a comprehensive report of the aims, hopes, and accomplishments of this body.

We desire also to express our very great pleasure in having a librarian and staff whose whole purpose seems to be a better library, a growing constituency, and opportunity to be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.
1915-16.

To the Board of Directors, Decatur Free Public Library:

Herewith is submitted the forty-first annual report of the Library for the eleven months ending April 30, 1916.

For the first time in its history the Library year will close with the last of April instead of the last of May. This change was made to conform with the end of the city year. The work of the year will be considerably reduced by cutting off one month. Especially will this be noticed in the circulation statistics. The balance left over, as shown in the financial statement, will be more than usual for the same reason. This will be reduced by the payment for redecoration and furniture contracted for before the year closed.

BRANCH LIBRARY.

The most important undertaking of the Library during the year was the establishment of its first branch library. The idea of extending the library's usefulness to residents of outlying districts had long been considered as a necessary move, but the Library Board had not felt financially able to undertake the work until now. The school libraries reached the children, and incidentally their parents, but a real branch is intended for adults as much as for children. This is only a beginning of what is hoped may be accomplished through extension. It is probable that deposit stations will be instituted during the coming year.

The Branch is located in a beautiful front room on the first floor of the new Durfee school. Unfortunately the room was not equipped with shelves in time to open the library before the close of our year; consequently, no report upon the use of the Branch can be given until next year, but the work of selecting the books, classifying, cataloging, and preparing them for circulation; planning the arrangement of the room, the details of administration, etc. come properly in this year's work. Before beginning the work Miss Dill, the cataloger, spent two days in St. Louis visiting branch libraries, and investigating methods at the main library of preparing and conducting branches.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.
1915-16.

The aim of the Library authorities has been to make the Branch a popular library, with plenty of clean, wholesome fiction, as well as books of information. In selecting children's books, care was taken to have the proportion of books for boys and girls about equal. A few of the most necessary reference books are included, such as cyclopedias, dictionaries, a book of quotations, year-books, etc. For larger, more expensive and exhaustive works the Branch patrons will have to depend upon the Main library. Their cards are good for drawing out books at both libraries.

The books in the Branch library are all new and in good editions, and the 536 volumes are divided equally between adults and children. The collection will be added to each month as is done at the Main library. A close watch will be kept on the needs and demands of the community, and requests from patrons of the Branch will be taken into consideration when making up order lists of books.

Seven periodicals are subscribed for. They are: American magazine, Good housekeeping, Independent, Ladies' home journal, Popular mechanics, St. Nicholas, and Saturday evening post.

CONTENTS AND ACCESSIONS.

The number of volumes in the Library June 1, 1915 was 35,650. The number of volumes added during the year was 2,266, and 21 books were found which were missing previously, making a total of 2,287 volumes added. Of those withdrawn, 689 were worn out or lost, while 80 were missing in inventory, the total losses being 769. There was a net gain of 1,518 volumes, making the total number of volumes April 30, 1916, 37,168.

Among the noteworthy books may be mentioned:

Banta-	Nature neighbors.	5v.
Benham & Hall-	Ships of the U. S. navy and their sponsors, 1797-1913.	
Cook-	Educational history of Illinois.	
Dyer & Martin-	Edison: his life and inventions.	2v.
Enock-	The tropics.	
Firkins-	Index to short stories.	
Hearn-	Interpretations of literature.	2v.
Innes-	History of England and the British empire.	4v.
Jackson-	Byzantine and Romanesque architecture.	2v.
Kraemer-	Applied and economic botany.	
Leupp-	Walks about Washington.	