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Sixth Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

Free Public Library

OF

Saint Joseph, Missouri.



1896  
Leon Hardman, Printer  
St. Joseph, Mo.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF

SAINT JOSEPH, Mo.,

May 1, 1896.

# FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY,

ST. JOSEPH, MO.

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## OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT . . . . .	REV. HENRY BULLARD
TREASURER . . . . .	J. W. ATWILL
SECRETARY . . . . .	H. L. ELMENDORF

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## DIRECTORS:

TERM EXPIRES 1896.	TERM EXPIRES 1897.	TERM EXPIRES 1898.
E. B. NEELY	W. H. GORDON	W. H. MORLOCK
GEO. W. HENDLEY	B. NEWBURGER	J. W. ATWILL
REV. HENRY BULLARD	JOHN DE CLUE	DR. BARTON PITTS

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H. L. ELMENDORF . . . . .	LIBRARIAN
LULU C. SENTER . . . . .	ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

## ASSISTANTS:

CORNELIA L. RATHBUN	ERLE H. MERRIMAN
ANNIE M. PERRY	STELLA M. BUSHNELL

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

*To the Honorable, The Common Council of the City of St. Joseph:*

GENTLEMEN:—In behalf of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, I present herewith the sixth annual report, consisting of the detailed statement of the Librarian as to the condition of the Library, together with the action of the various committees.

During the past year we have found the income entirely insufficient for the effective support of the Library.

A new difficulty has been encountered. We have reached the point when it is not enough to meet the ordinary wear and tear of books. Many of the standard and most popular books, with which our shelves were filled at the first, six years ago, have become entirely worn out. They have given out, not one by one, but all at once. Nearly every one of them is constantly called for and must be replaced.

Our finance committee, after carefully considering the pressing needs of the Library, and as carefully the various claims upon the income of the city, as presented by the city officials, recommended that an appeal be made to the voters, according to law, for an increased appropriation for the Library. This recommendation was unanimously adopted by the board and a vote was taken at the last regular election in April. In every voting precinct of the city, with a solitary exception, more votes were cast for the increase asked for (to one mill) than against it. Of the total (4,721) votes cast upon the petition of the Library Board, 3,179, only 95 less than two-thirds, were in its favor.

The Library Board believes that, in full accordance with the intent of the law, their petition was granted, and the appropriation of one mill, instead of three-tenths mill, was ordered by the voters of the city.

It is with very great regret that we learn that your honorable body not only refuses to make this appropriation, but has even reduced the amount we may expect for the coming year from \$7,000.00 to \$6,500.00.

Respectfully,  
HENRY BULLARD,  
President of the Board.

STATE OF MISSOURI, }  
COUNTY OF BUCHANAN. } ss.

Before me Eugene Ayres, a Notary Public in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Henry Bullard, President of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of St. Joseph, Missouri, and made oath that the facts and figures in the Librarian's Annual Report relating to receipts and expenditures, contents of Library and books added are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand and seal this 1st day of June, 1896.

EUGENE AYRES,  
Notary Public.

[SEAL.]

Commission expires May 24, 1897.

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

GENTLEMEN:—I present herewith the sixth annual report of the Librarian, the fourth that I have submitted.

May 1, 1896, the close of our library year, the library contained 13,579 volumes, divided into departments as follows:

Reference Department.....	1,132
Government Department.....	1,946
Circulating Department.....	10,501
	<hr/>
	13,579

During the year 1,107 books were added, as follows:

Gifts.....	47
Serials Bound.....	47
U. S. Government.....	176
Purchased.....	837
	<hr/>
	1,107

375 volumes were withdrawn, as follows:

Lost and paid for.....	12
Worn out.....	357
Missing.....	6
	<hr/>
	375

Net increase, 732 volumes.

Books added are classified as follows:

Philosophy, Religion, Arts and Science.....	98
Literature, Poetry and Drama.....	54
Travel and Description.....	22
Biography.....	26
History.....	49
Bound Magazines.....	47
German.....	78
General Works in Reference Department.....	59
Fiction and Children's Books.....	498
Government Publications.....	176
	<hr/>
	1,107

Receipts for the year have been as follows:

Balance in city treasury May 1, 1895.....	\$	35 64
City appropriation.....		6,584 45
Salaries—librarian and assistants.....	\$3,880 00	
Stationery and printing.....	82 40	
Postage.....	15 00	
Miscellaneous.....	70 07	
Fuel.....	129 80	
Insurance.....	95 70	
Rent.....	600 00	
Janitor.....	240 00	
Repairs.....	17 45	
Furniture.....	48 66	
Binding.....	382 60	
Books and periodicals.....	1,047 48	
Balance in city treasury May 1, 1896.....	10 93	
	<hr/>	
	\$6,620 09	\$6,620 09

Treasurer's report shows:

Balance as per last report.....	\$1,307 25	
Received from librarian.....	315 00	
Interest on account.....	52 29	
	<hr/>	
		\$1,674 54
May 1, 1895. Balance in librarian's hands.....	\$	20 74
Fines collected.....	324 36	
Catalogues sold.....	65 30	
Miscellaneous.....	74 70	
Deposited with treasurer.....		\$ 315 00
Incidental expenses.....		156 98
Balance on hand.....		13 12
	<hr/>	
	\$ 485 10	\$ 485 10

The circulation for home use was 109,073, an increase of 191 over the previous year. The library was open 306 days. Daily average circulation, 360; monthly average, 9,089. The largest day's circulation was 695 volumes, January 25, 1896, and the smallest 111 volumes, December 18, 1895. Particulars of circulation and classification of books drawn are given in appendix. Borrower's cards in force, 4,167; an increase of 64.

The quality of books read has improved very noticeably.

The number of novels and children's books drawn for home use has decreased 3,055, with a corresponding increase in more solid reading. The character of the fiction read has been much better. This has been effected by the purchase of extra copies of the best novels and a reduction of a number of those less worthy, and by a persistent effort of the assistants to induce readers to take the better books.

Libraries of fifty books each, selected by the principal of the school and the librarian, were put in the Neely and Bliss Schools, to be drawn for home use by the scholars. In this way 905 books were circulated. Other principals of schools applied for similar libraries, which could not be given them because the library had not enough suitable books to spare for the purpose. This work in the schools will be extended as quickly as possible, and as far as the means of the library will permit.

A collection of thirty books was loaned for two months to the Boys' Club of the Westminster Church. The books were in the care of Mr. McAllister of the High School, and were lent 187 times for home use.

The library possesses several hundred mounted pictures, which are lent to the teachers, and serve to illustrate lessons, entertain and rest the pupils, and cultivate a taste for beautiful things.

The original issue of the finding list, published October 1, 1892, with the supplements since published, is about exhausted. A new list of all of the books in the circulating department is in preparation, which is expected to be published by July 1, 1896.

During the year lists of new books added have been published in bulletins from time to time. Experience has proved that a printed list arranged in classes and alphabetically by authors, with no other matter, is the most satisfactory way of putting the new books before the public.

An increase has been very perceptible in the use of the reference department. The books and shelves are open to the public without restriction and no statistics can be given. Eleven hundred and twenty-five books were drawn from the circulating department for reference use.

The members of the Runcie, the Dante and the Travel Clubs have availed themselves extensively of the library, and everything possible has been done to aid them in their studies.

Forty-seven volumes of magazines have been bound. Seven hundred and twenty books have been rebound.

The magazine reading-room is supplied with one quarterly, twenty-nine monthlies, one semi-monthly, twenty weeklies and five dailies. Extra copies of the leading monthlies are taken for circulation. A list of serials is given in appendix.

The library has received a number of very acceptable donations, notable among which are twenty-one volumes, thirty-six numbers and twelve pamphlets, from F. M. Posegate; one volume, eighty-three numbers and six pamphlets from Rev. Dr. Henry Bullard; one hundred and fifty-three numbers from Mrs. Peter Hughes, and five hundred and thirty-one numbers from Miss Ellen Douglas. The contributions of unbound numbers of magazines are especially valuable, enabling the library to complete some of the sets indexed in Poole's index.

A list of all gifts and their donors is given in the appendix.

The work of the library could be much extended and its usefulness increased, particularly in the line of educational work in connection with the schools, if its means and facilities were increased.

Respectfully submitted,

H. L. ELMENDORF, Librarian.

TABLE OF CLASSIFICATION.

Classes.	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	Total	Per Cent
Philosophy, Religion, Arts and Sciences .....	275	257	292	287	274	388	289	296	374	423	411	288	3804	.035
General Literature, Poetry and Drama .....	231	231	284	270	219	318	408	333	412	474	416	449	4045	.038
Travel.....	135	146	163	182	168	168	162	187	193	208	258	246	2216	.020
Biography.....	131	101	107	115	192	179	246	229	206	220	278	287	2291	.022
History .....	105	180	149	185	255	219	370	286	281	258	334	370	2972	.026
Serials.....	364	334	383	363	358	355	403	352	334	378	373	383	4380	.040
German .....	214	245	283	278	258	209	224	281	286	270	303	343	3194	.030
Fiction and Children's Books.....	7100	7303	7801	8172	6449	6064	6890	6464	7701	7806	7770	6601	86121	.789
Total.....	8565	8797	9462	9852	8173	7860	9002	8428	9787	10037	10143	8967	109073	
Days open.....	25	25	26	27	24	27	25	25	26	24	26	26	306	

## LIST OF PERIODICALS TAKEN BY THE LIBRARY.

QUARTERLY.	SEMI-MONTHLY.
1 Cyclopaedic Review of Current History.	1 Dial.
	WEEKLY.
MONTHLY.	1 Catholic Review (Gift.)
1 American Teacher.	1 Harper's Bazar.
2 Arena.	1 Harper's Round Table.
1 Art Interchange.	1 Harper's Weekly.
2 Atlantic.	1 Illustrated American.
1 Blackwood's.	1 Illustrated London News.
5 Century.	1 Journal of Education.
5 Cosmopolitan.	1 Judge.
2 Current Literature.	1 Leslie's Weekly.
1 Eclectic.	1 Life.
1 Educational Review.	1 Littell's Living Age.
2 Forum.	1 Nation.
5 Harper's.	1 Publishers' Weekly.
1 Inland Printer.	1 Puck.
1 Ladies' Home Journal.	1 St. Joseph Journal of Commerce (Gift of Pub.)
1 Library Journal.	1 St. Louis Presbyterian (Gift.)
3 Lippincott's.	1 School Journal.
2 McClure's.	1 Scientific American.
1 McMillan's.	1 Scientific American Supplement.
1 Missionary Review of the World.	1 Youth's Companion.
3 Munsey's.	
2 New England.	DAILY.
2 North American Review.	1 Congressional Record (Gift.)
1 Outing.	1 New York Times (Gift of Pub.)
1 Overland.	1 Omaha Bee (Gift of Pub.)
2 Popular Science Monthly.	2 St. Joseph Daily News (Gift of Pub.)
2 Review of Reviews.	1 West Superior Leader (Gift of Pub.)
3 St. Nicholas.	
4 Scribner's.	
1 Der Techniker (Gift of Pub.)	

## GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY.

Donor.	Location.	Pamph- Nos.	lets.	Vols.
Apprentices' Library	Philadelphia, Pa.		2	
Brentano's	Paris.		1	
Bronson Library	Waterbury, Conn.		2	
Brooklyn Library	Brooklyn, N. Y.		1	
Bullard, Rev. Dr. Henry	St. Joseph, Mo.	83	6	1
City Library Association	Springfield, Mass.		1	
Connecticut Public Library Commission			1	
Connecticut State Teachers' Association			1	
Cornell, Ed.	St. Joseph, Mo.			1
Dolman, Mrs. John	St. Joseph, Mo.			1
Douglas, Miss Ellen	St. Joseph, Mo.	531		
Enoch Pratt Free Library	Baltimore, Md.		2	
Fiegenbaum, Miss Mary	St. Joseph, Mo.	12		
Forbes Library	Northampton, Mass.		1	

## GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY—CONTINUED.

Free Library	Newton, Mass.		2	
Free Public Library	Council Bluffs, Ia.		1	
Free Public Library	Jersey City, N. J.		1	
Free Public Library	Lawrence, Mass.		1	
Free Public Library	New Haven, Conn.		4	
Free Public Library	Paterson, N. J.		1	
Free Public Library	Pawtucket, R. I.		1	
Free Public Library	Worcester Mass.		1	
Gildehaus, Charles	St. Louis, Mo.			1
Green, Samuel S.	Worcester, Mass.		1	
Hearst Free Library	Anaconda, Mont.		1	
Hughes, Mrs. Peter	St. Joseph, Mo.	153		
I. O. B. B., Joseph Lodge	St. Joseph, Mo.			3
Indian Rights Association	Philadelphia, Pa.		2	
Indiana Library Association			1	
James Prendergast Free Library	Jamestown, N. Y.		1	
Library Association	Portland, Ore.	8		
Library Commission	Seattle, Wash.		1	
Library Company	Philadelphia, Pa.		3	
Mercantile Library	New York City		1	
Mercantile Library	Philadelphia, Pa.		1	
Motter, Mrs. W. D. B.	St. Joseph, Mo.		12	6
Newberry Library	Chicago, Ill.		1	
Newburger, B.	St. Joseph, Mo.			1
Peabody Institute	Danvers, Mass.		1	
Posegate, F. M.	St. Joseph, Mo.	36	12	21
Public Library	Boston, Mass.		1	
Public Library	Denver, Colo.		1	
Public Library	Grand Rapids, Mich.		1	
Public Library	Indianapolis, Ind.		1	
Public Library	Kansas City, Mo.		1	
Public Library	Lawrence, Mass.	2		
Public Library	Lynn, Mass.		1	
Public Library	Milwaukee, Wis.		8	
Public Library	Minneapolis, Minn.		1	
Public Library	Peoria, Ill.		1	
Public Library	Providence, R. I.		1	
Public Library	Scranton, Pa.		3	
Public Library	Taunton, Mass.		1	
Rock, Charles	St. Joseph, Mo.			1
Sanders, Walter J.	St. Joseph, Mo.			1
Secretary of State of Missouri	Jefferson City, Mo.			1
Tufts Library	Weymouth, Mass.		2	
Union Depot Company	St. Joseph, Mo.		1	
United States Government	Washington, D. C.	47	25	176
Warren County Library Ass'n	Monmouth, Ill.	4		
Wemyss, R. J.	West Superior, Wis.			1
Wilmington Institute	Wilmington, Del.			1
Wisconsin Free Library Commission				1
Wisconsin State Historical Society	Madison, Wis.			1

## REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

GENTLEMEN:—The purchase of books by the Librarian, amounting to 837 volumes, during the year now closed, has been made by him after full consultation with and approval of the Library Committee, and so reported each month to the Board.

HENRY BULLARD,  
J. W. ATWILL,  
BARTON PITTS,  
Library Committee.

## REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

GENTLEMEN:—Your committee on Administration respectfully report that they have inspected the library, and find everything in order, and the books in as good a condition as their constant wear will admit.

The employees have merited the approbation of the Board by efficiency and faithfulness.

Miss Ritner, for two years an assistant in the library, resigned her position March 1, 1896, and Miss Stella Bushnell was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Respectfully submitted,

E. B. NEELY,  
J. W. ATWILL,  
B. NEWBURGER,  
Administration Committee.

## REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The finance committee of the Free Public Library report as follows:

We have carefully examined the books of the treasurer and secretary and find them correct.

The receipts and expenditures for the year have been as follows:

Balance in City Treasury, May 1, 1895.....	\$	35 64
City Appropriation.....		6,584 45
		<hr/>
Salaries, Librarian and Assistants.....	\$	3,880 00
Janitor .....		240 00
Stationery and Printing.....		82 40
Postage .....		15 00
Miscellaneous.....		70 07
Heating.....		129 80
Insurance .....		95 70
Rent.....		600 00
Repairs.....		17 45
Furniture.....		48 66
Binding.....		382 60
Books and Periodicals.....		1,047 48
Balance in City Treasury, May 1, 1896.....		10 93
	\$	6,620 09
	\$	6,620 09

We find that this agrees with the accounts of the city officers on the same dates. The city closes its accounts the third Monday in April, while the State law specifies that the report of the library shall show the state of the trust May 1.

In April, 1895, the city carried over a balance to credit of library of.....	\$	569 44
April 25, 1895, there was drawn for April bills.....		533 80
		<hr/>
Leaving balance to current year of.....	\$	35 64
This year the city carried a balance April 20, of.....	\$	385 93
April 23, there was drawn for April bills.....		375 00
		<hr/>
Leaving balance as per report.....	\$	10 93

We call attention to the small amount available for the purchase of books. When the library was started, although the vote was passed in April, 1890, the library was not opened until March, 1891, and the running expenses were in consequence small for the first year, and a balance was carried over of \$1,150.00. This sum was applied to the purchase of books in other years, and was only exhausted at the beginning of the last year. A reduced assessment has made the library income smaller, and the taking of the insurance out of the regular city taxes, so that the library receives no proportion of it, although the city receives the amount through the State treasury, has also cut our funds short.

The need of increased income was so apparent for the keeping up of the library and the extension of the work that the committee advised the board to take steps to present to the people a proposition to increase the appropriation from three-tenths mill to one mill, allowed by State law, contemplating devoting all the surplus above the amount necessary to run the library properly to a building fund for the erection of a suitable building for the library. Although the result showed that our citizens were overwhelmingly in favor of the increase, on a technicality and upon the advice of the city counselor, the city authorities declined to appropriate the increased amount.

Estimates for the coming year show that we will have about the same amount for the purchase of books and periodicals that we expended last year.

W. H. GORDON,  
WM. H. MORLOCK,  
JNO. DECLUE.

## REPORT OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE.

To the President and Directors of the Free Public Library:

Your committee on buildings and grounds, in compliance with the by-laws, submit the annual report of expenditures coming under our supervision.

Rent .....	\$ 600 00
Janitor .....	240 00
Insurance.....	95 70
Fuel .....	129 80
Furniture .....	48 66
Repairs.....	17 45
Water.....	30 00
Hose and Plumbing.....	11 95
Lawn Mower .....	8 20
Flag .....	7 96
Ice .....	6 25
Janitor's Supplies.....	2 65
	\$1,198 62

Your committee recommend a vote of thanks to the Park Commissioners for the gift of plants and shrubs to ornament our grounds. We commend the diligence and faithfulness of David McKinney, our janitor, credit him for the fine appearance of the grounds, and recommend him for re-appointment.

JNO. DECLUE,  
G. W. HENDLEY,  
B. NEWBURGER,  
Building and Grounds Committee.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

J. W. ATWILL, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE FREE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Received from George C. Hull, Treasurer.....	\$ 60 00
Received from George C. Hull, account.....	1,307 25
Received from Librarian.....	255 00
Received Interest on account.....	52 29
Balance on hand May 1, 1896 .....	\$1,674 54

Approved.

St. JOSEPH, Mo., May 1, 1896.

W. H. GORDON,  
JNO. DECLUE,  
WM. H. MORLOCK,  
Finance Committee.