

REFERENCE  
DEPT.

NINTH ANNUAL  
REPORT OF FREE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ST. JOSEPH, MO.

FISCAL YEAR  
ENDING APRIL 30, 1899.



NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

Free Public Library

OF THE

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH, MO.

Fiscal Year Ending  
April 30, 1899.



# Free Public Library

*St. Joseph, Mo.*

## OFFICERS.

President ..... John DeClue  
 Vice-President ..... Rev. J. L. Lawless  
 Secretary and Treasurer ..... Charles A. Pfeiffer

## DIRECTORS.

Term Expiring 1899.	Term Expiring 1900.	Term Expiring 1901.
H. K. White,	John DeClue,	Dr. J. B. Riley,
Charles A. Pfeiffer,	L. M. Smith,	John M. Stewart
Rev. J. L. Lawless,	James A. McEvoy,	Charles P. Cargill

## COMMITTEES.

LIBRARY—White, Lawless and McEvoy.  
 ADMINISTRATION—DeClue, Stewart, Smith.  
 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS—Lawless, Riley, Pfeiffer.  
 FINANCE—Pfeiffer, Smith, Cargill.  
 BL-LAWS—McEvoy, White, Stewart.

## LIBRARY STAFF.

Purd B. Wright, Librarian.  
 Lulu C. Senter, Assistant Librarian.  
 Assistants—Annie M. Perry, Cornelia L. Rathbun, Eudora Martin  
 Miranda Olds.  
 Messenger—Roy Whitmore.

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of St. Joseph, Mo.:

Gentlemen: In accordance with the provisions of the law governing Free Public Libraries, I herewith present the Ninth Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, Mo., for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1899.

The reports of the officers, committees and librarian, presented herewith, show what has been accomplished during the year. While the circulation of books was not so large as the year before, nor the growth of the library so extensive, most excellent reasons are given why it could hardly be otherwise. On account of the epidemic during the year, the library was closed two weeks, which naturally decreased its use, while the money at the command of the Board of Directors being less than for several years, prevented the purchase of as many books as heretofore. The members of the Board, however, feel that they have done the best possible with the means under their control, and express themselves as satisfied with the results.

As a result of the natural growth of the library, although necessarily slow, the present quarters are beginning to cramp the work attempted to be done. The Board of Directors is anxiously looking forward to the time when quarters more suitable for modern library work may be secured.

It is felt that the people generally are beginning to realize the real value of the library from a purely educational standpoint, and to acknowledge the vast help it gives in school work. This is one of the favorable conditions evolved from adverse circumstances.

A summary of the reports submitted herewith shows that the library now contains 17,256 volumes, a gain for the year of 1,455. Circulation for the twelve months past, 105,717.

Respectfully submitted,

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1899.

JNO. DeCLUE,  
 President.



## REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo.:

Gentlemen: Herewith is submitted a detailed report of the financial transactions of the Board for the fiscal year ending April 17, 1899:

## SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.

(Accruing from collections for fines, sale of catalogues and from other miscellaneous receipts, collected by the Librarian, minus amounts paid out by the Librarian for incidental expenses, principally for postage, express charges and similar minor expenditures; the statement of these collections and disbursements being rendered by the Librarian to the Board of Directors at their monthly meeting, and the surplus of the amount of money so collected is turned over to the Treasurer of the Board and accounted for in this statement):

## SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT—RECEIPTS—SCHEDULE A.

1898.		
Apr.	14.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....\$ 25 00
May	12.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 25 00
June	9.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 25 00
July	13.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 25 00
Aug.	11.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 25 00
Sept.	8.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 25 00
Oct.	13.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 25 00
Nov.	10.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 35 00
Dec.	8.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 28 00
1899.		
Jan.	12.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 28 00
Feb.	10.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 25 00
Mar.	9.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 28 00
Apr.	13.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian..... 21 00
		\$340 00

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT—DISBURSEMENTS—  
SCHEDULE B.

1898.		
Apr.	19.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph.....\$ 25 00
May	13.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 25 00
June	10.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 25 00
July	21.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 25 00
Aug.	20.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 25 00
Sept.	9.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 25 00
Oct.	13.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 25 00
Nov.	11.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 35 00
Dec.	9.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 28 00
1899.		
Jan.	13.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 28 00
Feb.	13.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 25 00
Mar.	10.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 28 00
Apr.	13.	Deposited with National Bank of St. Joseph..... 21 00
		\$340 00

1899.		
April 15.	Withdrawn, being amount of check favor of Rice D. Gilkey, City Treasurer, to meet April vouchers allowed by the Board of Directors, and not fully provided for by the Common Council of the City of St. Joseph, Mo. ....	
		\$154 69
	Balance on hand, in National Bank of St. Joseph .....	\$185 31

## GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT—RECEIPTS—SCHEDULE C.

Receipts from collections upon an apportionment made by the Common Council of the City of St. Joseph, Mo., of \$7,200.00, and placed to the credit of the Free Public Library:

1898.		
May	collections .....	\$3,974 00
June	collections .....	340 77
July	collections .....	279 14
August	collections .....	452 34
September	collections .....	378 72
October	collections .....	353 74
November	collections .....	413 06
December	collections .....	187 34
1899.		
January	collections .....	200 88
February	collections .....	228 81
March	collections .....	214 56
April.	From sinking fund .....	82 65
April 15.	From special revenue account .....	154 69

\$7,261 10



GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT—DISBURSEMENTS—  
SCHEDULE D.

Expenditures, embracing salaries, rent, fuel, water, purchase of books and magazines, cost of binding and printing, and for the purchase of library supplies, as detailed in the separate vouchers on file with the City Auditor of the City of St. Joseph, Mo.:

1898.	
May vouchers .....	\$ 545 59
June vouchers .....	490 85
July vouchers .....	625 85
August vouchers .....	656 11
September vouchers .....	498 63
October vouchers .....	619 67
November vouchers .....	836 18
December vouchers .....	554 69
1899.	
January vouchers .....	655 84
February vouchers .....	655 71
March vouchers .....	567 29
April vouchers .....	554 69

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\$7,261 10

GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT—RECEIPTS—SCHEDULE A.  
GENERAL STATEMENT.

The City of St. Joseph, Mo., should have placed to the credit of the Free Public Library, at the beginning of this fiscal year, the sum of money due it from the previous year, to wit:

Amount of money borrowed by Common Council and not replaced..	\$ 30 00
Balance due on account of collections, 1897-98 .....	49 20
All of collections to the credit of Free Public Library from April 1 to 19, 1898.....	176 37

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\$255 57

The Finance Committee, together with the Librarian, waited upon the Finance Committee of the Common Council at the beginning of the fiscal year and sought to have this sum placed to the credit of the Free Public Library, because the sum mentioned was wrongfully withheld, but the effort proved unsuccessful.

The apportionment made the previous year was \$7,500; the Finance Committee of the Common Council reduced the apportionment to the credit of the Free Public Library to the sum of \$7,200 for the present fiscal year, but placed to our credit only the sum of \$7,106.41, leaving another balance due the Free Public Library of \$93.59, or a total sum of \$349.16 for the past two years.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,

Treasurer.

May 1, 1899.

STATE OF MISSOURI, )  
County of Buchanan. )ss.

Before me, J. C. Hedenberg, a notary public in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Charles A. Pfeiffer, Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, Mo., and made oath that the facts and figures above set forth are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of May, 1899.

(Seal.)

J. C. HEDENBERG,  
Notary Public.

My commission expires Nov. 13th, 1901.



## REPORT OF LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, Mo:

Gentlemen: As required by the by-laws of the Board, I herewith present the Ninth Annual Report of the Librarian, for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1899:

The year has been an unusual one in the history of the library, inasmuch as the conditions with which it has contended were somewhat out of the ordinary. The beginning of the Spanish-American war affected the circulation of this library, as it did that of all libraries of which reports have come to hand. With the ceasing of hostilities, library work resumed its normal course, and the issue of books for September, 1898, showed the first increase reported for several months. Our trouble was scarcely over, however, for at this time cases of diphtheria became quite numerous, and in October it was declared epidemic by the board of health. Notwithstanding the fact that reports were being received by the library from the health department twice each day, and that every precaution was being taken to prevent the spread of the disease through library books, the health officer deemed it advisable that the issue of books for home use be discontinued, and closed the library for a period of two weeks (Oct. 24-Nov. 5), the public schools being closed during the same period. No books were issued during this time, the reference and reading rooms being kept open for use of adults only. While this caused a material reduction in the circulation for the year, the greatest harm resulted from many timid people not using the library through fear of contagion after the disease had abated. The health officer not only approved but cheerfully aided to the extent of his power in all plans for the protection of the library. In reaching the class of people last mentioned, much of the library work must be done over. While all of these readers have not returned, they are slowly doing so. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the work of the year is not without some most encouraging features.

While the number of volumes issued for home use was but 104,146, a decrease of 11,884 as compared with the previous year, the use of books in the reference room from the circulating department was gratifying, the increase being about 8 per cent. An interesting feature of the circulation statistics is that of the total decrease noted, 11,767 was in fiction, and an additional decrease in the lighter current periodicals, thus presenting a gain in other classes. The most noticeable change is in the percentages column, fiction declining 2.14 per cent, while other classes show gains, this being especially marked in history, literature and travel.

The number of borrowers' cards in active use is 4,284, a slight decrease. This condition is possibly accounted for by the failure of many to renew cards which expired during the epidemic, and by the further fact that all cards held in South St. Joseph, outside the city limits, and not paid for, were called in. This little suburb had heretofore been permitted use of the library, but its rapid growth and the large increase in the call for cards caused a strict enforcement of the rules. This was done on account of the inability

ity of the library to meet the demands of those legally entitled to its use.

Charging the entire expense of conducting the library to home circulation, the cost per volume issued was 6.9 cents.

The volumes in the circulating department, exclusive of current periodicals, were issued from the library an average slightly in excess of eight times.

Accessions to the library during the year numbered 1807, of which 97 were donated, 236 periodicals bound, 1314 purchased, and 160 deposited by the United States government. Withdrawals for the same period were 352, making the net increase 1455 volumes. Total number of volumes now in the library, 17,226, classed as follows: Circulation, 13,034; reference, 1,703; government, 2,519.

The delivery stations have demonstrated their popularity, 5,592 volumes having been circulated through them. The stations continue as heretofore, in Walker's Addition, Wyatt Park and South Park, deliveries being made twice each week, as at first inaugurated. The use of the stations increases steadily, and would be more marked if deliveries could be arranged for oftener. Messrs. Frank S. Elfred, J. S. Kock and Dr. D. W. Feltenstein show their interest in the library by continuing as keepers of the stations.

The comparatively few volumes that could be spared from the library for sole use in the schools through means of school boxes, necessitated some other arrangement, as it was deemed unfair to place all the copies of certain useful and popular books in a few schools, thus depriving pupils of other schools, who might come to the library, of any of these books. To remedy this, so far as possible, a list of books was prepared, being arranged by classes, and annotated, making a printed pamphlet of twenty pages, of which 3,500 copies were distributed among the pupils of the old first, second and third grades (now the eighth, seventh and sixth). The library staff was assisted in the task of selection by committees of three teachers each, appointed at my request, by Prof. E. B. Neely, superintendent of the public schools; the first grade being represented by Misses Brennan, Peale and Cole; the second by Misses Schmitz and Wall and Mrs. Horn; and the third by Misses Senter and Fahey and Mrs. McClelland. To give these lists a fair trial no books were placed in the schools. Results have proven the success of the plan. At the request of teachers an extended list will be prepared for the ensuing school year. Boxes of books will also be placed in certain schools which are far removed from the library or the delivery stations. The work with the high school continues satisfactory, new lists being prepared for the different classes each year.

An attempt to interest the younger generation in books other than mere stories, resulted in the experiment of placing all the books, periodicals and pictures in the library relating to natural history in the directors' room and throwing it open for three days. The daily newspapers kindly gave space to announcements of "Nature Day at the Library," and the result was that, despite the fact that it was advertised but a few days, the room was crowded with interested little folks. The experiment proved so satisfactory that it will be repeated this year directly after the summer vacation begins, but on a more comprehensive scale.

Through the kindness of Mr. F. Thomas Ransom, of this city, chief clerk in the Missouri Geological Department, the library has obtained many state publications which it had been unable heretofore to secure. The work out-



lined for the ensuing year includes the cataloging and making accessible to the public the Missouri collection.

Mr. E. O. Wild, editor of the Journal of Commerce, has placed the library under obligations by aiding it to secure Warner's Library of the World's Best Literature," in thirty volumes. Other donations of especial value were from Joseph Lodge No. 72, I. O. B. B., and the American Book Co.

At the beginning of the year a "Supplement to the classified list of the circulating department," comprising additions from July 1, 1896, to April 1, 1898, was issued, being printed from the linotype slugs furnished the library by the Gazette and Herald Publishing Companies for bulletins, after use in the respective newspapers. During the year four bulletins of new books have been issued, compiled from newspaper lists as heretofore reported, the slugs being furnished by the newspapers named. All the newspapers of the city have shown a warm interest in the library and its work, publishing announcements from time to time as matters of news. The fiction shelf list of the library having been originally written in books, has caused considerable trouble and annoyance. It having been found necessary to prepare a new shelf list, cards were adopted, and the list is now completed, and it is hoped and believed will cause no trouble in the future. New shelf lists will also be made for the reference room.

A feature recently inaugurated was the preparation of "sick room collections," being numbers of illustrated papers, magazines, etc., for use especially by convalescents. While these collections are not permitted to be used in the case of contagious diseases, the library is always willing to supply something for those so afflicted to read, the only requirement being that the reading matter so supplied be destroyed.

Of the 1113 books sent to the bindery, 877 were for rebinding, and 236 were periodicals.

Books withdrawn from circulation on account of their worn condition continue to be placed with the fire department, city hospital, county jail and poor farm, where additional use is obtained from them.

But two volumes are unaccounted for from the reference room this year, the smallest number missing in the history of the library. These two being bound volumes of a story magazine, hopes are entertained that they will be returned. The plan adopted by Mr. Wilcox, librarian of the Peoria (Ill.) public library—warning slips pasted on the front cover of each volume, containing an excerpt from the city ordinances—was tried, with the success noted.

On the pages following will be found (1) the financial statement, (2) accessions, (3) classified table of circulation, (4) list of donations, and (5) new Missouri library law.

The work of the library force and the library class has been such as to merit hearty commendation at my hands.

Before concluding, I cannot refrain from speaking again of the work done by this library, hampered as it is by unpopular location and the utter unsuitableness of the building for library purposes.

Permit me to express my thanks to the members of the Board for their kindly consideration and hearty support in all matters affecting the library.

Respectfully submitted,

PURD B. WRIGHT,  
Librarian.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1899.

STATE OF MISSOURI, }  
County of Buchanan. } ss.

Before me, Edward S. Douglas, a notary public in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Purd B. Wright, librarian of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, Mo., and made oath that the facts and figures herein relating to receipts and expenditures, contents of library and books added, are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

EDWARD S. DOUGLAS,  
Notary Public.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of May, A. D., 1899. Commission expires Nov. 16, 1900.



## REPORT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

## (1)—FINANCIAL.

## Department Expenditures.

Salaries library employes .....	\$3,815 36
Books .....	1,399 64
Periodicals .....	378 22
Binding .....	596 21
Rent .....	269 75
Heat .....	122 67
Janitor .....	240 00
Printing and stationery .....	171 35
Postage .....	21 00
Furniture .....	35 50
Repairs .....	15 60
Insurance .....	75 00
Miscellaneous .....	122 80—\$7,261 10

## LIBRARY COLLECTIONS.

## RECEIPTS.

Brought forward .....	\$ 7 39
Received from fines .....	361 15
Catalogues and supplements .....	59 60
Miscellaneous sources .....	72 83 \$ 500 97

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Deposited with Treasurer .....	\$ 315 00
*Incidental expenses .....	183 48
Forward .....	2 49 \$ 500 97

\*The incidental expense account includes all postage of the library other than printed postal cards, freight, cartage and express on books, delivery station expenses, the purchase of ink, pens, pencils and like small supplies.

## (2)—ACCESSIONS.

Number volumes reported April 30, 1898 .....	14,859
Books reported missing found .....	31
Not classified and not heretofore reported .....	918 15,808
Accessions April 30, 1898-April 30, 1899:	
Purchased .....	1,314
Periodicals bound .....	236
Donations classified .....	97
Government deposits .....	160 1,807

## REPORT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

## Less withdrawals:

Worn out .....	344
Burned (contagion) .....	4
Lost and paid for .....	4
Missing .....	7 359

Net increase for the year ..... 1,448

Total volumes in library not counting seven missing volumes, but likely to be located ..... 17,256

ACCESSIONS AND WITHDRAWALS CLASSIFIED YEAR ENDING  
APRIL 30, 1899.

## Accessions. Withdr'l's. Net G'ns.

General .....	7	....	7
Philosophy .....	13	....	13
Religion .....	30	....	30
Sociology .....	68	....	68
Philology .....	4	....	4
Natural Science .....	46	....	46
Useful Arts .....	43	....	43
Fine Arts .....	15	1	14
Literature .....	92	4	88
Travel .....	76	1	75
Biography .....	98	....	98
History .....	122	3	119
Bound Periodicals, reference .....	265	2	263
Bound Periodicals, circulating .....	14	1	13
Other reference volumes .....	69	....	69
Fiction .....	618	338	280
Government deposits .....	160	....	160
Total .....	1,807	352	1,455



## (4)—DONATIONS.

Vols.	Nos.	Pamp.	NAME
21	...	...	American Book Co., Chicago.
...	1	...	American-Irish Historical Society, Washington, D. C.
...	16	...	Aguilar Free Library, N. Y.
1	...	...	Bell, M. F., Adjutant-General of Missouri.
...	3	...	Boston Book Co., Boston, Mass.
10	...	...	Brockett, J. W., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	12	...	Browne, Mrs. E. C., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	1	...	Brooklyn (N. Y.) Free Library.
...	3	...	Buffalo (N. Y.) Public Library.
...	2	...	Canada—Minister of Agriculture.
...	1	...	Carnegie Library, Pittsburg, Pa.
...	1	...	Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Public Library.
...	1	...	Chicago (Ill.) Public Library.
1	...	...	Clarke, H. M., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	1	...	Cleveland (O.) Public Schools.
...	3	...	Denver (Colo.) City Library.
...	1	...	Depew, Chauncey, M., New York.
...	1	...	Detroit (Mich.) Public Library.
1	...	...	Dexter, Mary, Cincinnati, O.
...	1	...	Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.
...	1	...	Evanston (Ill.) Free Public Library.
1	...	...	Finley, W. W., Southern Railway Co., Washington, D. C.
...	1	...	Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.
...	1	...	Girard College, Philadelphia, Pa.
...	1	...	Gloversville (N. Y.) Public Library.
...	...	...	Hanna, H. H., chairman executive committee, Indianapolis Monetary Conference, 1898.
...	1	...	Grand Rapids (Mich.) Public Library.
...	8	...	Hartford (Conn.) Public Library.
...	2	...	Hartford (Conn.) Theological Seminary.
...	2	...	Helena (Mont.) Public Library.
...	11	...	Jersey City (N. J.) Free Public Library.
...	4	...	Joseph Lodge, No. 72, I. O. B. B., St. Joseph, Mo.
3	...	...	Kane, M. M., Chief Fire Department and Deputy State Factory Inspector.
1	...	...	Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library.
...	1	...	Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kan.
...	1	...	Kirksville (Mo.) State Normal School.
...	3	...	Lawrence (Kan.) Public Library.
...	1	...	Libbey Glass Co., Toledo, O.
...	1	...	Leipzig, Henry M., Ph. D., New York.
...	3	...	Library Company of Philadelphia, Pa.
...	1	...	Managers Missouri State Insane Asylum No. 1, Fulton, Mo.
...	1	...	Managers State Reform School for Boys, Booneville, Mo.
...	116	...	Martin, Miss Eudora, St. Joseph, Mo.
...	1	...	McCormick Reaper Co.
...	1	...	Mercantile Library, New York.
...	1	...	Mercantile Library, Philadelphia, Pa.
...	3	...	Milwaukee (Wis.) Public Library.
...	8	...	Missouri State Auditor.
...	3	...	Missouri State Board of Agriculture, Jefferson City, Mo.
...	1	...	Morton, Dr. Daniel, St. Joseph, Mo.
...	10	...	Muir, Henry D., Chicago, Ill.
...	10	...	Newark (N. J.) Free Public Library.
...	11	...	New Haven (Conn.) Free Public Library.
...	12	...	Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.
...	6	...	New York Public Library.
...	1	...	Omaha (Neb.) Free Public Library.
...	7	...	Palmer, Mrs. C. F., New York.
...	1	...	Park College, Parkville, Mo.
...	1	...	Paterson (N. J.) Free Public Library.
...	3	...	Peabody Institute, Danvers, Mass.
...	1	...	Peoria (Ill.) Public Library.
...	12	...	Pratt Institute Free Public Library, Brooklyn, N. Y.
...	2	...	Providence (R. I.) Public Library.
...	2	...	Salem (Mass.) Free Public Library.
...	4	...	Scranton (Pa.) Public Library.
...	1	...	Sedalia (Mo.) Public Library.
...	1	...	Simms, J. D.
...	1	...	Society of Friends, Philadelphia, Pa.
...	7	...	Society of Springfield (Mass.) City Library Association.
...	1	...	Stiles, L. O., St. Joseph, Mo.
...	1	...	Syracuse (N. Y.) Central Library.
...	1	...	Toronto Public Library.
...	1	...	Towle Manufacturing Co., Newburyport, Mass.
...	1	...	Tufts Library, Weymouth, Mass.
160	52	232	United States—Departments.
...	2	...	Warren County (Ill.) Library and Reading Room Association
...	2	...	Wisconsin Free Library Commission.
...	1	...	Worcester (Mass.) Free Public Library.

## (3)—CLASSIFIED TABLE OF CIRCULATION.

	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	Total	Per Cent
General	6	11	11	9	12	24	24	43	57	54	47	46	349	08.84
Philosophy	38	24	31	37	44	31	35	45	31	50	78	61	505	02.33
Religion	33	48	38	30	63	60	57	61	71	68	57	39	565	01.77
Sociology	41	42	38	38	39	33	46	57	70	68	70	62	599	02.92
Philology	7	10	6	4	6	1	1	4	6	5	9	8	68	04.20
Natural Science	72	10	51	86	73	54	62	88	126	128	123	103	1027	02.78
Useful Arts	30	31	30	34	6	34	51	51	6	67	46	56	570	00.84
Fine Arts	38	34	32	48	52	41	50	66	88	66	94	66	785	02.33
Literature	279	233	261	272	282	282	333	389	446	410	428	357	4004	18.49
Travel	152	139	173	160	179	134	139	237	263	287	290	260	2433	02.33
Biography	151	136	106	97	110	130	131	133	212	216	221	136	1849	01.77
History	220	221	214	206	236	213	238	239	325	307	328	246	3047	04.20
Periodicals, current	357	386	376	384	415	234	380	389	394	330	436	370	4379	02.78
German	257	304	271	276	270	210	169	235	294	244	246	167	2833	02.78
Fiction	6361	7213	7683	7683	7006	4335	4480	6402	7242	7079	7345	7323	80973	77.76
Total	8263	8903	9379	9429	8845	5856	6128	8555	9664	9379	10415	9820	104146	100.00
Ref. use from circulating department	99	87	75	69	38	195	210	117	174	118	201	188	1571	...
Total use	8862	8990	9454	9498	8883	6051	6338	8672	9838	9497	10616	9908	105717	...
Days Open	24	26	25	26	25	19	20	26	25	24	24	25	289	...
Average Daily Issue	348	346	378	365	356	320	316	333	393	395	442	380	360	...



## (5)—NEW MISSOURI LIBRARY LAW.

The difficulty of securing a sufficient number of votes to establish Free Public Libraries in the state of Missouri, on account of the law requiring a majority of all votes cast on any proposition at an election, caused the following amendments to be written and submitted to the legislature. It will be seen that under this law it will be necessary to secure a majority of the voters voting on the library measure, either to establish a library or increase the amount of taxes allowed a library already established. Also that it permits counties to secure the use of such libraries by contract between the county courts and the library boards. The bill was passed, signed by the governor and is now a law, an emergency clause being attached:

AN ACT repealing Section 1779, of Chapter 31, of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1889, enacting a new section in lieu thereof, and also enacting a new section to be known as section 1789A, in relation to free public libraries and the use thereof.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section 1: That section 1779, of Chapter 31, of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1889, be and the same is hereby repealed and the following section enacted in lieu thereof:

"Sec. 1779. When one hundred tax-paying voters of any incorporated city shall petition the mayor and common council asking that an annual tax be levied for the establishment and maintenance of a free public library in such incorporated city, and shall specify in their petition a rate of taxation, not to exceed one mill on the dollar annually, and in cities of over one hundred thousand inhabitants not to exceed two-fifths of one mill annually, on all the taxable property in the city, such mayor and common council shall direct the proper officer to give notice in his next legal notice of the annual election, or special election which may be called for the purpose of voting on such question, that at such election every voter may vote "for a — mill tax for a free public library;" or "against a — mill tax for a free public library;" specifying in such notice the rate of taxation mentioned in said petition; and if the majority of votes cast on such proposition shall be "for the tax for the free public library," the tax specified in such notice shall be levied and collected in like manner with other general taxes of such incorporated city, and shall be known as the "library fund": Provided, that such tax shall cease in case the legal voters of any such incorporated city shall so determine, by a majority vote, at any annual election held therein."

Section 2. That a new section, to be known as Section 1789A, is hereby enacted, as follows:

"Section 1789A. The County Court in any County wherein is situated an incorporated city containing a free public library, whenever petitioned by one hundred or more tax-paying citizens of said city, and one hundred or more tax-paying citizens of said county residing outside of said city, for the use by the citizens of said county residing outside of said city, of said library, shall have the right to contract with the officers of said library for such use thereof by said citizens of said county residing outside of the city, and to appropriate moneys from the county revenue of said county therefor; and thereafter to continue such contract or renewals thereof from year to year:

Provided, that the annual amount so contracted to be paid and appropriated shall not exceed 3 per cent of the county revenue for the year out of which payment is to be made."

Section 3. The fact that there are cities contemplating voting on the establishment of free public libraries, and that certain counties desire to secure the right to use libraries in cities, from which they are now barred, constitutes an emergency within the meaning of the constitution; therefore, this bill shall become a law from and after its passage.

## REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

Gentlemen: During the year just closed 1897 volumes have been added to the library, as follows: 1314 purchased, 97 donated, 236 periodicals bound, and 160 deposited by government. Withdrawals, 352; 344 worn out, 4 burned on account of contagion, 4 lost and paid for. Net increase, including 7 missing volumes, 1455. The library contains 17,256 volumes.

The inability of the library to meet the increasing needs of its patrons is more keenly felt each year. The only remedy is an increase in library funds, not hoped for during the coming year. The entire amount at the disposal of the board for new books could be used to advantage for some years in the expenditures for books and periodicals for the reference room alone, so large is the use of this department.

In many places persons interested in special lines of study or work frequently endow the departments appealing to them, thus permitting their more rapid extension. This has not as yet been done in St. Joseph, but the attention of thinking people is called to the plan in the hopes that it may receive consideration.

The committee feels that its work has been as well done as the means at its hands has permitted. Due care has been exercised in the purchases made, and all additions have been approved.

Respectfully submitted,

H. K. WHITE,  
J. L. LAWLESS,  
J. A. McEVOY,

May 1, 1899.

Library Committee.

## REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

Gentlemen: The reports of the Treasurer of the Board and the Librarian have been examined and found to be correct, setting forth in detail the receipts and expenditures for the year.

At the first of the year the committee endeavored to secure from the finance committee of the council an appropriation covering the balance due the library accruing during two years, but was not successful, the library being placed on the same basis as other departments, and compelled to stand its proportion of the amount not collected according to the apportionment, to-



gether with amount borrowed by council. These amounts are still carried as a charge against the city on the books of the Board Treasurer, in the hope that when the city finances assume a better condition they will be allowed to the library.

The apportionment for library purposes for the year just begun has been made by the finance committee, and amounts to \$7,200, the amount allowed last year. An increase was not asked for by your committee, so many demands being made on the city by the various departments that it was deemed inadvisable.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,  
LEWIS M. SMITH,  
C. P. CARGILL,

Finance Committee.

May 1, 1899.

## REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

Gentlemen: An examination shows the general condition of the library to be as good as circumstances will permit.

The placing of "warning labels," containing excerpts from the city ordinance passed for the protection of the library, on the volumes in the reference room, seems to have had a good effect, the librarian reporting fewer losses during the year than for any like period during the history of the library. The crowded condition of the reference room made it necessary to remove some of the least used periodicals to the office room, immediately adjoining the reference room.

The library force has continued unchanged during the year, the work of each member of the staff being satisfactory.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. DeCLUE,  
JNO M. STEWART,  
L. M. SMITH,

Administration Committee.

May 1, 1899.

## REPORT OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

Gentlemen: Your committee herewith submits a report of the expenditures in the department under its charge during the year ending April 30, 1899, as required by the by-laws:

Rent .....	\$269 75	
Janitor .....	240 00	
Insurance .....	75 00	
Fuel .....	122 67	
Furniture .....	33 50	
Repairs .....	15 60	
Water .....	30 00	
Ice .....	6 40	\$792 92

The books and furniture of the library are now insured for \$10,000, an increase of \$1,000 during the year. Through the efforts of the librarian, the rate was reduced, effecting a net saving of fifteen dollars and the additional insurance for the year.

The fuel account shows an increased expenditure of \$19.43 on account of the severe winter.

Arrangements have been made with the Board of Park Commissioners and Superintendent Rau, of the city parks, for plants for the grounds for this year, as heretofore.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. LAWLESS,  
J. B. RILEY,  
CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,

Buildings and Grounds Committee.

May 1, 1899.