

Free Public Library

St. Joseph, Missouri

Nineteenth Annual Report

1908

FISCAL YEAR

1909

Nineteenth Annual Report

of the

Board of Directors

of the

Free Public Library

of the

City of St. Joseph, Mo.

Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 1909

Free Public Library, St. Joseph, Missouri

OFFICERS

J. W. ATWILL	-	-	-	-	-	PRESIDENT
J. H. McCORD	-	-	-	-	-	VICE-PRESIDENT
CHAS. A. PFEIFFER	-	-	-	-	-	SECRETARY-TREASURER
PURD B. WRIGHT	-	-	-	-	-	ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DIRECTORS

Jas. H. McCord	CHAS. P. CARGILL
REV. HENRY BULLARD	S. A. PENNY
W. E. WARRICK	REV. LOUIS BERNSTEIN
J. W. ATWILL	CHAS. A. PFEIFFER
	G. D. CARTMELL
	***DANIEL MORTON

COMMITTEES

LIBRARY—McCord, Atwill, Bullard.
ADMINISTRATION—Cargill, Warrick, Pfeiffer.
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS—Warrick, Cartmell, Penny.
FINANCE—Pfeiffer, Cargill, Cartmell.
BY-LAWS—Pfeiffer, Cargill, Bernstein.
ART—McCord, Bullard, Penny.
LECTURE—Bullard, Pfeiffer, Bernstein.

LIBRARY STAFF

LIBRARIAN—Purd B. Wright.
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN—Lulu C. Senter, in charge Carnegie Branch.
ASSISTANTS: *Annie M. Perry, Lillian C. Kerr, reference; Eudora Martin, **Lillian C. Kerr, **Mary L. Reichert, cataloging; Bessie McCoy, children's room, main library; Jessie M. Gibson, Jennie K. Willson, desk; Anise Sandford, Elizabeth Hull, general; Joseph Mann, Leon Lyddon, messengers; Elizabeth Albus, substitute; Clara B. Davis, office stenographer.
CARNEGIE BRANCH: Lulu C. Senter, librarian in charge; Elizabeth Hull, substitute; W. A. McCamy, janitor.

*Died Jan. 5, 1909.

**Promoted Jan. 14, 1909.

***Resigned June, 1908; vacancy filled by reappointment of Chas. A. Pfeiffer.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER TRANSMITTING REPORTS

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

Gentlemen—In transmitting to you the annual report of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, comprising the reports of the treasurer, committees, and librarian, I desire to express the appreciation of its members for consideration in the matter of appropriations made by you for the maintenance of the library. The promptness and broad spirit shown by you in co-operating with Mr. Carnegie, the people of North St. Joseph, and the library board in providing for an extension of library facilities through a second branch to be located in the northern part of the city, was a source of gratification to all friends of education.

The belief that our citizens approve the efforts to furnish books of value for study and recreation is strengthened by the steadily increasing patronage of the already popular institution. It is the desire to provide books in convenient reach of every person, and when the system already outlined in general is carried out, this will have been accomplished. This cannot be done in a short time, and certainly not until the revenues of the city warrant the support of additional branches. But this is a consummation much to be desired.

Your attention is called to the reports herewith, as affording full details of the operations of the library. Worthy of special attention are the statistics in the report of the librarian showing a five years' growth of the library. It presents some encouraging features, and bears out the statement so frequently made to you that each increase in library revenue made by the council is immediately met by a greater increase in use. This gain was 20 per cent larger than the gain in revenue for five years just ended, a fact to be remembered as emphasizing the importance of library work and the place it fills in the community.

Home use of books was 203,005 during the year, and the working growth of the library was satisfactory to those responsible therefor.

In another year we expect to present an additional feature in the new Washington Park branch, the building for which was presented through the munificence of Mr. Carnegie. The providing of an attractive site by the city, and an additional fund of \$2,800 by the people interested, is entitled to recognition.

The St. Joseph Free Public Library, although of comparatively recent establishment, is accorded a high place among progressive working

libraries. Thanks for this are in a large measure due to the tactfulness, energy and industry of the librarian and the members of the library staff.

Very truly,

G. W. ATWILL,

President Library Board.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1909.

REPORT OF TREASURER

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

Gentlemen: I submit with this a statement showing the receipts and disbursements by departments of the library for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1909, as required by law.

For the year, \$17,000 was apportioned by the Council for library purposes. Of this, \$14,000 was for the main library, and \$3,000 for Carnegie branch. Excess collections were credited each account, as shown in the statement and by the report of the Finance Committee.

Included in the report is the petty account of library collections and expenditures, called the special fund. Collections in this account are from the duplicate collection, penalties on overdue books, books lost and paid for, catalogs and supplements sold, and miscellaneous sources. Expenditures at the library from this account are reported monthly to the Library Board.

All expenditures through the city departments are accounted for in duplicate vouchers, approved by not less than two members of the Finance Committee, allowed by the Board, after which they are certified to by the President. Original vouchers are on file in the office of the city auditor, duplicates being retained in the office of the librarian.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1909.

Treasurer.

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

Before me, Clara B. Davis, 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, and made oath that the facts and figures in his report are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand and seal this 10th day of May, 1909.

CLARA B. DAVIS,

Notary Public.

(SEAL)

My commission expires June 1, 1910.

MAIN LIBRARY

General Account.

Receipts.

From city apportionment, 1908-9.....	\$14,000 00	
Excess collections	358 52	\$14,358 52

Disbursements.

By general warrants on city treasurer:		
Book account—Books.....	\$3,167 44	
Periodicals	305 87	
Binding	1,570 06	
Salaries, staff.....		5,043 31
Heat and engineer.....		7,386 99
Janitors		336 88
Printing and stationery.....		465 00
Postage		317 30
Repairs		32 00
Insurance		40 00
Furniture		7 50
Telephone		358 05
Electric light.....		42 00
Cards		64 04
Miscellaneous		92 90
		172 49
		\$14,358 52

SPECIAL FUND ACCOUNT.

Receipts.

Brought forward in hands Board Treasurer.....	\$ 370 53	
Brought forward in hands Librarian.....	25 75	
Received from duplicate collection.....	368 30	
Penalties on overdue books.....	837 71	
Catalogs	3 05	
Supplements	2 65	
Miscellaneous	134 24	\$ 1,742 23

Disbursements.

Paid by special warrant No. 4, periodicals	400 00	
Paid by special warrant No. 5, one-half cost electric cleaner.....	137 50	
By librarian:		
Freight and express.....\$	102 30	
Postage	35 83	
Stationery	40 95	
Delivery station expenses.....	80 00	
Miscellaneous	74 34	333 42
Balances		
In hands Board Treasurer.....	848 03	
In hands Librarian.....	23 28	\$ 1,742 23

Recapitulation.

Receipts.

From city apportionment, etc.....	\$14,358 52	
Special fund.....	1,742 23	\$16,100 75

Disbursements.

By vouchers on city treasurer, general fund.....	\$14,358 52	
By vouchers on special fund.....	537 50	
By librarian.....	333 42	
Balances:		
In hands Board Treasurer.....	843 03	
In hands Librarian.....	23 28	\$16,100 75

CARNEGIE BRANCH.

Receipts.

From city apportionment, 1908-09.....	\$ 3,000 00	
Excess collections.....	95 63	\$ 3,095 63

Disbursements.

By general warrant on city treasurer:		
Book account—Books.....\$	543 44	
Periodicals	106 50	
Binding	198 78	\$ 848 72
Salary, staff.....	1,182 00	
Fuel	70 40	
Janitor	612 00	
Furniture	3 00	
Telephone	30 00	
Cards	15 00	
Electric light.....	61 50	
Printing and stationery.....	5 44	
Building repairs.....	123 93	
Insurance	87 50	
Miscellaneous	56 14	\$ 3,095 63

General Recapitulation.

Total Receipts.

Main Library, general fund.....	\$14,358 52	
Special fund.....	1,742 23	
Carnegie Branch, general fund.....	3,095 63	\$19,196 38

Total Disbursements.

Main Library, general fund.....	\$14,358 52	
Special fund.....	870 92	
Carnegie Branch, general fund.....	3,095 63	
Balances:		
In hands Board Treasurer.....	848 03	
In hands Librarian.....	23 28	\$19,196 38

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

Gentlemen: The report of library work for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1909, covering the nineteenth year of the library's existence, presents few new activities. In a general way, every department has expanded. Proven methods or plans of work have been extended to the limit of library resources, with satisfactory results. While the increase in the use of the library was small as compared with that recorded in the last report, it still shows a decided advance. In the matter of growth, accessions kept pace with the last few years. This has been along the lines heretofore followed, and as a result the institution is better prepared to meet the growing demands made upon it.

As giving a somewhat comprehensive view of library progress, a comparison with the report of five years ago shows a growth in expenditures of 41.5 per cent. Increase in the number of cardholders was 41.1 per cent, holding 82.5 per cent more cards, and reading 61.14 per cent more books (that being the increase in circulation for the period.) There are 60.82 per cent more volumes, the growth of the library in the five year period covered.

	Fiscal year ending 1904	Fiscal year ending 1909	Percentage of increase
Volumes issued.....	124,135	203,005	61.14
No. volumes in library.....	28,049	46,177	60.83
No. cardholders.....	6,196	8,743	41.1
Cards held.....	7,555	13,789	82.5
Expenditures	\$12,945.17	\$18,325.07	41.5
Percentage of fiction and children's stories.....	77.47	66.36	

USERS OF LIBRARY

The number of registered users of the library is 8,743, an increase of 103, holding 13,789 cards, 858 more than one year ago. Teachers' cards number 337. Each year fewer people refuse the non-fiction card, and the natural result is a larger use of books other than fiction. A registration is required every two years, and from the total number registered, all "dead" cards are deducted.

CONTENTS AND GROWTH OF LIBRARY

The library controls 53,358 volumes, of which 7,181 are in the school supplementary reading department. The increase in the library proper, aside from U. S. public documents collection, was 4,304; school collection, 768, or a total of 5,072. With the deductions in the de-

partment named, as shown in the table of library statistics, on account of withdrawals of duplicates, etc., the actual total increase was 4,634.

Appendix II gives accessions, withdrawals and net gains for the year by classes, as well as total contents of library, with comparisons with the figures of five years ago. This table, with that of circulation, is interesting, from the fact that it affords an opportunity of studying in detail the use and growth of the library for the five year period.

While losses by theft number 140 volumes, an increase over last year, the money loss was little more. Books missing from the children's room numbered 38, an increase of 7. A rearrangement of the room requiring users to pass in front of the charging desk in going out will, it is believed, have a beneficial effect.

The record of books stolen shows some surprising features: Four titles are religious: Proudfoot, Child's Christ tales; Peabody, Mornings in the college chapel; Keedy, Teacher's book of Old Testament heroes; Drummond, Addresses. Useful arts classes suffered the loss of twenty-two titles, handbooks of various kinds being popular with the thieving patrons. Fiction of the lighter sort lead in losses, numbering fifty-eight volumes.

Carnegie branch suffered loss at the hands of a band of boys who raided certain departments, getting quite a number of books before being detected. Aided by Sergeant Webster, of the South St. Joseph police station, the gang was broken up by Miss Senter and Mr. McCamy, and some of the books recovered. Other losses are to be replaced. In the meantime, the offenders have been barred from use of the open shelves, and action of authorities held in abeyance pending further investigation.

USE OF LIBRARY

While the home use of books was larger than ever before, the increase fell below that reported one year ago. Total issue was 203,005, a gain of 2,527, as compared with 16,763 the year before. This is accounted for in a measure by the improvement of business conditions throughout the country. "Good times" in the business world affect library use disastrously, while "hard times" produce results exactly the reverse. November, December, January, 1908, decreased compared with 1907. The open winter and early resumption of building operations curtailed somewhat the use of industrial and trade books, but not to a discouraging extent. Tables accompanying this report give full details as to circulation by classes and departments.

Use of the adult department of the main library was 3,872 in excess of the year before, about forty per cent of which were books other

than fiction. The loss at Carnegie branch, adult use, was 953. Fiction showed a decreased use of 1,535 volumes, while books other than fiction showed a gain in use of 582 volumes. In other words, while fiction at the branch showed a decrease of 17.3 per cent, all other classes showed an increase of 21.3 per cent. The largest increases were in the arts, fine and useful.

As to relative popularity of the different classes of books, fiction stituted over 80 per cent of the entire library use. Five years later it had dropped to about 77 per cent, while at this time it constitutes 66.36 per cent. Second place in circulation ten years ago was taken by current magazines, which within five years dropped to fourth place, the last year to eighth. Literature advanced to second place in 1904, which it still holds, being followed closely by history. History has moved from fourth to third place, while biography has dropped back one point, from sixth to seventh place. Use of books on industrial arts has steadily gained, being eleventh in 1899, tenth in 1904, and ninth at this time. Fine arts dropped from eighth to tenth place in ten years. The jumping of language from the fourteenth to fifth place is easily understood when it is explained that the "language" books of the children's library and school collections, both comparatively new departments, come under this class.

A decreased use of the children's library, main department, is accounted for by an increased use of 7,237 in school libraries, as is explained in other places.

THE LIBRARY AND CHILDREN

In an effort to relieve the rush hours in the children's room at the main library, thus affording time for more individual work, the two school deposit stations established late in the school term last year at the Humboldt and Floyd schools were continued, and an additional deposit placed in the South Park school. While the total circulation of books among children through all departments numbered 85,805, an increase of 639, the main library and school departments showed an increase of 2,541. Conditions at the branch are covered in another place.

The children's department at the main library issued 49,444 volumes, as against 54,141 last year, a decrease of 4,697. Books placed in the school deposits were taken from this department, and were issued 7,542 times, an increase of 5,441. Despite the increase there exists the satisfaction that the little ones had better service and the best books. It is a pleasure also to know that the splendid use of the books placed in the Humboldt school was a great factor in securing a branch library for the neighborhood in which the school is located.

All of the features heretofore found practical and useful have been continued, with a decided increase in and appreciation of work with teachers and pupils in the schools. Select lists for various school grades were made by Miss McCoy, children's librarian, at the requests of teachers, and they have been used as advisory reading lists. This interest on the part of teachers is an important aid, as relieving the librarian of the necessity of so much personal work with each child. There is no relaxation in efforts to induce the use of the best books.

In her report Miss McCoy notes continued interest in special bulletins, and good results from featuring on special shelves books to which it is wished to draw attention.

As indicating a more practical use of the room, it is shown that just one-half the decrease in its use was in children's stories. The literature class leads in gain.

While "the story-telling hour" has not been inaugurated at the main library, every aid and encouragement is given teachers in the schools by suggestions on the selection of stories and in supplying books calculated to aid the story teller.

The addition of needed reference books in the children's department greatly simplifies and extends the usefulness of the room.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The death of Miss Annie M. Perry, reference librarian of this library since its opening in 1891, which occurred January 5, was a distinct loss to the library and its patrons. As was said in the resolutions adopted by the Board, "She was a woman of much strength of character and culture. Her influence with the younger generation especially was marked, being used for the higher and more serious things of life, and for thoroughness of study." As an assistant to those using the library she was always helpful, her knowledge of books and familiarity with the library, making her especially valuable.

Under Miss Kerr, who was transferred from the cataloging department, the reference department has maintained its usefulness. No section of the library nearly approaches this in the demands made upon it. That its value is being appreciated by the business and professional, as well as studious, life of the community is shown by the steady increase and the nature of the demands made upon it—demands that are vital to the welfare of the city. It is no less gratifying to be able to furnish a representative business organization with the "excess product of currants in the territory tributary to St. Joseph," than it is to receive from the students of an out-of-town college forming a debating class a letter to the effect that

"we won our debate for Park College over Cedar Rapids. We attribute our success to your kindness in furnishing us material on 'The central bank of issue question.'" It is a pleasure to be called upon for information as to the location of a town by the local postal officials and to be able to furnish it; to aid the pension department in detecting a fraud or assisting a worthy woman in establishing her right to government aid; to assist in finding who was one's grandfather or great-grandmother, and something of their lives; to furnish the newspaper with a portrait or illustration on a rush order; to supply, by telephone, the spelling of a word; a date in history; the name of a cabinet officer or other official; to provide statistics for the minister of the gospel for his sermon on marriage and divorce; and, not the least of all, to get the earnest student in any branch of study, the energetic club woman, the teacher with heart and mind in her work, the help they need. These are every day matters.

This department was drawn upon in the matter of the new city charter, as it was by the winners of the state-wide essay contests for high school students. Every effort is made to serve every legitimate interest making demands upon it.

All assistance possible under the rules has been given college and high school students in the territory tributary to St. Joseph. Tarkio College, Tarkio; Park College, Parkville; Wesleyan College, Cameron; and students of high schools from all nearby towns, have availed themselves of the contents of this library. A large number of reference lists have been prepared at their request, and personal work has been given many student visitors from these places.

No record is kept of reference use of the library other than a count of such books left upon the tables. These numbered 31,148, as compared with 25,843 last year. All high school class and regular club work is done from special shelves, the books being replaced by user after use.

CARNEGIE BRANCH

Compared with former years, results through Carnegie branch, in the stock yards district, were not so satisfactory, although presenting a rather curious situation. The decrease in the number of books issued was 2,855, 12.4 per cent. A peculiar feature is shown in the adult department. While the loss in circulation was 953, the decrease in the use of fiction was 1,535, showing a gain in the use of books other than fiction of 582 volumes. Rather noted increases are shown in the natural science class, followed by useful arts, fine arts, travel and biography. Literature was the only classed section showing an actual decreased use. Loss in cir-

ulation in the children's room was 1,902, 68 per cent of which, 1,433 volumes, being children's stories.

A careful study of the situation developed the fact that during the depression in the business world the expert or higher classed and better educated mechanics and workmen were less affected than were the common workmen; that day laborers came in conflict with and lost their places to lower paid, uneducated foreigners who flocked to the city in large numbers. This meant lost work to the library force, if increased opportunities.

Miss Senter, branch librarian, reports that, "in an effort to discover the cause of the decreased use of the library, the homes of former library patrons whose cards had been left at the library were visited, and it was found that 36 per cent had left that portion of the city and the houses were occupied by foreigners, largely from Southern Europe." These are largely without children. It is a constantly changing population, and the few children are especially hard to reach and all but impossible to hold. Efforts are not relaxed on this account, and hopes are entertained that when the population becomes more staple results will be more satisfactory. Hosea school, near the library, shows a change of 31 per cent in personnel of attendance, bearing out library estimates.

The work of the Carnegie Culture club, Carnegie Literary club, the Senter club, named for the librarian, and the St. James Flower club, and children's stories easily come first, as is natural. In 1899 this continues along most desirable lines. These are all the result of branch library activity, and much interest is felt in their progress.

Miss Senter further reports as follows:

Carnegie branch now contains 6,922 volumes, the number of books added during the year being 803. To the circulating departments belong 5,557 volumes, to the reference departments 1,365 volumes. The juvenile department contains 1,574 volumes, 83 of which are reference. One hundred and ten books were canceled and withdrawn during the year.

The total registration for the year was 480, of which 254 were new members and 226 renewals. Adults 272, children 208, 138 non-fiction cards were issued. Number of cards now in force at the library, 1,352. The number of books issued for the year was 20,047.

Books in the children's room number 1,574 volumes, of which 194 were added during the year. The circulation was 7,904, a decrease from the year before of 1,903. The books most in use after the stories are those about Indians and Colonial history. After school hours, while the children are reading at the library, it is often found that at least half the



CARNEGIE BRANCH LIBRARY
(Grounds Cared for by Park Commissioners)

books on those particular subjects are off the shelves and in use. There was a decrease in the use of natural science of 35 per cent over last year.

Number of persons using the reference rooms aside from the Sunday readers and visitors, was 9,998, a daily average of 47. The Sunday use is much greater. The largest number of visitors and readers at the library on a single Sunday was 172, March 14, 1909. The smallest number was 31, due to hard storm. Average Sunday attendance, 94. Amount of reference work done during the months of November and January was greater than at any time during the year, the rooms being

crowded much of the time. The reading room is supplied with 48 periodicals and 3 daily papers for adults and 6 magazines for children.

LIBRARY AND SCHOOL

The school supplementary reading collection contains 7,181 volumes, the growth being 768. School use for eight months was 20,914, an increase of 1,787. These are purchased by the School District, care and issue being a library charge. Figures given in tables indicate possibly a

little more than one-half the real use. With a satisfactory delivery and collection system, use would be largely increased.

Experiments with the school deposit libraries have been very satisfactory, and the only regret is that the plan could not be put into more general use. But three schools are now thus supplied, the Humboldt, 300 volumes; Floyd, 200; and South Park, 235; the first two for seven months and the third for two months. Aggregate use of the 735 volumes for the limited period was 7,542.

There are requests from five school principals for deposit libraries, as well as numerous appeals for special room collections. These will be furnished the coming year. Washington Park branch, when completed, will supply the Humboldt, as well as other schools.

The growing need for closer relations with the schools is apparent each day. With a school supervisor of library work, not only a great deal more work could be accomplished with children, but it would be of a decidedly higher order. It is hoped that this department can be created with the new school year.

Continued appreciation is noted of the Bulletin for Teachers, issued by the library each school month of the year, mimeographed copies being placed in the hands of each teacher. This contains a title index to articles in the leading educational magazines received at the library with occasional reference to articles of interest in the general magazines and books of interest to teachers. Most teachers call it "the time-saver," as it not unfrequently occurs that several articles can be read in the time that would ordinarily be taken to merely looking over the various magazines in search of something of interest.

With better understanding between high school teachers and library assistants, resulting in closer co-operation, a decided increase is noted in the use of the library by high school students.

PUBLICATIONS AND EXTENSION WORK

Special publications of the year were confined to the annual report, Bulletin and a reading list on municipal affairs. The occasion for the last named was the "Ad Club" dinner at which the proposed city charter was under discussion. The list comprised titles under various headings, such as Municipal art; Charters; Garbage, Hygiene; Public parks; Playgrounds; Police; Roads and pavements; Sanitary engineering; Street cleaning; Water supply. A copy of the folder was placed at each plate, and others were given general circulation. The increased use of books

will doubtless continue at least until after the submission of the charter to a vote of the people.

At the request of the librarian, the senator and representatives in the state legislature from Buchanan County provided the library with copies of all measures introduced in either house, and they are kept on file for the use of the public. The value of these bills were greatly enhanced by the subject indexes prepared and furnished by the Missouri Library Commission. Calls for the bills were numerous. The library was also one of the centers for distributing copies of the special charter bill.

The leading magazines are indexed each month, mimeograph copies being placed in the reading rooms of the library and various clubs. It is published regularly in the columns of the News-Press. It seems to be appreciated by busy people.

The library participates in the educational work of the Y. W. C. A. by the loan of books and globe, and by book deposits at its extension stations. Deposit libraries are also made at the Detention home and Home for little wanderers. No record is kept of the use of these other than the first issue.

A compilaion of all genealogical titles in the library was made, and copies furnished the patriotic societies of the city. The books are largely used.

CATALOGING DEPARTMENT

In additions to regular accessions, the cataloging department under Misses Martin and Kerr, and later Miss Reichert, continued the work of revision of the classification and cataloging of the library. The biographical section was completed and all German and French fiction changed, as well as the Shakespearean collection in literature. Over 2,500 titles were thus treated. Total number of cards made, 6,962. This is made possible by the use of 4,000 Library of Congress cards. Miss Martin is also in charge of the statistical department of the library, which furnished the basis for this report.

PAY COLLECTION

Receipts from the pay collection of fiction were \$368.30. The collection now consists of 308 volumes, 277 volumes having been transferred to the free collection. During the year 256 volumes were purchased. Receipts cover the cost of rebinding all books transferred to the free collection. No separate record is kept of amount of penalties collected from this department.

READING ROOM

The increasing popularity of the Reading room is so evident as to cause general comment. It will be a question of but a short time when the advisability of removing this department to more commodious quarters on the second floor will be a matter for consultation with the School Board. Had the library the necessary funds for providing supervision of the room thus located, the matter would be worthy considering at this time. Additional chairs are sadly needed. Two hundred and seventy-two periodicals are now received, 62 of which are gifts.

CURRENT EVENTS TABLE

Exhibits on the current events table and bulletin board which attracted the most general attention were the following: Domestic science exhibit, aided by a loan from American school of home economics, Chicago; Tuberculosis, with a collection of pamphlets secured from the International congress on tuberculosis, held in Washington, D. C., Sept. 28-Oct. 3; The Balkans, followed later by the Turkish uprising; Abraham Lincoln anniversary; The U. S. army, on the occasion of the military tournament; Gardening and fruit growing.

BINDING

Binding expense was \$1,768.84. Average cost per volume was 47.5 cents. The increase in average cost was occasioned by an improvement in material used, and the larger number of periodicals bound.

IN GENERAL

Volumes issued through the delivery stations again show a decrease, the total being 5,142. Establishing of school deposits was probably the cause for this. Unsatisfactory at best, no effort is made to increase delivery station use.

The method of loaning books to fire stations on cards issued in the No. of the house has proven much more satisfactory than deposit books, as giving the men freedom of selection. No record is kept of individual use of books so issued.

Sunday users of library numbered 18,338, an increase of 2,674. Of these 6,055 were children. Sunday issue of books was 11,112, 2,496 being from the branch. By departments the numbers were as follows: Adult, main, 5,123; branch, 1,349; children, main, 3,493; branch, 1,147. The libraries were open fifty-two Sundays.

Three members of the staff attended the meeting of the A. L. A. at

Minneapolis, and an equal number were in attendance on the meeting of the Missouri library association.

Use of books on the vacation plan showed an enlarged and appreciative use.

The local newspapers have been most liberal in giving space to library matters, and in support of the institution in all ways. Acknowledgment is made to the News-Press and the Gazette for many courtesies. The former publishes lists of new books added, and the latter uses all special lists prepared. Both are liberal in space given on library matters.

A large number of additions have been made to the collection of state reports. The most valuable sets are practically complete, including the geological survey.

The books of the library have just had a thorough cleaning by the suction process, an electric renovator, the joint purchase of library and school board, making this possible. The books were cleaned in a fraction of the time heretofore required, and without additional expense.

THE NEW BRANCH

The library needs of North St. Joseph having been demonstrated in so many ways, it was gratifying in the extreme when, after a brief correspondence relating to the matter, Mr. Andrew Carnegie offered a second branch to the city.

Under date of January 22 a statement of conditions and needs was submitted to Mr. Carnegie by Mr. Atwill, president of the Board. A prompt reply (Jan. 26), asking as to amount of support of the present library system by the city, met with an equally prompt response (Jan 29). The information being satisfactory, under date of Feb. 1, an offer of \$25,000 for a second branch was received, subject to usual conditions of site and support. February 16 the council extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Carnegie. A site was provided by an extension of Washington Park grounds, and the citizens of North St. Joseph immediately added \$2,800 by popular subscription as a book and equipment fund. The council later formally accepted the tender according to its terms, and immediately apportioned \$2,500 for the new branch, which has been named Washington Park branch of the Free Public Library.

The matter of plans, etc., for the new building is now in the hands of a special committee, and an effort will be made to have the branch ready to serve the appreciative people of North St. Joseph early in 1910.

Usual statistical tables accompany and form a part of this report.

Especially acknowledged is due to the members of the staff for

conscientious assistance under trying circumstances, caused by changes in duty and increased service, and to the members of the library board for helpful consideration of all matters brought to their attention, as well as interest in duties permitted outside the library as an officer of the A. L. A. and the Missouri Library Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

PURD B. WRIGHT,
Librarian.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1909.

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

Before me, Clara B. Davis, 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 submitted are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand and seal this 12th day of May, 1909.

CLARA B. DAVIS,
Notary Public.

(SEAL)

My commission expires June 1, 1910.

I—LIBRARY STATISTICS.

Book Account.

Number of volumes reported April 30, 1908..			42,311
Additions for fiscal year:			
By purchase.....	3,778		
By transfer from duplicate collection.....	277		
By periodicals bound.....	449		
By donations, accessioned, and Govt. docs.	527	5,031	
Withdrawals:			
Worn out, burned, etc.....	440		
Lost or damaged and paid for.....	41		
Lost and not paid for.....	22		
Unaccounted for last year.....	66		
Government documents (duplicates, etc.)..	596	1,165	3,866
Number of volumes now in library.....			46,177

School Supplementary Reading Department.

No. volumes reported April 30, 1908			6,413
Additions for fiscal year.....	1,083		
Withdrawals:			
Worn out, lost, etc.....	206		
Transferred to schools.....	109	315	
Net increase for year.....			768
No. volumes in school collection..			7,181
Number of volumes in library.....			55,358

Accessions and Withdrawals Classified, 1908-1909.

Class	Accessions	Withdrawals	Net Gain
General	98	5	93
Philosophy	34	1	33
Religion	129	3	126
*Sociology (inc. pub. doc. 158 v.).....	519	**605	***86
Language	118	32	86
Natural science.....	156	15	141
Useful arts.....	277	5	272
Fine arts.....	160	10	150
Literature	258	34	224
Travel	217	14	203
Biography	165	6	159
History	361	24	337
Periodicals (R. L.).....	701	...	701
Children's stories.....	656	194	462
Fiction (inc. duplicate collection).....	1,182	217	965
Total	5,031	1,165	3,866

*Public documents received: 158.
**Duplicate public documents, 596.
***Decrease.

II—EXPENDITURES OF LIBRARY.

Book account:	General fund.	Special fund.	Total
Books	\$3,710 88		\$3,710 88
Periodicals	412 37	\$400 00	812 37
Binding	1,768 84		1,768 84
Salaries Ln. & Assts.	\$ 5,892 09		\$ 6,292 09
Heat and engineer..	8,568 99		8,568 99
Janitors	407 28		407 28
Ptg. and Stationery.	1,077 00		1,077 00
Postage	322 74	40 95	363 69
Repairs	32 00	35 83	67 83
Insurance	163 93		163 93
Furniture	95 00		95 00
Telephone	361 05	137 50	498 55
Electric Light.....	72 00		72 00
Cards	125 54		125 54
Miscellaneous	107 90		107 90
Frt. & exp....	228 63	74 34	302 97
Delivery sta....		102 30	102 30
		80 00	80 00
Total	\$17,454 15	\$870 92	\$18,325 07

LIBRARY RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

Receipts.

Brought forward	\$ 25 75	
From duplicate collection	368 30	
Penalties on overdue books.....	837 71	
Catalogs	3 05	
Supplements	2 65	
Miscellaneous	134 24	\$ 1,371 70

Disbursements.

Deposited to credit Sec.-Treas.		\$ 1,015 00
Freight and express	\$ 102 30	
Postage	35 83	
Stationery	40 95	
Delivery stations expenses	80 00	
Miscellaneous	74 34	333 42
Forward		23 28
		\$ 1,371 70

CONTENTS OF LIBRARY CLASSIFIED, 1904 AND 1909.

CLASS	As reported 1904	As reported 1909	Increase in 5 years	School Collection, 1909
General	567	1117	550	...
Philosophy	278	444	166	...
Religion	667	1295	628	150
Sociology	1218	2993	1775	200
U. S. Public documents.....	*3610	†3610	...	...
Language	114	364	250	1650
Natural science	799	1623	824	694
Useful arts	486	1630	1144	32
Fine arts	496	1302	806	...
Literature	2456	3370	914	1464
Travel	1526	2563	1037	474
Biography	1865	2633	768	552
History	2509	3732	1224	788
Fiction (inc. children's stories)...	8886	14279	5393	1177
Bound periodicals (R. L.).....	2612	5222	2610	...
Total	28089	46177	18088	7181
No. vols. circulating dept.	20501	33,955	13454	...
No. vols. in reference dept.	7588	12223	4635	...

* Included collections since classified under proper sociological and other headings, with duplicates.

† All serial numbered documents except 72 v. in process of classification.

III—CIRCULATION

CLASS.	Main Library		Carnegie B'ch		School		Total	Per Cent
	Adult	Children	Adult	Children	Col-lection	School depos.		
General	2,376	222	23	22	.....	.....	2,643	1.30
Philosophy	949	19	93	3	.....	.....	1,064	1.53
Religion	1,399	364	110	53	407	96	2,429	1.19
Sociology	1,356	782	114	138	500	156	3,046	1.50
Language	137	1,815	7	469	6,028	502	8,958	4.41
Natural science	909	1,398	278	353	2,464	801	6,203	3.05
Useful arts	2,384	326	546	98	.....	105	3,459	1.71
Fine arts	2,095	641	189	207	.....	100	3,232	1.59
Literature	4,442	1,616	478	351	2,822	242	9,951	4.90
Travel	2,328	2,483	410	511	1,774	868	8,374	4.12
Biography	1,799	1,332	290	268	1,520	212	5,421	2.67
History	2,226	2,860	630	561	2,614	601	9,492	4.67
Current magazines	3,849	74	147	.....	.....	.....	4,070	2.00
Children's stories	.....	35,512	.....	4,871	2,785	3,859	47,027	23.16
Fiction	78,809	.....	8,827	.....	.....	.....	87,636	43.2
Total	105,058	49,444	12,142	7,905	20,914	7,542	203,005	100.00

Summary and General Statistics

Number of days open, 359.
 Number of Sundays open, 52 (1:30 to 6:30 p. m.)
 Average daily issue, 565½; increase, 7½.
 Average secular daily issue, 625; increase, 7.
 Average Sunday issue, 214; increase, 13.
 Largest issue in one day, Main Library, Mar. 13, 1909, 1049.
 Smallest issue in one day, Main Library, Oct. 21, 1908, 170.
 Largest issue in one day, Carnegie Branch, Feb. 25, 1909, 110.
 Smallest issue in one day, Carnegie Branch, Oct. 21, 1908, 18.
 Largest total issue, one month, March, 1909, 22,278; increase, 984.
 Smallest total issue, one month, September, 1908, 13,114; increase, 1,124.
 Circulation: Adult, 117,200; children, 85,805; total, 203,005; increase, 2,527.
 Number of cardholders, 8,743; increase, 103. Cards outstanding, 13,789; increase, 858.
 Expenditures, \$18,325.07.
 Proportion of total expenditures to salary account, 46.76.
 Proportion of total expenditures to book account, 34.33.

IV—DONORS AND DONATIONS

	Vols.	Pamp.
Benion, Rev. S. R.	2	...
Bishop, John P., collection of clippings		
Bullard, Rev. Henry	30	280
Canada—Supt. of Immigration	3	
Carnegie, Andrew, N. Y.	1	
Charnowitz, Henry	2	
Church of Christ, Scientist, First and Second	10	
Combe Ptg. Co.	25	
Coolidge, Asenath Carter, Watertown, N. Y.	1	
Craig	1	
Garth, Mrs., Craig curio collection		
D. A. R., St. Joseph Chapter	2	
Diek Nachf, J. H. W., Stuttgart	1	
Eclipse Electrotype and Engraving Co., Cleveland, O.	2	
Electrical Railway Journal, N. Y.	1	
Fulkerson, F. B.	8	
Hazen, C. H.	2	
Hazen, W. B.	19	120
Hamilton, C. A., Wagner, Neb.	2	
Holaday, Duncan		200
Hyatt & Atwill	5	
Illinois Historical Society	2	
Indiana—Adjt. General	1	
Iowa—State Library	22	15
James, Mrs. W. K.	1	
Joseph Lodge No. 73, I. O. B. B.	5	
Kansas State Historical Society	2	
Lambert, Annie A., St. Paul, Minn.		1
Longman, Green	1	
Marchant, Mrs. A. J.	9	6
Marshal, Mr. E.	162	
Martin, Miss	2	
Michel, John		164
Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.	2	
Missionary Volunteer Society of Seventh Day Adventists ..	2	
Missouri State Board of Agriculture	2	6
Morton, Dr. Daniel	6	20
New York Association for Blind, N. Y.		2
Nelson-Hanne Ptg. Co.	1	
New Zealand, Dept. of Tourists and Health Resort	2	1
Peale, Miss		200
Perry, Annie M.	3	
Railway News Bureau, Chicago, Ill.	1	
Raymond, Geo., Lansing, N. Y.	3	
St. Joseph High School Class of 1908	1	
St. Joseph Medical Society	1	
St. Louis Republic	1	
St. Marys Falls Canal Semi-Centennial Com.	1	
State Historical Society of Missouri	69	
Stimson, John Ward, Redding Center, Conn.	1	
Turner, Miss Anna	3	
University of Chicago, picture		
U. S. Departments	220	878

U. S. Library of Congress	4
Vandiver, W. D., State Supt. of Insurance	1
Veeder, S. H., Chicago, Ill.	118
Welty, Mrs. E. A., rubber plant	
Westminster College, Fulton, Mo.	2
Westover, Dr. H. W.	24
Woodson, Elmer	1
Young People's Alliance Evangelical Ass'n, subscription, Evangelical Messenger	

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

Gentlemen: The duty devolved upon this committee of reporting to the Library Board at the time the death of Annie M. Perry, which occurred Jan. 5, 1909. Miss Perry had been reference librarian of this library since its opening in 1891. Appropriate resolutions in recognition of long and faithful service were adopted by the Board and recorded in the minutes.

Other changes were as follows: Miss Mary Reichert was advanced from substitute list to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Miss Fife, Miss Martha Brown being named substitute. On resignation of Miss Brown, Miss Sandford was named substitute, and regularly appointed on the death of Miss Perry. Miss Bessie Albus was the last appointment to the substitute list. Miss Lilian C. Kerr, formerly cataloguer, is now reference librarian, Miss Reichert being assigned to the department thus vacated.

Respectfully submitted,

C. P. CARGILL,
CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,
W. E. WARRICK,
Administration Committee.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1909.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

Gentlemen: The raising of the boiler at Carnegie branch, incidental repairs to that building, and the purchase of furniture for the main library were the most important matters coming under the jurisdiction of this committee. Expenditures in the accounts named are shown under proper headings in the report of the Treasurer and Librarian.

It is a pleasure to report an appropriation of \$1,200 by the Council, at the instigation of Mr. S. J. Ackerly, councilman from the Ninth ward, for laying cement sidewalks around Carnegie library grounds. The Board of Public Works has let the contract, and the promise is made that the walks will be completed at an early date.

The purchase of an electric renovator jointly by the school district

and Library Board will make it possible to keep the building and books in better condition and at less expense than heretofore,

Respectfully submitted,

W. E. WARRICK,
G. D. CARTMELL,
SMITH A. PENNEY.

Buildings and Grounds Committee.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1909.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

Gentlemen: Despite the increased cost of operating the library, expenditures in the book account during the year were practically the same as for 1907-8. The growth of the library more than kept pace with the satisfactory record of the last few years.

Increased demands upon the reference department were met by additions thereto of many needed titles. In the periodical section, 701 volumes were added, embracing either complete sets, or long runs completing sets, of Auk, Blackwoods, Chamber's journal, Journal of American folk-lore, Journal of geology, Music, Technical world. In the young people's room at the main library also the reference section received attention, a number of important titles being added.

The activities of the library in general, continue along the lines heretofore developed. Special lists of books and references are compiled on any subject in which there exists more than passing interest, and as wide circulation as possible given them.

Recognition of the library as a city department of practical value to the masses is the aim sought by the Library Board and employes. That the public is generous in this regard is shown by the steady increase in its use.

Publications of the Library comprised three numbers of the Bulletin, a 4-page pamphlet containing titles in relation to municipal affairs, Government, Health, Street paving, Public playgrounds, Engineering, Water supply, etc.

As heretofore all purchases of books were made under Board regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES H. McCORD,
HENRY BULLARD,
J. W. ATWILL.

Library Committee.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1909.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

Gentlemen: An examination of the report of the Treasurer of the Library Board by your committee shows that it is correct, and balances with the books of the city departments and the librarian.

For the year the Council made an apportionment for library purposes of \$17,000, \$14,000 being for the main library and \$3,000 for Carnegie branch. Credits to both accounts exceeded these sums, and expenditures, by permission, were larger than the apportionments, for main library being \$14,358.52, and for Carnegie branch \$3,095.63, a total of \$17,454.15. Expenditures from the library petty account were as follows: Periodicals, \$400.00; electric renovator, \$137.50; miscellaneous, \$333.42. Total expenditures through all departments aggregated \$18,325.07.

The apportionment ordinance for 1909-10, passed by the Common Council April 24, carried \$20,000 for library purposes, as follows: Main library, \$14,500; Carnegie branch, \$3,000; Washington Park branch, \$2,500.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,
G. D. CARTMELL,
C. P. CARGILL.

Finance Committee.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1909.