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St. Joseph Public Library

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St. Joseph Public Library

THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending

APRIL 30, 1920

TENTH AND FELIX STREETS
ST. JOSEPH, MO.

NELSON-HANNE PRtg. CO., ST. JOSEPH, MO.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James H. McCord	
Rabbi Louis Bernstein	Henry Krug, Jr.
Thomas W. Evans	Charles Waddles
Bishop M. F. Burke	Horace Wood
Reverend C. M. Chilton	F. E. Vancil
	(Appointed January, 1920)
Morte H. Craig (Resigned January, 1920)	
Jesse Cunningham, Secretary and Librarian	

GENERAL STATISTICS

Number of volumes in the Library.....	85,710
Total number of registered borrowers.....	18,180
Books loaned for home use:	
Main Library.....	144,593
Carnegie Branch.....	52,834
Washington Park Branch.....	49,364
Schools	24,498
	<hr/> 271,289
Pictures	3,065
Additions:	
By purchase.....	5,456
By gift.....	877
	<hr/> 6,333
Population 1920 census.....	77,735

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Condensed from extended reports, verified by affidavits of the Treasurer and Librarian, now on file in the office of the City Auditor.

RECEIPTS

City apportionment.....	\$30,256.69
Deficit	4,971.52
Library collections.....	1,890.83
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Total.....	\$37,119.04

EXPENDITURES

Books	\$ 6,914.76
Periodicals	981.85
Binding	1,814.75
Salaries	17,101.86
Heat	718.00
Building expense.....	4,375.00
Janitor service.....	1,468.00
Printing and stationery.....	362.65
Repairs and equipment.....	801.79
Telephone	175.62
Electricity	232.34
Cards	241.79
Incidental expenses.....	659.02
Miscellaneous	962.36
Balance appropriated for Library Conference expense and books	230.86
Balance on hand.....	78.39
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Total.....	\$37,119.04

CARNEGIE BRANCH

EDNA OESTERLE, Branch Librarian

Circulation.....	52,834
Borrowers.....	2,371
Registrations for the year.....	807

This branch has one of the most interesting fields of activity in the city, it being located in the midst of the packing industries which employ the greater part of the foreign element of the city. The greatest use of the branch is by the children of these workers. Story hours and school visits were features that kept the children interested. In addition to these activities, regular classes were conducted by the Branch Librarian for the purpose of instructing the children of the grade schools in methods of using the Library.

The physical condition of the books, catalogs and various files has been greatly improved during the past year.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Book service has been rendered to the St. Joseph hospitals, the Posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and various charitable institutions within the city.

The St. Joseph Public Library was represented at the Missouri State Library meeting in Kansas City by sixteen members of the staff, the largest number representing any Library in the state.

Various members of the staff have represented the Library in club and civic activities during the year. Miss Faust, Librarian's Secretary, was identified with the Mary Alicia Owen Story Teller's League; Mary L. Reichert attended meetings of the study clubs and holds office in the Business Woman's Club; Irene Beatty represented the Library in the College Club; Edith Kurth talked to the Parent-Teacher Associations and organizations interested in the study of story telling. The Librarian attended the American Library Association Conference at Asbury Park and was active on committees of the Commerce Club and other civic organizations.

J. CUNNINGHAM, Librarian.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

To the Board of Library Directors of the
St. Joseph Public Library.

Gentlemen—

I have the honor to present to you the thirtieth annual report of the St. Joseph Public Library for the year ending April 30, 1920.

CENTRAL CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

M. IRENE BEATTY, Head

Circulation.....	97,181
Borrowers.....	8,294
Registrations for the year.....	2,595

It is interesting to note in comparing statistics of circulation for the year just closed with the past few years, that the demand for business and industrial books has taken the place of the demand for histories and war books. An unusual demand exists for information on subjects of a psychological nature, spiritualism and psychic phenomena.

The total circulation of 271,289 books represents an increase of 31,235. The gradual return to normal of the home use of books is gratifying and but for the inability to supply books in demand on account of inadequate funds, the figures for circulation would show phenomenal growth.

An unusual condition existing this year shows a substantial gain in registrations and re-registrations, but fewer active card holders than last year. During November, 1906, the registration period was changed from four years to three. This has caused two sets of cards to expire from November 1, 1919, and continuing to November 1, 1920, when there will be a return to the normal expiration of readers' cards. Re-registrations have more than doubled during the past year, due, we think, to "Expired Card Notices" which have been mailed regularly.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

MARY LOUISE REICHERT, Head

Questions asked.....	13,791
Users.....	28,421
Books used.....	17,634

For the first time an effort has been made to keep a statistical record of the work done in the Reference De-

partment. This record shows 1,017 inquiries received over the telephone and 12,774 inquiries made in person, a total of 13,791. The Department was used by 28,421 persons. No claim can be made that figures of this nature show accurately the extensive use of the Department. They do indicate the large and splendid service this part of the Library is rendering to the public.

The compilation of reading lists and bibliographies, and work with program committees of the various clubs are services unaccounted for in statistics.

A card index of census returns is being kept as reported by the Associated Press.

CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGING

ESTHER FREDRICKSON, Head

During the year 6,333 volumes were added to the Library—4,513 to Central, 978 to Carnegie Branch and 842 to Washington Park Branch. Fewer books were added this year than last, due to rising costs and insufficient funds during the latter half of the fiscal year. Withdrawals numbered 2,625, making a net gain of 3,708. There were gifts of 877 volumes. The total number of volumes now in the Libraries is 85,710.

Reclassification and recataloging has progressed very satisfactorily, there remaining but 1,006 volumes to be finished during the coming year.

The latest inventory shows 675 volumes to be missing and unaccounted for.

CENTRAL CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT AND SCHOOLS

EDITH A. KURTH, Head

Circulation.....	71,910
Borrowers.....	5,006
Registrations for the year.....	1,708
Pictures circulated.....	3,065

National and local economic conditions which interfered with the service in other departments of the Central Library worked to the advantage of the Children's De-

partment. For example, during the period of coal shortage and closed schools, the Department was permitted to continue operation. The location of the rooms is such that they were heated as a "by-product" of heating the school administration offices. The result was that children registered who never had cards before, and others made more frequent use of their cards.

Class room libraries were supplied to twelve schools in districts inaccessible to the Libraries, the collections being changed as often as the conditions required. School stations were operated at five of the largest schools, the Neely School, one of the largest in the city, having its Library for the first time. The stations and their circulation are as follows:

Neely.....	5,301
South Park.....	4,007
Bliss.....	4,132
Sherwood.....	2,216
Hall.....	2,869

The success of this work is due in great measure to the interest and co-operation of the principals and teachers of the School District.

WASHINGTON PARK BRANCH

EMMA BOCK, Acting Librarian

Circulation.....	49,364
Borrowers.....	2,509
Registrations for the year.....	894

At this branch, as at the other Libraries, work with the schools was interrupted in mid-year on account of fuel difficulties. When the work of instructing the grade pupils in the use of the Library was stopped, 439 children had attended the courses. Reference work in this branch has increased to quite large proportions. The new Lafayette High School, the North St. Joseph Study Club, and the Twentieth Century Club furnish a large clientele for this Library.