

Annual Report
Ohio State Library
1953

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO
274 E. FIRST AVE.
COLUMBUS, OH 43201

NOV 13 2008

DEPOSITORY 0460

"Plato had said the end of a man was an action;
to read, to ponder, to prepare--these things were
good, but that no man justified the space he
occupied on this earth, and had no meaning as a
human being until he stepped forth and acted.
Man is not a pair of scales, forever balancing;
man is an axe and he was meant to chop wood."

Let's see how sharp our axe was and how much wood we chopped in 1953.

Business in 1953 was ahead of the previous year in the total number of books loaned, off somewhat in the reference use of the library.

	1953	1952
Circulation		
City Circulation - books circulated	32,965	33,322
State Circulation - " "	10,501	10,243
Traveling Library - " "	<u>46,058</u>	<u>44,431</u>
Total	89,024	87,996

Reference questions	7,060	7,566
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Books added to library	8,621	9,371
Books withdrawn (worn out or discarded)	<u>3,783</u>	<u>5,551</u>
Net gain	4,838	3,820

People are doing more serious reading. At least, a change in the type of reading in the past eight years is indicated by previous years' statistics.

In 1945, 34% of the books borrowed at city circulation desk were fiction.

In 1950, fiction was only 25% of the total circulation and in 1953 it was 22%.

We can not put our finger on exactly why this is. We know many people turn away from the current best sellers. It appears to us that they are tired of the type of book being written. They are more interested in good stories of normal

DOES NOT CIRCULATE

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people who do not have to use four letter words to express themselves.

What did they read in 1953?

A good story is always good. Some of the year's most popular fiction titles were carryovers from previous years. "Caine Mutiny", "Silver Chalice", "Saracen Blade" and "My Cousin Rachel" were still going strong in 1953.

Who said the movies have lost their steam? Jones, "From Here to Eternity" and Douglas "The Robe" are once more on waiting lists, which can only be attributed to interest created by the movies of these titles.

Other fiction titles in demand during the year were Cronin, "Beyond This Place", DuMaurier, "Miss Me Stranger", Ferber, "Giant", Goudge, "Heart of the Family", Kane, "Lady of Arlington", Shellabarger, "Lord Vanity", Williams, "The Unconquered", Yerby, "The Devil's Laughter", Zelinks, "Desires", and Kenyon, "Emperor's Lady".

That women have the interests of their husbands uppermost in their thoughts is evidenced by the popularity of Mrs. Dale Carnegie's "How To Help Your Husband Get Ahead In His Social and Business Life". In the field of psychology and religion Peale's "Power of Positive Thinking" carried over its success from 1952. Sheen's "Life is Worth Living" was in demand, no doubt due to the popularity of his radio and television programs. Dale (Mrs. Roy) Rogers' "Angel Unaware" and Merton, "Sign of Jonas" were popular. The popularity of this next title surprised us. Perhaps it will you. Mutley, "How to Carry on a Conversation".

Money must burn a hole in some people's pockets for in the Social Sciences Lasser, "Managing Your Money", and Porter, "How to Live Within Your Income" were well-thumbed. Money may be in great demand but sex can't be far behind for Mr. Kinsey and his literary output had plenty of readers. Beauvoir, "Second Sex", was another popular title.

Books on public affairs and government seldom enjoy popularity. It is all the more interesting then when one in this field does forge to the front. Chambers, "Witness" was it. It too was a holdover from previous years.

Diet, health, and cookbooks are usually in great favor. Abrahamson, "Body, Mind, and Sugar", Alsop, "Hold Your Weight Losses", and Brans, "Managing Your Coronary", were three leaders. Andersen, "How to Save Money and Eat Better", Beard, "Fireside Cookbook", Better Homes and Gardens' "New Cookbook", and Nichols, "Good Cooking Across the U.S.A.", probably improved the digestion of many.

There was some monkey business too for Hayes, "An Ape in the House" was in demand. Mystery of the flying saucers still intrigues people for Kehoe, "Mystery of Other Worlds Revealed", and Menzel, "Flying Saucers" were right up there. Another science leader was Heuer, "End of the Earth".

You like football, baseball? Most people don't when it comes to reading about them for the most popular sport titles were Armour, "How to Play Your Best Golf at All Times", and Snead, "Natural Golf". In fact golf books are popular all the year around. In the artistic field, Rhodes, "How to Beautify Your Home Grounds", Deschin, "New Lighting Techniques in Photography", and Taylor, "Some Enchanted Evenings" were requested frequently.

Popular plays were Hartog, "The Fourposter", and Knott, "Dial M for Murder".

Biography produced a number of interesting titles: Adler, "A House is Not a Home"; Brody, "Gone With the Windeors"; Sandburg, "Always the Young Strangers"; Maurois, "Lelia"; and Dubie, "Women Are My Problem".

History and travel readers indicated their preference for Herzog, "Annapurna", Fisher, "Vermont Tradition", and Welle, "Bonanza Trail".

What have we done?

Census Records of Ohio for the 1880 census were purchased from Washington. The records are on microfilm, cover some 80 volumes, and list the names of the individuals living in Ohio at that time. They are wonderful for obtaining information on one's parents or grandparents as well as other relatives. They are in use every day of the year, so much so, that we recently had to settle a dispute between two patrons who wanted to use the records at the same time. Consequently we have limited the use of the microfilm machine to an hour at a time.

Bookmobiles continue in popularity. Ashland County began operating a bookmobile in 1953. Hocking and Vinton County libraries jointly agreed to purchase and operate a bookmobile to serve the two counties. The latter bookmobile was delivered and put into operation early in December 1953. The State Library Board played a part in making both of these new machines a reality. Early in the year the Board made grants of \$2400 toward the purchase of each bookmobile. There are now 57 bookmobiles operating in 42 counties of the state.

The Law of the land was changed during the year for the betterment of public libraries. The legislature made it possible for library boards to insure the drivers of their bookmobiles and other vehicles against liability, set the county prosecutor as the legal adviser for county district libraries, and said the same libraries could make direct appeals to the State Board of Tax Appeals, something which they could not do before.

The Supreme Court also rendered an historic decision in favor of public libraries. This decision gives to Ohio public libraries priority in the distribution of the intangibles tax in so far as they can prove their needs for the money. Ever

since libraries were displaced from the real property tax back in 1934 and given participation in the intangibles it has been the contention of library trustees that the intent of the legislature was to give libraries priority. This contention has now been officially verified by the Supreme Court on the basis of an amendment made by the legislature in 1951.

New Library Buildings were in various stages of planning or construction in a number of places in the state. Cincinnati's new main library is expected to be finished in 1954. Lorain is almost ready to begin construction on a \$600,000 library; Westerville on a \$170,000 building; Grove City is about ready to move into its new building. Worthington is planning to remodel. Columbus is constructing a large new branch and has just finished an annex to the main building. Dover residents voted \$265,000 for a new library in November and the Board is almost ready to start construction. Kent, Ravenna, Ironton and a number of others are planning remodeling jobs.

Staff changes during the year. Mrs. William Clark resigned as State Library Organizer. We were fortunate to be able to replace her with Mrs. Faith Stoughton, former librarian of the Napoleon Library. Mrs. Annie-Belle Tucker, Documents Librarian, resigned during the year. Mrs. Geneva White, assistant cataloger, was transferred to her position. We have not yet been able to find a librarian for the catalog replacement. The staff of the State Library is a fine hardworking group, interested in their jobs and in giving service to the public. They set an example of what government employees can and should be, as contrasted with the generally applied term "bureaucrat". We hope they will continue to cast their lot with the State Library.

Librarians to fill the many vacancies in libraries over the state are extremely hard to find. All types of vacancies exist for children's librarians, catalogers, and others. The most difficult jobs to fill at the present time are positions in the county libraries which provide service in the rural and non-industrial areas. There are 25 bookmobile and county positions now vacant. In December the State Library Board, in an attempt to help this situation, established a temporary policy granting state aid to extension center libraries with budgets less than \$35,000. Such funds were to be added to the salary of the employees of the library on the basis of the amount of library training held by each employee. It is hoped that this will help these libraries to hold their present employees or secure new ones for vacancies.

Surveys. During the year the State Library staff served as consultant in planning the new library building at Lorain, and in remodeling jobs for Kent, Ravenna, Worthington, and Ironton. We also met with the Dover Library Board regarding their new building plans. In December, at the request of the Perrysburg League of Women Voters and the Perrysburg Library Board, we made a survey and report with recommendations for the improvement of the Perrysburg Library.

Reading Certificate program was begun in 1953. Certificates are issued by the State Library Board to anyone reading twenty-four books approved by the local librarian. Since the program just started in the fall it is too early to tell how it will go over, although a number of certificates have already been issued.

Music Record Collections in public libraries of the state were given a boost during the year when the State Library Board granted \$100 to libraries for the establishment of a record collection provided the local library appropriated an equal amount for that purpose. Some 29 libraries started collections as a result of these grants.

Inter-library Loan among Ohio libraries was encouraged with the State Library Board's approval of a new policy whereby the State Library will pay Ohio libraries for books loaned to other Ohio libraries. This policy was established to encourage the small library to borrow when necessary, and the lending library to lend, thereby making wider use of all library facilities in the state.

Finances of the State Library showed some improvement in the budget passed by the legislature for 1953-55. A slight increase in the annual book budget was granted and a very appreciable increase in the aid to public libraries fund was obtained. Finances are the weakest when it comes to staff salaries. Salaries paid the library staff are not on a level with those paid in public libraries of the state.

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So, taking everything into consideration, quite a bit was accomplished in 1953. There were also a number of places where we failed to make any progress. Certainly something should have been accomplished in the way of setting up library service in the area where the atom plant is now under construction. We have made a number of efforts in this direction but cannot report anything accomplished. Clermont County continues to be the only county in the state without a tax-supported public library. Shortage of trained librarians continues to be just as acute as in previous years, perhaps even more.

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Honors, along with the work involved, came with selection of the Librarian as President of the Franklin County Council of Librarians for 1953-54; and as Chairman of a special committee of the American Library Association to work with the Commission on Inter-governmental Relations, recently established by Congress. The job of this committee is to present facts about the condition of libraries in the nation.

To the State Library Board members goes our appreciation. As I have said before, you make a fine group to work with. You have listened to our recommendations, set policies, and then given us wide latitude in carrying them out. Being a board member may be somewhat of a chore for you but we are awfully glad you are there.

Walter Brahm
State Librarian

WB:NC
1/14/54