

Eighth Biennial Report

of the

**Nebraska Public Library
Commission**

**Lincoln - Nebraska
November 30, 1916**

1916

**THE WOODRUFF BANK NOTE CO.
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

Nebraska Public Library Commission

M. G. WYER, PRESIDENT
Librarian of the University of Nebraska

S. AVERY
Chancellor of the University of Nebraska

A. O. THOMAS
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

H. C. LINDSAY
State Librarian

C. A. SOMMER, Lincoln

CHARLOTTE TEMPLETON, Secretary

JULIET M. VORE, Librarian

NELLIE WILLIAMS
Librarian for State Institutions

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To His Excellency, John H. Morehead, Governor of Nebraska:

DEAR SIR: Complying with the requirement of the law, I herewith present the report of the Public Library Commission for the biennium ending November 30, 1916.

For sixteen years, the activities of this Commission have been exerting a quiet but far-reaching influence for the betterment of library conditions throughout the state. This influence has resulted not only in the establishment of new public libraries, but in stimulating the work of libraries already existing, in securing many Carnegie buildings, in developing library facilities in the state institutions and in furnishing traveling libraries for all parts of the state. I wish especially to emphasize the importance of the Library Commission as the public library for the entire state and to call attention to the wide scope of its services in cooperating with individuals, schools, woman's clubs, agricultural agents, debating societies, small libraries and the extension departments of the University by supplying books and printed material that could be secured in no other way. The demands from these sources far exceed the ability of the Commission to supply and indeed the entire resources of the Commission could be expended in this one phase of the work without meeting the demands of the people. I doubt if any other state department can show a greater direct service to the people in proportion to the appropriation available.

I commend the detailed report of the Secretary to your careful attention.

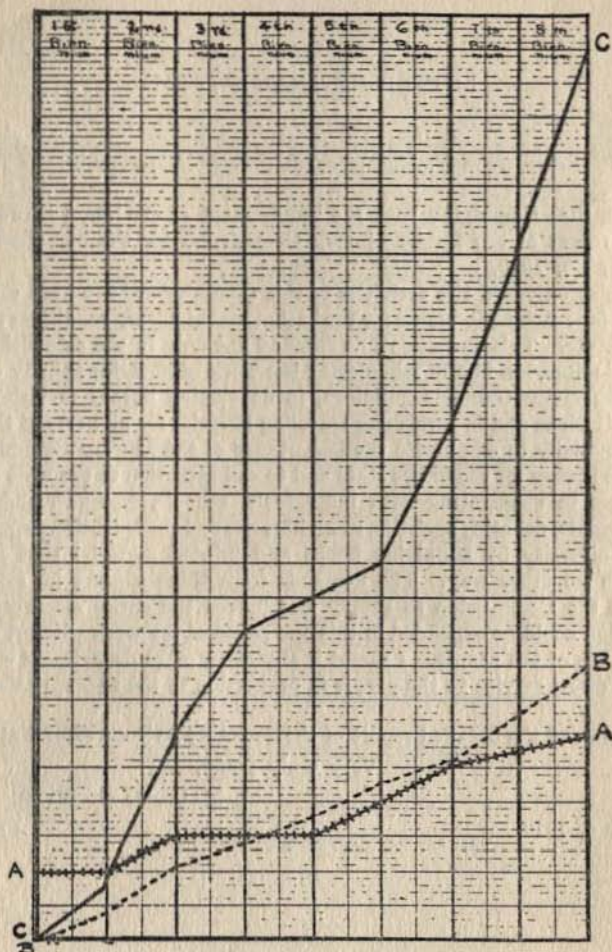
Very truly yours,

MALCOLM G. WYER,

President.

December 6, 1916.

GROWTH OF TRAVELING LIBRARY WORK 1901-1916



A—Appropriation (exclusive of appropriation for Institution Libraries).
 B—Number of volumes in Traveling Library.
 C—Number of volumes sent out through Traveling Libraries.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Secretary's Report

The report which follows covers the library progress of the state for the two years from December 1, 1914, to November 30, 1916. It has been a period of encouraging growth. More new public libraries have been established than in any previous biennium; the use of public libraries has increased; city councils have expressed their confidence in the library by granting larger levies; and librarians have been more earnest and resourceful in their endeavors to give their communities better service. The Traveling Library has been taxed to the limit of its resources by the demands made upon it and has reached through its loans the remotest parts of the state. Not only is the year's report encouraging in comparison with our own previous growth, but in examining the reports of other states, we find that we are keeping pace, in proportion to our population and resources, with the most progressive library states.

The Library Commission.

There have been several changes in the Library Commission during the biennium. Mr. A. O. Thomas, succeeding Mr. J. E. Delzell as State Superintendent in January, 1915, became ex officio a member of the Commission. The term of Mr. F. L. Haller expired in May, 1916, and Mr. C. A. Sommer of Lincoln was appointed to succeed him. Miss Florence Waugh, who had had charge of the State Institution libraries since 1911, when the Commission took over the supervision of them, resigned in October, 1915, to be married, and Miss Nellie Williams of Geneva was appointed to her position.

Mr. Haller at the time of his retirement was chairman of the Commission. The Commission met for reorganization on June 2, 1916, and elected Mr. Wyer chairman. At the same meeting the following resolutions were passed:

"Whereas, Mr. F. L. Haller retires at this time from membership in the Nebraska Library Commission, after a continuous service since the organization of the Commission in 1901, during the last ten years of which he was President; and Whereas, his devotion to the library interests of Nebraska has been shown by his cooperation in making possible the establishment of the Nebraska Library Commission, by his active interest and enthusiasm in developing its work, by his loyal and wholehearted support of the plans of the Secretary, and by his wise counsel, sound judgment and broad outlook in all its sessions,

Therefore, be it resolved: That the members of the Nebraska Library Commission express to Mr. Haller their deep appreciation of his services as a member of the Commission and their confidence that though no longer a member, the welfare of the Commission will at all times receive his hearty support."

The basement offices of the Commission were damp and dark and in many ways inconvenient. Realizing this fact, in September, 1915, the Board of Public Lands and Buildings assigned to the Commission three rooms on the fourth floor which have proved to be the most satisfactory quarters which the Commission has ever had.

The Commission was represented at the meeting of the American Library Association at Atlantic City in 1916 by Mr. Wyer and at the annual meetings of the League of Library Commissions in Chicago in 1914 and 1915 by the Secretary. The Secretary also attended the meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections in Indianapolis in May, 1916, to take part in a discussion of libraries in State Institutions.

Centralization of State Library Activities.

During the year efforts have been made to work out a plan for the centralization of the library activities in Lincoln supported by the state. There are at present five such library agencies, the State library, and the Library Commission in the Capitol, the University library, the Historical Society library and the Legislative Reference Bureau library on the University campus. Those directly connected with the administration of these libraries agree that, with the strong University library in Lincoln, it will be unnecessary for the State library to develop a general reference collection. Therefore, the plan suggested calls for the erection of a building at the University campus in which shall be housed the University library, the Historical Society, the Library Commission and the Legislative Reference Bureau; also the transfer from the State library to the University library of the collection of works of a general character and the maintenance of the State library as a law library at the Capitol under the control of the Supreme Court. Such a plan has received the approval of the governing bodies of all the organizations concerned and also the endorsement of the Nebraska Library Association. This plan would secure a logical, sensible and efficient centralization of the library resources of the state which would bring beneficial results to the libraries themselves and to all those who make use of them.

Its special advantage to the Library Commission is plain. With the large book collection of the University Library accessible for special reference work, the Commission could serve its patrons far better than will ever be possible with any general collection which it can build up. Moreover if it is no longer necessary to buy books to meet a possible request, all of the book fund can be spent for traveling libraries with the hope of sometime being able to supply the demand.

Public Libraries.

While no systematic campaign has ever been conducted by the Library Commission to stimulate the establishment of public libraries in the state, an effort has always been made to create a general interest in the public library and to encourage every local library movement which a community initiates. Through cooperation with the library committee of the State Federation of Woman's clubs, library sessions have been arranged for district and state meetings of the Federation to enlist the interest of the best friends of civic

improvement in Nebraska, the women's clubs. We owe the establishment of many of our public libraries to the club women and we have at present 35 small libraries, for the most part sustained through their efforts, which will undoubtedly eventually become tax-supported libraries.

On examining the reports of a number of other states, we find that Nebraska makes a creditable showing in the number of tax-supported libraries in proportion to her population. Missouri has .76 libraries for every 100,000 population, North Dakota, 3.4, Minnesota, 4.9, Iowa, 5.9, Indiana, 7.14 while Nebraska ranks with Wisconsin in having 7.5.

The past two years have been marked by unusual library activity. Twelve new libraries have been established, two libraries formerly maintained by associations have been turned over to city control while one library formerly independent has become a branch library through a consolidation of cities. This makes a net gain of 13 tax-supported libraries in the biennium and brings the total number of libraries up to 90. Adding the 35 libraries maintained by clubs and library associations, gives us 125 libraries in the state.

There still remain 19 towns of 1,000 population or over which do not maintain libraries. In 8 of these, libraries are maintained by clubs or library associations, and in 4, a strong public library movement is under way. Eighteen of our tax-supported libraries are in towns of less than 1,000 population. A slight increase is shown in the levies reported; the average rate being 2.3 mills this year as compared with 1.7 mills of four years ago.

A growing appreciation of the library's value to the community is shown in the increasing number of gifts of buildings and books. J. W. Gilbert has presented the town of Friend with a handsome building at a cost of about \$8,000.00; Mr. P. Graves has built and completely equipped a library for the village of Wakefield, as a memorial to his son, at an approximate cost of \$10,000; and J. G. Brenizer of Broken Bow is building a very complete building for the town of Merna. Mr. Hector Maiben, a farmer living near Lincoln, presented the library at College View with \$500.00 for books and the Lincoln City Library with \$1,000.00 for the same purpose. The citizens of Harvard wished to make their library a community center and raised \$3,000.00 to add to the \$6,000.00 which they received from the Carnegie Corporation, to enlarge the building and equip the club rooms in the basement.

The towns which have established new libraries are Arlington, Franklin, Gothenburg, Harvard, Ravenna, Stromsburg, Tekamah, University Place, and the townships at Arcadia, Loup City, Merna and Spencer. At Blair and Clay Center libraries already established have been taken over by the city. Through the consolidation of Omaha and South Omaha, the South Omaha library became a branch of the Omaha library.

Fifteen new library buildings have been completed in the biennium and six more are under construction. The list is as follows:

COMPLETED BUILDINGS

TOWN	Cost	Source	Architect
Broken Bow.....	\$10,000 00	Carnegie.....	M. N. Bair, Hastings
Clay Center.....	6,000 00	Carnegie.....	C. W. Way, Hastings
College View.....	7,500 00	Carnegie.....	J. G. Corder, Lincoln
Columbus.....	13,000 00	Carnegie.....	Charles Wurdeman, Columbus
Crete.....	10,000 00	Carnegie.....	J. W. Salmon, Lincoln
Franklin.....	5,000 00	Carnegie.....	Alan McDonald, Omaha
Friend.....	8,000 00	J. W. Gilbert.....	J. W. Salmon, Lincoln
Gothenburg.....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	M. N. Bair, Hastings
Hartington.....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	Beuttler & Arnold, Sioux City
Harvard.....	9,000 00	Citizens, \$3,000—Carnegie, \$6,000	C. W. Way, Hastings
Plattsmouth.....	12,500 00	Carnegie.....	Fiske & Meginnis, Lincoln
Stanton.....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	J. E. Stitt, Norfolk
Tekamah.....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	R. W. Grant, Beatrice
University Place.....	13,000 00	Carnegie.....	J. R. Smith, University Place
Wakefield.....	10,000 00	P. Graves.....	Donor

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

TOWN	Cost	Source	Architect
Arcadia (township)....	\$7,000 00	Carnegie.....	Fiske & Meginnis, Lincoln
Loup City (township)....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	Fiske & Meginnis, Lincoln
Merna (township).....	.....	J. G. Brenizer.....	M. N. Bair, Hastings
Spencer (township)....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	Alan McDonald, Omaha
Blair.....	10,000 00	Carnegie.....	Fiske & Meginnis, Lincoln
Plainview.....	6,000 00	Carnegie.....	J. E. Stitt, Norfolk

The usual assistance has been given to new libraries. Lists of books and supplies have been prepared, advice has been given to library boards and instructions to librarians in the various details of library organization. The Secretary has made 82 library visits varying in length from a few hours to two weeks.

Since most of our libraries are too small to employ trained librarians, a special effort has been made to bring to them the experience of trained workers elsewhere. The Commission has sent to every library in the state the monthly Wisconsin Library Bulletin and the monthly American Library Association Booklist and has subscribed for a number of copies of Public Libraries and the Library Journal for which it has grouped the small libraries, too poor to subscribe for them, in circuits. A correspondence course of 20 lessons covering elementary points of library work is given to new librarians.

In October, 1916, an experiment was tried in the way of a three days library institute for new librarians, preceeding the meeting of the State Library Association. This was not the usual library institute given over to informal discussion, but like the old-fashioned teachers' institute, it was a session for definite instruction. The program consisted of three one-hour lectures each morning on reference books, children's work and library administration, and in the afternoon visits were made to the various Lincoln libraries. The librarians of 35 libraries attended the institute and then stayed on for the Library Association. They went back to their libraries with well-filled note books and a great deal of enthusiasm, and undoubtedly the year's work will show good returns for their attendance.

As our libraries increase in number and grow in size and use, there is demand for more training on the part of librarians than the Library Commission with its limited staff can give through personal instruction. The

time has doubtless come when Nebraska should have its own summer library school. In the past our librarians have gone to Wisconsin, Iowa or Minnesota, but for two or three years most of the schools have been filled with their own librarians and could not admit students from outside the state. A six weeks course given by the State University with the cooperation of the Library Commission would meet a demand which is becoming insistent.

Nebraska Library Association.

The State Library Association has held two meetings, at Fremont in 1915 and at Lincoln in 1916. The attendance registered for the Lincoln meeting shows that there were present 42 public library librarians, 20 assistants from libraries of all sorts, 6 librarians of college, normal school or state libraries, 5 library trustees, 3 visiting librarians from outside the state, and 2 persons interested but not in library work, making it very representative of the library interests of the state. Excellent programs, a good attendance and a fine responsiveness from the librarians have marked both meetings of the Association.

Traveling Libraries.

While we believe that the goal to be aimed at in the library development of the state is a strong system of local public libraries, each supplying books to its own community, urban and rural, the attainment of such a complete public library system is many years in the future in Nebraska. In the meantime there are two-thirds of our people without public library facilities and many more having access only to small new libraries with meagre collections of books. For them, the Library Commission must meet the immediate need through its traveling libraries.

In considering the vastness of the field, our resources in a collection of 16,000 volumes is seen to be absurdly inadequate. Necessarily we are doing only a small part of the work which lies before us. We can only report that we are doing the best we can, and a consultation of the diagram in the front of this report will show that our work has at least grown with every increase of our resources.

We have sent out in the biennium 51,372 volumes in response to 3,342 requests as compared with 40,590 volumes and 1,962 requests in the last biennium. These books have gone to 461 shipping stations to 88 counties, showing a very wide geographical distribution.

The most notable addition to our traveling library collection was about 1,000 German books from which we made 26 fixed traveling library groups. These fill an often expressed want of small public libraries in German communities which wished to supply German patrons with books in the mother tongue but which could not afford to buy enough books always to have something fresh for them.

The Bohemians having been supplied with books a number of years ago and the Germans being now provided for, there remain two foreign groups for whom we should buy books, the Danes and the Swedes. The Danish people have petitioned the Library Commission for Danish traveling libraries, but no money being available it has not been possible as yet to meet their request.

Special groups of agricultural books were made up for County Demonstration Agents at the request of the Director of county demonstration work and are being loaned by the agents to the farmers in their counties.

We have endeavored to supply the Home Economics clubs with books but it has been a hopeless struggle. After having bought as many books on their subjects as the funds permitted our supply is still totally insufficient. We are missing a fine opportunity for service to the people of the state in not being able to cooperate fully with the Extension Department of the State University in this work. Mrs. A. E. Davisson, who has charge of the Home Economics clubs, reported this fall, "The fact that country women were able to obtain these books made it possible for them to carry on a systematic course of study. During the past two years they have in several instances given up their work because the supply of books was exhausted," and Miss Maud Wilson, in charge of the Home Economics Extension work of the University, says, "Our work is greatly handicapped because the Library Commission cannot furnish a sufficient number of books to supply the demand."

SUMMARY OF TRAVELING LIBRARY LOANS

1914-1916

Groups of Taxpayers		Public Libraries		Schools		Study Clubs		Individuals		Charitable Institutions		Total	
Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	No. of Re-quests	No. Vols. Loaned
331	16,665	254	7,784	518	19,592	145	1,341	2,087	5,824	7	166	3,342	51,372

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

Report of the Librarian.

The work of the institution libraries continues to be an interesting activity of the Library Commission and its progress shows a real need of libraries for the benefit of this shut-in citizenship. Rather than theorize as to the part books play in the lives of these people, we will confine ourselves to a few statistics and then give the word of some of our patients as to what the libraries mean to them.

There are three of the thirteen institution libraries from which we have been unable to obtain reports of circulation, though we know there is reading done in all of them, and two others cover only seven months each, but from those remaining our circulation for the past year is 45,457. This is for books alone, no record of periodical circulation being kept except at the penitentiary.

For obvious reasons, the circulation at the penitentiary far exceeds that of any other place, 15,107 books and 9,257 magazines being exchanged last year. Considering conditions, it seems to us not an uncreditable showing that the three insane hospitals report a combined circulation of 12,428. The boys at Kearney read 5,168 books last year, the children at the Orthopedic Hospital, 4,374 and our soldier friends at Burkett, 2,088.

To give the more significance to these figures, it seems but fair to say that of the 4,700 inmates in all the institutions, but 1,800 are able to make any use of the libraries. In some, according to statistics from the Superintendents, the proportion able to use the library is as low as 15% or 20%. In others it reaches 80% or 90%.

Bearing in mind the abnormal mental and physical conditions in several places, and the fact that institution life is a busy one for the able-bodied, these figures stand for more than the mere numbers signify.

Though the reports of Superintendents show the per cent of high school graduates very small, with a great majority of the adult inmates below the eighth grade, it is gratifying to note the type of books which they enjoy. Nor has our standard of selection in any case been lowered on account of the educational deficiencies of our patrons.

Our aim is to consider carefully the nature of the foundation upon which we are building and in each book added there is a hope that the choice will be justified by its use among the people. From the weighty problem of trying to prove the abiding influence of good literature in the face of possible conflicts, to the question of the remedial value of books upon those mentally ill, there is a conscientious desire to adapt the books to the people in every instance.

The combined number of volumes in our libraries is 13,191, most of which have been bought by the Commission since it began its institutional library work in 1911. The Penitentiary has 3,600 volumes, 1,100 volumes bought by us with 2,500 volumes previously in the library. Burkett has 2,020 volumes, also with many of earlier gift. The Orthopedic Hospital has 1,180 volumes and the School for the Deaf, 1,675. Due to its fewer years, the Tuberculous Hospital has the smallest book collection but it is developing into a very workable one. There is great interest shown in the nature study books for which the patients made special request.

The question of housing the institution libraries is an important one. Because of crowded conditions, it is not always possible to secure the most desirable quarters but the fact that the best available locations have been given us proves the interest of the Superintendents. In some cases the library has been given the most beautiful room in the institution. Where it is not so satisfactorily placed, we are simply sharing the disadvantage with other departments.

Plans for improved library quarters are being considered in some places. In others our hope has already been realized. At the Girls' Industrial School, the library is now placed permanently in the auditorium of the new building. At the Boys' Industrial School, the library has been redecorated and greatly beautified by new bookcases made by the boys. The library at the School for the Deaf has been moved to a cosy corner space. They also have new book cases which were made in their carpenter shop. At the Lincoln State Hospital, a reading room in the amusement hall has been opened, new shelving has been built, and for two hours daily the patients have access to the books and periodicals. This change in location has come about because the Superintendent, Dr. B. F. Williams, regards the book as a curative agent and to that end he has emphasized the importance of its use. At the Home for the Feeble-Minded

and at the Tuberculous Hospital we have just moved into roomy, sunny quarters in their new buildings. At the School for the Deaf the choicest of locations is provided for the very little children.

The time which the libraries are open for the exchange of books varies, according to local conditions, from one hour a week, two hours a day, to any hour of every day. In six instances there are reading rooms in connection with the libraries. In two others there are rooms elsewhere in which people may gather to read.

Even with the cooperation of the Superintendent, with our books upon the shelves and the reader ever with us, the problem of an effective library is not solved. The books and the people must be brought together and that with unusual delicacy of touch. So we face the question of service along with all other departments of the institutions.

At the Penitentiary, the Old Soldiers' Home at Burkett and the Orthopedic Hospital we have the advantage of librarians who do that work exclusively. At the latter Miss Eva Colby continues her efficient work and cheers many a little child by her story-telling. In the other institutions it is almost necessarily a combination position, which varies from superintendent to inmate, including matron, secretary, teacher, nurse, stenographer and telephone operator. In spite of several changes within the past year, in almost every case we have enjoyed the conscientious service of faithful helpers without whom our libraries could not have flourished.

At the School for the Deaf, the Home for the Feeble-Minded, the Industrial Schools for Girls and Boys, and the Industrial Home for Women, the teachers have given very generously of their time and have materially increased the effectiveness of our work. The assistance we have had from nurses and others in the Hospitals for the Insane has been the means of verifying the statement of physicians that books do have a therapeutic value. To all who have helped us we wish to pay tribute.

Since we know that some of our institution citizenship will in time return to an unrestrained manner of life, it has been our policy to give some instruction in the use of the library,—in classification, the use of the catalog, the charging system,—that they may feel at ease in the use of the public library. To this we expect to give further systematic attention during the coming year.

We have in two cases a more or less public organ through which we make ourselves known. At the School for the Deaf and the Boys' Industrial School there are creditable little papers issued, most of the work being done by the boys. In the columns of the Nebraska Journal, library notes appear from time to time and in the Industrial School Times we have a place each week.

Because the nurse in the hospital is the person naturally in position to bring the book to the patient, a series of talks on Books and Reading was given last winter to the nurses at the Lincoln State Hospital. These included one on the use of the library, one on how to get patients to read, one on out-door books, one on popular books of non-fiction, and one on poetry. They were developed from a syllabus prepared by Miss Edith Kathleen Jones, Librarian of McLean Hospital, Waverly, Massachusetts, and covered a period of about three months. We feel that it was at least worth while to come into personal

touch with the nurses on whom so much of the hospital library work must necessarily devolve. Moreover, we were rewarded by seeing some definite results as an outcome of this work. In abbreviated form parts of these talks were also given to the nurses at the Norfolk Hospital for the Insane.

As another means of increasing the interest in the hospital libraries, we tried an experiment of reading aloud to the patients in the Lincoln Hospital for the Insane. It proved to be a very popular diversion for both men and women and invitations to read on various wards were numerous. This was continued one afternoon a week all winter and became an entering wedge in the development of the work. Not only did some of the nurses begin to read on the wards, but our librarian now spends a part of library hours each day reading to the patients gathered in the library.

It is a mistaken idea on the part of many people that the insane are unable to read or are too uninterested to care for books, but we think we can disabuse the minds of such by giving the patient's own word upon the matter. The opinion, too, is rife that they wish only the determinedly cheerful books, those which merely entertain, but one of our nurses in an eastern hospital tells of an insane patient who calls for the "big brave books, with problems of life to be fought."

As proof that our patients are reading and are appreciative of the hospital libraries, we wish them to speak by means of the following letters which were collected recently from the three insane hospitals. These few are selected from many more and are in the exact wording of the patients who wrote them.

"I must write you as I have been so much interested in the book Pollyanna. It was a great help to me because it makes me remember many things which I have to be glad about, even if I am locked up. I can be glad I am not in as bad condition as many about me. I am glad for my clean dresses and for the nurses and patient friends who are so kind to me. I am glad for the squirrels and birds that play among the trees."

"Being a lover of good books, I have certainly appreciated the books which the nurses distribute from time to time throughout the different wards. When one can sit here in the State Hospital and read such books as the *Efficient Life*, *Alice and Phoebe Cary's poems*, and so on, it gives the place a sort of homey halo after all."

"There are several branches of the Nebraska Library and one of the most practical in its selection and use is the State Hospital library. It is composed of *Current Literature* and many volumes from some of our best authors, extra good works. Library day for the men comes three times a week and is looked forward to with much anticipation by many on our ward. It would be regretted if we did not have a chance to make these regular trips to the library."

"Having taken pleasure in reading many books in the library here at Ingle-side, I am very glad to mention my likes in regard to it. I like the books on nature most. "In God's out-doors," "The Alps," "The spell of the Rockies" and others I might mention. Many of the novels are so amusing that they are a great help in passing the time pleasantly. Many of the books point a moral such as "Up from Slavery" by Booker T. Washington which shows what a man can do if he has ambition. Books may do great good. 'May blessings be on the head of Cadmus the Phaenician or whoever it was that invented books.'"

"In behalf of several inmates on 24, allow me to express our appreciation for the privilege of reading the Ingleside state library books, either historical, Biblical or fiction as suits our mood. They indeed help us to while away many moments and instruct us when inclement weather keeps us indoors. We want to thank you for this pleasure and privilege allowed us."

"In appreciation of the reading matter, books, magazines and newspapers furnished Ward II, I am permitted a word of praise. These literary and news advantages have been a source of great pleasure and diversion and no little fund of information during my three months sojourn here."

"As I have never read in but very few books, until I came here, on account of close confinement I began reading the book, *The price of the prairie*. Thought that I would read some for pastime and the book became very interesting to me. Also started another but have not finished it yet. I certainly enjoyed the first but cannot get much interest from the latter which is *Innocence Abroad*."

"I derive much benefit from the books inasmuch as they pass the time pleasantly, leave one in a happy state of mind and give food for thought. I specially enjoy those dealing with home life, such as *Grace Richmond's*, *Kathleen Norris*, and *Eleanor Porter*. I also enjoy those of travel and history."

"Among the many pleasant advantages offered by this free institution, the library deserves honorable mention. Any one who is considered able is allowed to draw books and take them to his ward. Among the books which the writer has enjoyed the *Oregon trail* by Francis Parkman ranks first, as picturing the hardships of the early settler, with its fascination of style and diction which make it interesting as a novel. I also like the writings of Rev. Van Dyke in his "*Little Rivers*," "*Days Off*" and others vividly describing fishing and hunting trips. What a difference between the pleasure of listening to choice literature in the commodious library hall and doing all your reading in a ward, surrounded by a group of unfortunates who do not know what they say, nor how they say it, nor when! Surely the library hours are an agreeable change from the daily routine of our life of seclusion. All this is a step in the right direction, conducive to mental healing, resulting in self-control, accompanied by will-power."

Publicity.

The Library Commission has prepared an exhibit each year for the State Fair and has had members of the staff in charge to explain the work of the Commission to those who were interested. The exhibit of 1916, through charts, posters and photographs showed the library development of the state. This same exhibit was afterward sent to Hastings for the meeting of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs, and was used again at the meeting of the State Library Association and has since been loaned to the Pawnee City woman's club for a "library day."

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Total number of volumes in the library, Dec. 1, 1916.....	16,032
Number of volumes loaned, Dec. 1, 1914—Nov. 30, 1916.....	51,372
Number of requests in response to which books were sent.....	3,342
Increase in number of volumes loaned over last biennium.....	25%
Increase in number of requests.....	70%

Books were sent to 461 shipping stations in 88 counties.

Expenditures, December 1, 1914, to November 30, 1916

Books.....	\$2,920 69
Travel.....	559 79
Binding.....	277 28
Printing.....	295 13
Office supplies and expenses.....	1,907 42
Extra assistance.....	237 52
Salaries.....	6,600 00
Institution libraries.....	3,003 88
Total.....	\$15,801 71

Libraries not supported by taxation.

In the following towns libraries have been established and are maintained by library associations, woman's clubs, or other organizations.

Beaver Crossing, Bradshaw, Bridgeport, Brock, Clarks, Creighton, Culbertson, Decatur, Dorchester, Elmwood, Eustis, Exeter, Gering, Gresham, Herman, Keystone, Lexington, Minatare, Murray, Nelson, Oak, Ogallala, Orleans, Oxford, Palmyra, Pender, Randolph, St. Paul, Salem, Scottsbluff, Shubert, Valparaiso, Waterloo, Weeping Water, Wymore.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

SCHOOL	Location	Volumes	Librarian
Bellevue College.....	Bellevue.....	6,750	Lida M. Churchill
Cotner University.....	Bethany.....	3,600	Josie Somers
Creighton University.....	Omaha.....	47,000	W. T. Kinsella
Dana College.....	Blair.....	3,500	.....
Doane College.....	Crete.....	13,523	Bess Potter
Franklin Academy.....	Franklin.....	5,800	Lucy I. Peck
Grand Island College.....	Grand Island...	7,200	Martha Firth
Hastings College.....	Hastings.....	6,000	Flora Fisher
Luther College.....	Wahoo.....	3,600	Linus Bonander
Nebraska Wesleyan.....	University Place	8,553	May Ingles
State Normal School.....	Chadron.....	3,110	Mabel Harris
State Normal School.....	Kearney.....	12,317	Anna V. Jennings
State Normal School.....	Peru.....	25,498	Elva E. Rulon
State Normal School.....	Wayne.....	5,563	Mrs. Anna B. Bright
Union College.....	College View....	6,100	Lulu B. Hiatt
University of Nebraska..	Lincoln.....	126,000	Malcolm G. Wyer
York College.....	York.....	3,500	G. T. Buswell
Brownell Hall.....	Omaha.....	1,500	Dorothy S. Kinttle

STATE LIBRARIES

DEPARTMENT	Location	Volumes	Director
State Library.....	Lincoln.....	72,855	H. C. Lindsay
Public Library Com'n...	Lincoln.....	16,032	Charlotte Templeton
Legislative Ref. Bureau..	Lincoln.....	2,600 ¹	A. E. Sheldon
State Historical Society..	Lincoln.....	53,000	Mrs. Minnie P. Knotts

¹Material consists largely of pamphlets and clippings.

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

INSTITUTION	Population (exclusive of Employees)	Number Volumes	Annual Circulation	EXPENDITURES FOR BIENNIUM				
				Periodicals	Books	Printing and Binding	Supplies	Travel
Boys' Industrial School.....	180	593	5,168	\$111 45	\$123 05	\$ 13 18		
Girls' Industrial School.....	101	780	2,652	53 45	89 30	42 50	\$16 50	
Home for Feeble-Minded.....	513	477	863*	49 25	85 57	28 40	15 80	
Hospital for Tuberculous.....	39	278		49 40	69 75			
Industrial Home for Women..	40	291		30 65	34 70		13 30	
Orthopedic Hospital.....	140	1,181	4,374	73 15	192 87	16 60	17 40	
Penitentiary.....	380	3,603	24,364	129 55	322 51	149 18		
School for Deaf.....	170	1,675	1,817*	26 60 ¹	95 83	42 37		
Soldiers' Home, Burkett.....	433	2,020	2,088	77 67	113 37	22 55	13 95	
Soldiers' Home, Milford.....	147	416		27 70	56 18	60		
State Hospital, Ingleside.....	1,150	865	4,051		82 57	84 84		
State Hospital, Lincoln.....	758	702	3,191	145 90	85 61	56 00	41 65	
State Hospital, Norfolk.....	521	618	5,186	56 15	67 83	12 30		
All institutions.....							43 63	\$109 06

*Report for 7 months. ¹One year.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

	PLACE	Population	Mill Levy	Income	Volumes	Patrons	Circulation	Librarian
1	Ainsworth.....	1,045	2	\$400 00	2,137	452	5,520	Mrs. Anna Toliver
2	Albion.....	1,584	3	00 00	2,700	850	8,636	Mrs. Jennie Graddon
3	Alliance.....	3,105	3	1,700 00	3,067	3,064	11,355	Mrs. Nellie Wilson
4	Alma.....	1,066	3	600 00	2,105	1,156	3,702	Mrs. Jennie Taylor
5	Arcadia ²¹	1,051	3	1,000 00				
6	Arlington ¹	645	3	450 00				
7	Ashland.....	1,379	2	690 00	2,425	1,022	7,187	Erma Laughlin
8	Auburn.....	2,729	1	600 00	1,624	650	6,431	Lillian Scofield
9	Aurora.....	2,630	1½	1,200 00	4,567	2,425	15,157	Lillian Moore
10	Beatrice.....	9,356	2	3,000 00	14,368 ✓	2,455	30,482	Frances Morton
11	Blair.....	2,584	2	1,000 00	1,625	800	6,248	May McQuarrie
12	Bloomfield.....	1,264	3	600 00	1,166	638	6,655	Mrs. L. G. Crosby
13	Broken Bow.....	2,260	2½	1,000 00	3,200	628	9,862	Emily Robertson
14	Burwell.....	915	3	550 00	972	894	3,000 ²	Mrs. F. R. Hallock
15	Carroll.....	382	1	120 00	734	100		Mrs. M. S. Linn
16	Cedar Rapids.....	576	2	250 00	627	275	3,000 ²	Veva Melvin
17	Central City.....	2,428	2½	1,050 00	3,224	686	9,086	Margaret Anderson
18	Chadron.....	2,687	3	1,200 00	2,724	900	15,406	Mrs. Elizabeth Smith
19	Clay Center ¹	1,065	3	600 00	700			Kathryn Epperson
20	College View.....	1,508	3		2,500	2,142	3,857	Hattie B. Abbott
21	Columbus.....	5,014	1½	2,000 00	4,524	1,638	18,479	Clara Howard
22	Crawford.....	1,323	1½	320 00	1,304	582	3,318	Bonnie F. Smith
23	Crete.....	2,405	2	1,000 00	5,600	350	8,261	Harold Smith
24	David City.....	2,177	2½ ^b	278 00	5,643	819	8,248	Lillian Simpkins
25	DeWitt.....	675	2	340 00	1,482	550	2,500 ²	Mrs. Carrie Crane
26	Fairbury.....	5,294	2½	2,200 00	6,507	1,749	31,414	Mary McQuaid
27	Fairfield.....	1,054	3	650 00	1,488	633	6,409	Bertha Crawford
28	Falls City.....	3,255	2½	1,500 00	8,057	866	33,307	Mary Hutchings
29	Franklin.....	949	3	580 00	1,516	410	4,015	Mrs. G. W. Mitchell.
30	Fremont.....	8,718	1½	2,800 00	8,618 ✓	3,017	39,819	Grace Barbee
31	Friend.....	1,261	3	800 00	870	560	2,343	M. Wylde Browne
32	Fullerton.....	1,638	2½	650 00	2,757	929	16,902	Mrs. Maude Johnson

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

	PLACE	Population	Mill Levy	Income	Volume	Patrons	Circulation	Librarian
33	Geneva.....	1,741	3	1,090 00	3,250	880	7,334	Mrs. Isabel Bixby
34	Genoa.....	1,376	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	210 00	1,200	175	2,573	Mrs. C. H. Shields
35	Gibbon*	1,251	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	750 00	1,863	753	5,275	Mattie Pierce
36	Gothenburg ¹	1,730	3	950 00	1,500	580	.....	S. Frances Botkin
37	Grand Island.....	10,326	1	2,500 00	6,497	1,663	26,192	Daisy Houck
38	Hartington.....	1,413	3	900 00	2,500	1,500	9,700	Mrs. B. Ready
39	Harvard.....	1,102	3	900 00	1,337	422	.....	Mrs. A. J. Jenison
40	Hastings.....	9,338	.....	2,804 00	7,154	5,412	28,908	Mrs. Ida Capps
41	Havelock.....	2,680	2	1,375 00	3,360	1,608	12,437	Mrs. Susie Smith
42	Holdrege.....	3,030	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,697 00	3,903	1,146	11,901	Mrs. H. E. Bush
43	Hooper.....	741	2	300 00	1,252	626	4,090	Joel Warner
44	Humboldt.....	1,176	2	770 00	3,000	1,100	7,254	Mrs. J. K. Liggett
45	Kearney.....	6,202	2	2,334 00	10,906	4,520	56,290	Mrs. Pauline Frank
46	Laurel.....	514	3	450 00	1,050	500	3,600	R. L. Lathrop
47	Lincoln.....	43,972	1	12,292 00	38,507	11,296	212,328	Lulu Horne
48	Loup City* ¹	1,640	3	1,900 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
49	Louisville.....	778	1	170 00	809	243	1,363	Edith Shryock
50	McCook.....	3,765	2	1,100 00	5,332	4,591	7,534	Grace Willetts
51	Madison.....	1,708	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,000 00	2,629	1,575	12,200	Ethel Christian
52	Merna* ¹	1,338	3	1,200 00	.....	.....	.....	Mrs. H. K. Atkisson
53	Minden.....	1,559	2	600 00	3,248	1,140	8,615	Mrs. Helen Slusser
54	Nebraska City.....	5,488	2	1,200 00	5,450	727	11,160	Anne Stevenson
55	Neligh.....	1,566	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	900 00	3,611	767	7,299	Mrs. Carrie Jones
56	Norfolk.....	6,125	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	3,982	2,000	16,538	Helen Lobdell
57	North Bend*	1,105	3	750 00	1,946	650	7,000	Laura Roump
58	North Platte.....	4,793	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,300 00	3,505	2,870	16,658	Loretta Murphy
59	Omaha.....	124,096	.....	35,000 00	117,786	27,101	418,154	Edith Tobitt
60	O'Neill*.....	2,853	2	1,144 00	972	216	7,986	Mayme Coffey
61	Osceola.....	1,105	2	.....	1,073	360	.....	Mary McBeth
62	Pawnee City.....	1,610	3	1,090 00	2,779	1,267	12,365	Myrtle Parkinson
63	Pierce.....	1,200	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	600 00	1,211	200	2,354	Mrs. J. A. Andrew
64	Plainview.....	941	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	300 00	1,550	319	7,454	Mrs. P. H. Parker

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Concluded)

	PLACE	Population	Mill Levy	Income	Volumes	Patrons	Circulation	Librarian
65	Plattsburgh	4,287	1½	950 00	6,012	2,128	18,761	C. Olive Jones
66	Ponca	1,000	3	450 00	2,350	1,060	9,000 ^a	Mrs. Mary Lipe
67	Ravenna ¹	1,359	3	900 00				
68	Schuyler	2,152	2½	900 00	3,693	2,208	18,509	Eleanor Wheeler
69	Scribner	891	1	363 00	1,514	450	1,993	Hattie Bowlus
70	Seward	2,106	1½	1,068 00	4,011	1,112	8,279	M. Belle Schick
71	Shelton [*]	1,462	1½	873 00	3,661	665	8,669	Mrs. H. A. Vose
72	Sidney	1,185			1,600	90		Mrs. Constance Corbett
73	Spalding	637	1	100 00	650	435	1,500	Mrs. W. J. Lee
74	Spencer [*]	1,400	3		482	235		Mrs. J. Reinheimer
75	Stanton	1,342	3	840 00	2,147	512		Elsie Strahle
76	Sterling	704	2	337 00	1,077	250	5,185	Mrs. Rhoda Rice
77	Stromsburg ¹	1,355						
74	Superior	2,106	2	829 00	5,950	1,250	24,447	Mrs. Lucy Conn
79	Sutton	1,702	2½	650 00	2,317	895	7,460	Ida Rolland
80	Syracuse	842	1	200 00	1,750	310	1,945	Sara E. Dunn
81	Talmage	461	2	185 00	500	250	2,725	Mrs. C. Titzell
82	Tecumseh	1,748	2	800 00	2,255	400		Mary Appleget
83	Tekamah ¹	1,524	3	1,000 00	1,200	428		Mrs. Edna Jacobs
84	University Place ¹	3,200	3	2,000 00				Katherine Wood
85	Wakefield	861	3	480 00	2,542	780	6,040	Mrs. Sina Hypse
86	Wayne	2,140	3	1,150 00	2,921	1,050	14,243	Mrs. Eva Davies
87	Winside	450	3	275 00	1,348	300	2,956	Mrs. Emma Dysart
88	Wisner	1,081	1	235 00	1,638	174	2,100	Jessie B. Kay
89	Wood River	796	1½	277 00	4,020	450	5,310	Anna Horn
90	York	6,235	3	3,400 00	7,718	2,549	25,523	Olive B. Allen

^{*}Township

¹Too recently organized to report

^aEstimated