Annual Report of Eau Claire Public Library for year ending June 30, 1897, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30TH, 1897.

EAU CLAIRE, WIS.
1897.
LIBRARY BOARD, 1897–8.

W. J. Starr, President.
W. K. Coffin, Vice-President.
F. H. L. Cotten, Secretary.

C. A. Bullen, M. S. Frawley, O. H. Ingram, MRS. H. C. Putnam, C. W. Lockwood, O. C. Gross,

Alfred Cypreansen.

STANDING COMMITTEES, 1897–8.

LIBRARY.

M. S. Frawley, MRS. H. C. Putnam, C. W. Lockwood.

ROOMS.


FINANCE.

W. K. Coffin, C. A. Bullen, Alfred Cypreansen.

Ellen D. Biscoe, Librarian.
Jessie F. Hoyt, Assistant.
Georgia Hayden, Assistant.
Annual Report of the Board of Directors.

To the Honorable, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Eau Claire:

Pursuant to the provisions of the law the Board of Directors of the Eau Claire Public Library present the following report of the work of the Library for the year ending June 30, 1897.

Your especial attention is called to the annual report of the Librarian to the Board of Trustees, as well as to our Finance Committee's report, hereto annexed. These detailed reports show that full and careful records are kept of the development and use of the Library, as well as of the expenditure of the fund placed at our disposal by the taxpayers of the city. The careful preservation of such matter as is embodied in these reports gives an immediate and intelligible measure of the Library's growth and usefulness.

The year now ended has been a hard one for the people of Eau Claire, but the increased use of the Library,—notably in the use of its reference books and reading room facilities—has fully met the expectations we had from the satisfactory results of last year, and has plainly shown that "hard times" do not blunt the taste for good reading, but rather bring new friends to our rooms. Our records for the year show a steady and encouraging growth in all departments.

This Board has worked together as a unit to get the very best results for our citizens from the amount that we had to expend, and there is nothing that we have done that has involved any extravagant expenditures, or that has not been preceded by a direct demand from the users of the Library. We are constantly being asked for new books, new periodicals and new works of reference, and to meet such of these demands as are legitimate and necessary, requires much planning and thought in the apportionment and expenditure of our funds.

The Library now has passed its experimental years, and we know more of its needs and possibilities. The people like it and
want it; and we who are doing our best to make it a most useful institution to all of our citizens have no hesitation in asking those citizens through their representatives in the Common Council for their cordial support.

The increase of nearly ten thousand volumes in the number of books actually borrowed and taken home by readers, shows that the ultimate possibilities of a really good Public Library in this city are far beyond anything we have yet reached. That is, by continued and efficient work we may increase the percentage of Library users among our population much beyond the present proportion, before the limit of a permanent circulation is reached. The use of the Library by the teachers and school children has been particularly satisfactory this past year.

The members of the Board of Directors are willing to give their time and thought to making the Library as useful as possible, but we need the aid of the people in giving us enough to do our work. That the people appreciate the Library as their own is shown by the significant item in the Librarian's report, of only four books,—and those unimportant ones—lost or stolen during the year, notwithstanding the fact that all—children as well as adults—are given direct access to the book shelves.

We cannot keep the Library up to the times, and growing, and worthy of the city on less than the amount hereafter recommended in the Report of the Finance Committee, and this amount we ask of the Council as an appropriation that will be approved by the people in general.

By the generosity of one of our citizens we are given beautiful rooms for our work, while several young women, having a taste for such work, have aided us very materially by their services in the Library; otherwise, we should have need of a much larger appropriation than is now necessary to maintain and increase the Library work in the present scale.

We invite your careful examination and investigation of the Library and its methods, knowing that this work must always profit by intelligent examination and advice.

We present this report for your consideration in its entirety, and ask your thoughtful and favorable action.

WILLIAM J. STARR,
President Board of Directors.

Sept. 1, 1897.
Librarian's Report to Board of Directors.

To the Board of Directors:

I have the honor to submit the following annual report of the Eau Claire Public Library for the official year ending June 30, 1897.

The Public Library is a municipal institution, supported by the people, for the people. The question may fairly be asked what are the people receiving for the money invested. The Library is expected to fulfill a two-fold mission. It is primarily an educational institution. By opening its shelves to the schools, the study clubs, and the many students outside of club and school, it is constantly raising the intellectual tone of the city, and is helping to develop a desirable class of citizens.

A second function of the Library—and one not to be despised—is the supplying the community with literary recreation and amusement. The clean, bright, invigorating work of fiction has a sphere of usefulness no less worthy than the most profound philosophical treatise.

It has been impossible to accompany the books of the Library on their 49,922 visits during the year—a tour which would doubtless be full of interest—yet there can be little doubt but that the greater number of these literary guests have proved themselves not only entertaining but useful as well.

Growth.

From June 30, 1896, to June 30, 1897, the Library has been increased by 786 bound volumes, and 270 pamphlets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes in the library July 1, 1896</td>
<td>6807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes added by purchase</td>
<td>565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of periodicals bound</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes added by gift</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes lost and paid for</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pamphlets which have been catalogued and placed on the shelves</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Through the kindness of our Representative in Congress, Hon. M. Griffin, the Eau Claire Library has been made one of the Government Depository Libraries. This privilege entitles it to receive the government publications free of expense. The sheep-bound volumes sent out by the U. S. government have long been regarded as "Dry-as-dust" productions. While this is necessarily true of some, it is not true of all of them. Many are replete with information which is presented in an attractive manner. The volumes of the Bureau of Ethnology reports deserve especial notice. These contain monographs fully illustrated, many plates colored, showing what skill the prehistoric races of America possessed in weaving, making pottery, mound building and so forth. Their methods of writing, their games, and their religious rites and ceremonies, also, are described. Other government documents are of equal merit and interest. The Eau Claire Public Library may well congratulate itself upon the possession of these treasures, of which it has received during the year the following:

Sheep bound volumes, ........................................... 38
Cloth bound volumes, ........................................... 23
Pamphlets, ....................................................... 30

Circulation.

The popularity of a library, and to a great extent its usefulness also, is indicated by the circulation of its books.

Statistics kept during the year are of interest as indicative of what has been accomplished by the Eau Claire Library.

Number of readers registered June 30, 1896, ..................... 2807
Number of readers registered June 30, 1897, ..................... 3206

The apparent slight gain in registration is due to the fact that the report of 1896 included all former readers, many of whom had ceased to use the library.

A new registration book was opened with the new fiscal year and the three thousand and six readers now recorded are actually using the Library, having taken books during the year.

From February first to June thirtieth a record was kept of all new borrowers. These numbered four hundred and forty-seven in five months.

Circulation for the year ending June 30, 1896, ..................... 49,543
Circulation for the year ending June 30, 1897, ..................... 49,922
Increase, ....................................................... 9,379
This gain of nearly 21 per cent. is almost as great as that recorded by the Minneapolis Library where an increase of 24 per cent. is reported as the greatest the library has ever experienced.

Circulation in the different classes of literature is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Works</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philology</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>1205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful Arts</td>
<td>658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>2864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History, biography and travel</td>
<td>6499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction, adult</td>
<td>19650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction, juvenile</td>
<td>16743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>49922</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Periodicals.**

In these days of carefully prepared indexes, a collection of periodicals—made up of perfect sets—is a mine of wealth and an invaluable addition to any library, but more especially to a small library.

Finding our periodicals much used by students in school and out, an effort was made to perfect the sets and to increase the variety of magazines.

The citizens of Eau Claire were asked to give to the Library back numbers of magazines which had been stored away. There was a generous response. From the donations, sixty-eight complete volumes were made ready for the bindery, and as many more incomplete are waiting for their missing numbers. We would take this opportunity to thank the people of Eau Claire for this expression of their interest in the City Library.

We would not convey the idea that we have now all the periodicals which are needed or could be used. The sets are still far from complete, and additional contributions are earnestly solicited.

It is no easy task for a growing library, longing to enter the many avenues of usefulness opening on every side, to bring its expenses within the allowance granted it; an occasional assistance such as a gift of periodicals helps wonderfully.

**Binding.**

The large circulation and the wear which results from much handling of books at the shelves, necessitates frequent repairs and much rebinding. The repairing, so far as is practicable is done at the Library. During the busy winter months, so many as thirty
books a day pass for treatment into the Library hospital. By constant watchfulness the rebinding of a book is postponed many weeks, although experience proves that after a book has reached a certain point in its career of disintegration, it is poor economy to continue the application of paste and cambric.

Three hundred and forty-one volumes have been sent to the bindery during the year, one hundred and eight of these being periodicals.

**Cataloging.**

To the uninitiated a card catalog is not alluring, but when its mysteries are mastered, it becomes an invaluable aid to an intelligent use of the Library.

The cards in the catalog are arranged as are the entries of a dictionary,—the authors' names, titles of books, subject headings, all being placed in alphabetical order. If a student would know what the Library contains by Robert Louis Stevenson, he has simply to look among the S's for Stevenson; if he would learn what the Library has about Alaska, he must look for Alaska in its alphabetical place.

The Library force are ready and pleased to explain the catalog to any who wish to understand it. It is of greatest importance to teachers and pupils if they would make the most of the Library. The card catalog has an advantage over the printed catalog in that it keeps pace with the Library. As new books are placed on the shelves, cards representing them are added to the catalog. The cards also contain much more information about a book than a printed catalog could afford to give.

In the year reported, 4,370 volumes have been cataloged, and 12,666 cards written. About 1,300 books remain to be cataloged.

That the work in this department of the Library has progressed so rapidly is largely due to the assistance rendered during the winter by Miss Coffin, Miss McLeod and Miss O'Connell. The excellent work which they did gratuitously placed the Library in a position to give more efficient aid this year to the Library users.

**Reference.**

There is no work of the Library more valuable than its reference work. This implies study and consequently growth on the part of those who use the Library.
The work designated as "reference work" is strictly that which is done in the Library. No record is kept of this—it is practically impossible to do so,—but in the busy season of the year the room is well filled with students who tax the resources of the Library to the utmost. Fully a half of those who come to the Library each day come to use the reference books and to take advantage of the papers and magazines of the Reading Room. Hardly a week passes but that some one from out of town comes to Eau Claire to make use of its Library.

In the spring a slanting book-case was bought for the reading room. This case holds the new books which are thus literally brought before the public. As a result much solid literature which would otherwise have been placed upon the shelves, and practically lost to many of the Library patrons, have passed into circulation.


The Reading Room is supplied with eighty-four magazines and weeklies, and fourteen daily newspapers. (For a list of these periodical publications see pages 15-16).

ELLEN D. BISCOL,

Librarian.

Dated Sept. 1, 1897.

Report of the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors of the Eau Claire Public Library for the year ending June 30, 1897.

Receipts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1896—Balance in City Treasurer</td>
<td>$40.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines Collected and Paid to City Treasurer</td>
<td>111.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation by Mrs. H. C. Putnam,</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation,</td>
<td>3000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3614.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1897, Overdraft</td>
<td>105.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3767.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disbursements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books,</td>
<td>$911.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers and Magazines</td>
<td>237.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binding and Repairs</td>
<td>289.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationery and Supplies</td>
<td>194.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Fixtures</td>
<td>165.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting,</td>
<td>158.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>18.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>168.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundries</td>
<td>188.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3767.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It appears from the above statement that the Library account with the city was overdrawn $105.56 on July 1, 1897; but there were orders amounting to $285.69 outstanding, so that the "Library Fund" had $180.13 to its credit on the books of the City Treasurer on that date.

The appropriation by the City Council last year was for the year ending September 1, 1897. Our current expenses for July and August, 1897, were not less than $400.00, which with the $105.56 that we were short on July 1, 1897, made us more than $500.00 short September 1, 1897.
Your Committee would respectfully submit the following estimate of expenses for the Library year of 1897-8:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>15.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers and Magazines</td>
<td>275.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binding and Repairs</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationery and Supplies</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Fixtures</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundries</td>
<td>94.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$2800.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We put $911.35 into new books last year. We ought to have at least $1200.00 for new books this year. We need, therefore, an appropriation of $4500.00 to cover the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deficit September 1, 1897</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Expenses September 1, 1897 to September 1, 1898</td>
<td>$2000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Books</td>
<td>1200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$4500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reports of the President and Librarian give a review of the work done by the Library during the past year and what is proposed to be done this year, and we trust that the City Council will see the needs and the value of this work. The Library is a department of the city, and the directors of the Library are the servants of the people. We are trying to give the people what they want and make the Library a real power for good in this city. We will be greatly pleased if the Mayor and members of the City Council will visit the Library and see what is being done, and we are very confident that they will appreciate our work and see that we need $4500.00 to carry on the work as it should be.

We wish again to call the attention of the Directors to the fact that we were $500.00 short on the 1st of September, 1897, that the necessary expenses of the Library for September, October, November and December will be not less than $800.00, and that the appropriation by the City Council will not, in the usual course, be available until January 1, 1898.

The employees and other creditors of the Library, or their friends, must now be carrying over $500.00 of Library orders, and by January 1, 1898 will have at least $1300.00 of orders.
It is very desirable that the appropriation be made available before January 1, 1898, and we trust the Council will see their way clear to help us out in this respect.

The Eau Claire Public Library is now recognized as one of the leading libraries of the state, and we are sure it is fully appreciated by the people of Eau Claire, and that the people want us to make it first class and up-to-date in every respect.

It has been charged that the Library has each year asked for an increased appropriation, with the implication that the Directors were trying to "boom" the Library and make it unnecessarily large. In answer to this charge, we wish to say that the Directors have never tried to increase the size of the Library but only its use and usefulness, have each year asked for less than was really needed to carry on the work, have never bought a book that there was not a real demand for, have never been able to supply the demand, have never employed any help that was not needed and have never paid more for salaries or wages than they were obliged to.

We promise to use our best judgment and untiring effort in behalf of the Library and trust that the city will give us the means to carry on the work.

Respectfully submitted,

W. K. COFFIN,

Chairman Finance Committee.

Sept. 1, 1897.
List of Magazines and Newspapers.

Monthly.

American Amateur Photographer.
Arena.
Art Interchange.
Art Journal.
Atlantic Monthly.
Book Buyer.
Book News.
Century Magazine.
Chautauquan.
Christian Science Journal. (Gift)
Cosmopolitan.
Cumulative Index.
Current Literature.
Cyclopedic Review of Current History.
Eclectic Magazine.
Education.
Engineering Magazine.
Etude.
Fortnightly Review.
Forum.
Journal of Western Society of Engineers.
Kindergarten Magazine.
Library Journal.
Literary News.
McClure's Magazine.
Manifesto.
Munsey's Magazine.
Nineteenth Century.
North American Review.
Our Dumb Animals.
Otis Library Bulletin.
Outing.
Photo Beacon.
Popular Science Monthly.
Providence Public Library Reference Lists.
Public Libraries.
Recreation. (Gift)
Review of Reviews. Amer. Ed.
St. Nicholas.
Scribner's Magazine.
Weeklies.

Acker und Gartenbau Zeitung. (Gift)
Athenaum.
Bloomer Advance.
Critic.
Das Buch für Alle.
Dial.
Electrical Engineer.
Fliegende Blätter.
Folkebladet. (Gift)
Forest and Stream.
Garden and Forest.
Gazette. (Gift)
Good Roads. (Gift)
Harper’s Bazaar.
Harper’s Round Table.
Harper’s Weekly.
Illustrated London News.
Journal of Education.
Judge.
Leslie’s Weekly.
Life.

Literary World.
Living Age.
Lutheraner. (Gift)
Menomonie Times. (Gift)
Nation.
New York Tribune.
Official Gazette of the U. S. Patent Office. (Gift)
Outlook. (Gift)
Public Opinion.
Publisher’s Weekly.
Puck.
Reform. (Gift)
Science.
Scientific American and Supplement. (1 Gift)
Springfield Republican.
Ueber Land und Meer.
Union Signal.
Weekly Herald. (Gift)
Youth’s Companion.

Dailies.

Chicago Inter Ocean.
Chicago Times-Herald.
Daily Pioneer Press.
Daily Telegram. (1 Gift)
Eau Claire Free Press.
Eau Claire Leader. (1 Gift)
Evening Wisconsin.

Milwaukee Sentinel.
Minneapolis Tribune.
St. Paul Dispatch. (Gift)
St. Paul Globe.
Skandinaven.
Superior Leader. (Gift)
Wisconsin State Journal.
Gifts to the Library from friends in Eau Claire.

ADAMS, T. L.
Church Echoes.

ALDERMAN, C. A.
Map of the city.

ATKINSON, H. M.
City Government.
Electrical Record.
Northwestern Lumberman.

BLACK, H. N.
Frozen Pirate.

BREESE, DARIUS.
Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

BROWN, ELLA.
Deutsche Syrik.

BUFFINGTON, B. A.
Blue Book.

CHILDREN OF CHRISTIAN
SCIENCE S. S.
Mrs. Eddy’s Miscellaneous
Writings.
Christian Science.

EAU CLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL.
Kodak.

EAU CLAIRE WOMAN’S CLUB.
Third Biennial Report of the
General Federation of
Woman’s Clubs.

HOLM, MRS. NILS.
Annual of American Photo-
graphy.

HOWLAND, MRS. OLIVE.
Eight volumes of govern-
ment publications.

INGRAM, O. H.
Railway Age.
Transparency of Hamilton
Observatory.

JUEL, DR. I. A.
Morgenbladet.

KEPLER, S. S.
Reports of the County Super-
visors.
Year Book of the Depart-
ment of Agriculture.

LOCKWOOD, C. W. [my.
Annals of American Academ-
Money. (Pamphlet)

MILLER, F. W.
Dorf geschichten.

PAULY BROS.
Printing and cards.

PUGH, MRS. W. T.
Titus.

PUTNAM, MRS. H. C.
Citizen of Prague.
Liberty Bell. (4 copies)

SCHOFF, CARL,
Der Untermuller.
Folks und Jugendbibliothek
Kriegs und Friedensbilder.
Melchior und seine Familie.
STARR, W. J.
Recreation.

SWIFT, ELIJAH.
Map of Eau Claire County.

TEALL, G. C.
What to Eat.

WALMSLEY, MRS. H. B.
Abominations of Modern Society.
At the Councillors.
Colonel's Opera Cloak.
Coningsby.

WALMSLEY, MRS. (Continued)
Endymion.
First Principles.
Henry the Eighth.
Isaac T. Hopper.
Les Miserables.
Natural Philosophy.
Seaside Studies in Natural History.
Tribute to F. Starr King.
Woman's work in the Civil War.

WHITTIER, MRS. H. L.
Scientific American.

Unbound Periodicals.

ALLEN, MRS. F. C.
Chautauquan.
Century.

BLUM, G. L.
Atlantic.
Scribner's.

BURGAR, MILO.
Breeder's Gazette.

CALVERT, MRS. C. M.
Century.
Scribner's.

CHAPPELL, MRS. A. D.
Chautauquan.

COFFIN, MRS. W. K.
Chautauquan.
Century.
St. Nicholas.
Wide Awake.

GRAHAM, MRS. H. P.
Harper's.

GRAHAM, MRS. (Continued)
St. Nicholas.
Century.
Scribner's.

KEITH, MRS. AGNES.
Atlantic.
Harper's.

REINHART, LEONE.
Youth's Companion.

SMITH, MISS ADELAIDE.
Chautauquan.

STARR, W. J.
Public Opinion.
Nation.
Scientific American.

THOMPSON, MRS. G. TABOR.
Scientific American.

THOMPSON, MRS. GEORGE T.
Harper's.
St. Nicholas.
Library Reports.

Apprentices' Library Company, Philadelphia.
Boston Public Library.
Carnegie Library, Pittsburg.
Detroit Public Library.
Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.
Free Library of Philadelphia.
Gloversville, N. Y. Free Library.
Library Company of Philadelphia.
Minneapolis Public Library.
Montclaire, N. J. Free Public Library.
New Britain Institute.
Newark, N. J. Free Public Library.
Poughkeepsie, N. Y. City Library.
St. Louis Mercantile Association.
St. Louis Public Library.
St. Paul Public Library.
Scranton, Pa. Public Library.
Springfield City Library Association.
State Historical Society of Wisconsin.