ANNUAL REPORT OF EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1898, EAU CLAIRE, WIS.
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

JUNE 30TH, 1898.

EAU CLAIRE, WIS.

1898.
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LIBRARY BOARD, 1898–9.

W. J. STARR, President.
W. K. COFFIN, Vice-President.
C. W. LOCKWOOD, Secretary.

C. A. BULLEN, MRS. H. C. PUTNAM,
M. S. FRAWLEY, C. W. LOCKWOOD,
O. H. INGRAM, O. C. GROSS,
ALFRED CYPREANSEN.

STANDING COMMITTEES, 1898–9.

LIBRARY.
M. S. FRAWLEY, MRS. H. C. PUTNAM, C. W. LOCKWOOD.

ROOMS.
O. H. INGRAM, O. C. GROSS, F. H. L. COTTEN.

FINANCE.
W. K. COFFIN, C. A. BULLEN, ALFRED CYPREANSEN.

ELLEN D. BISCOM, Librarian.
JESSIE F. HOYT, Assistant.
NAN McLEOD, Assistant.
Annual Report of the Board of Directors.

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

The Board of Directors of the Eau Claire Public Library, in accordance with the laws of this State, present herewith the report of their work for the year ending June 30, 1898.

The Librarian, in the special report to this Board, which follows and is made a part of this report, has treated quite fully the needs and perplexities of our Public Library, and we ask that especial attention be given to the recommendations therein made, as well as to the harder facts presented in the Report of the Finance Committee.

Our position has been a hard one during this past year, in that we had to meet the constant clamor for new books and an increased use of the Library's equipment with a lessened income and a service consequently reduced in efficiency.

This situation necessarily led to the closing of the Library during the morning hours for the greater part of the year, thereby getting along with one less assistant, and enabling the smaller force to do the regular and necessary clerical work during the hours that the Library was closed.

This, of course, has crippled us badly, and affected the circulation of books very unfavorably, as well as causing a continual annoyance to those who largely use our reading room and the reference books on our shelves.

We are surprised to find that in spite of these drawbacks our circulation has again actually increased over the preceding year by over 3,000 volumes, the total number of readers increasing by 1223. This shows beyond question that our people demand and need the facilities of a good library, and that they will use it even at the cost of personal inconvenience.

The fact that we have been able to finish a year of increased work without running behind should be sufficient indication of good
work done by the Librarian and her assistants—to whom great credit is due—as well as to the interested and harmonious attention of this Board.

The small number of books added during the past year is shown in the Librarian's Report, and we well know that we cannot continue to run the Library successfully for another year without some new literary blood.

There is constant and outspoken complaint because the Library is not open all day. The reason for this has now become generally understood, and it is now perfectly certain that the people at large desire and expect that the work of the Library shall not longer be hampered by the necessity of such rigid economies. The citizens will uphold their representatives in the Common Council in making fair and reasonable provision for the maintenance of the Library.

We submit this report with the hope that speedy and wise action may be taken by the people's representatives.

WILLIAM J. STARR,
President of the Board of Directors.

September 1, 1898.
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, 1898.

The success of the Library for the year past has been somewhat hindered by the condition of its finances.

As an institution increases its capacity for usefulness, it becomes more complicated in its machinery, it requires more tools, it has more demands made upon it. The Library is no exception to this rule. If the circulation, year by year, were decreasing instead of increasing; if the public were expecting less of the Library instead of demanding more; if our school teachers were content that the children of Eau Claire should receive their entire education from a few text-books, instead of increasing their intelligence by requiring them to use the books and magazines of the Library; if, in short, the Library was not proving itself truly valuable to the city, there would be no ground upon which to ask for adequate support. But the reverse of the conditions stated above is true. The circulation is increasing, the demands of the public are becoming greater, the schools and the Library are realizing more than ever their mutual dependence.

The practical opportunities of a Public Library are many. The success of the Library depends very largely upon the readiness with which it is able to seize these opportunities for usefulness, or to supply these public needs when they occur.

Growth.

At the beginning of the year the financial condition of the Library was such that new books were out of the question. As the months passed and the circulation increased, the constant use of the old books was rapidly wearing them out, and a constant demand was made for more and new books.

The Library Board, after carefully considering the difficulties, concluded to close the Library in the morning, dispense with one assistant, and purchase sufficient books to tide over the difficulty.
While this step was taken with much reluctance, it seemed to be the lesser of two evils, and was considered only as a temporary measure.

The slight increase in the number of volumes added to the Library is thus accounted for.

While speaking of the growth of the Library we would express our gratitude to those who have enriched it by their gifts. Among the larger gifts we would make especial mention of the eighteen volumes of juvenile books given to the Children's Department by Mrs. H. C. Putnam; of the miscellaneous numbers of magazines given by friends in Eau Claire and by the Wisconsin Library Commission, and of the newspapers that have been regularly sent to the Library from the offices of the 'Free Press,' 'Gazette,' 'Leader,' "Reform" and 'Telegram.'

The Eau Claire Woman's Club has remembered the Library in a practical way by presenting it with material for a collection of pictures and clippings. The subject was brought to the attention of the Club by Mrs. Barry, and as a result of the interest and generosity of this organization, the Library now has mounted and ready for circulation three hundred and forty-two pictures and two hundred and sixty-five clippings. A neat case for holding the clippings was also the gift of the Club.

The entire list of donators and their donations will be found at the end of this report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes in the Library June 30, 1897</td>
<td>793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes added by gift</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government documents received</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of bound periodicals added</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes added by purchase</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes worn out and retired</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes lost in circulation</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes lost and paid for</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes missing from shelves</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of books in the Library June 30, 1898</td>
<td>8059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamphlets received—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government publications</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library reports</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous pamphlets</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Circulation.

Number of readers registered June 30, 1897 ........................................ 3006
Number of readers registered June 30, 1898 ........................................ 4229
New registrations during the year ......................................................... 1223

Teachers have been given special cards which entitle them to draw six books for school use with the privilege of keeping them for four weeks. Sixty-seven such cards have been issued.

Circulation for the year ending June 30, 1897 ........................................ 49,922
Circulation for the year ending June 30, 1898 ........................................ 52,955
Increase in circulation ............................................................................. 3,034

Circulation in the different classes is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Works</th>
<th>175</th>
<th>Useful Arts</th>
<th>550</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>3,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>7,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philology</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Adult Fiction</td>
<td>20,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>1,493</td>
<td>Juvenile Fiction</td>
<td>17,441</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the amount of fiction read seems large, it must be borne in mind that two and three times as much time is required to read 800 sociological works, 1400 scientific or 7500 historical as is necessary for reading the same amount of fiction. Dr. Birge, Dean of the Wisconsin University, has given considerable thought to the question of fiction, and I take the liberty of quoting from him. He says: "We must recognize that our age and race write and read fiction. We must recognize this as a natural tendency of the age, not to be condemned or regretted, but to be accepted as a peculiar manifestation of the literary temper of this generation. We must also recognize and accept with equal frankness the fact that much, if not most, reading will be done for pleasure and relaxation; that is to say, human nature is so constituted that men—and women too—will attempt to get their thoughts outside of the routine of daily duties in some way, and fiction furnishes one of the easiest ways of escape from the hard facts of life into the freedom of the imagination."

Periodicals.

In response to the call which was made for odd numbers of periodicals, a sufficient number was received to make sixty-four perfect volumes, which have been bound and placed on the shelves. In
addition to these which have been bound, there remain thirty-five volumes ready for binding and twenty-nine complete volumes of duplicates. As might be expected from a collection secured in this manner, the new volumes are not all consecutive, and the sets are still far from complete. Every effort possible should be made to have the periodical sets perfect, as the present condition of this department is not a credit to the Library.

**Cataloging.**

There has been less help this year than was given last year in the cataloging department, yet something has been accomplished. Exclusive of the government documents and a small proportion of the juvenile books, the Library is practically cataloged.

| Number of books cataloged during the year | 2214 |
| Number of cards written | 5764 |

**Binding.**

| Number of books rebound | 334 |
| Number of periodicals bound | 168 |

| Total | 499 |

**Juvenile Department.**

The Library should be of real benefit to every child in the city. Children should count good books among their best friends, not because reading in itself is a virtue, but because acquaintance with the best thoughts of good men and women are excellent companions for children, and because they will be happier, worthier men and women if they learn while young to live in a larger world than that embraced within their own immediate neighborhoods.

During the year a corner of the reading room has been furnished with low shelves on which have been placed the juvenile books. Near by is a low table surrounded by small chairs. This "children's corner" has become a very popular feature of the Library.

To bring the young people in closer touch with the Library, and to incite in them a greater interest in the proper care of books, a Library League was formed on the twenty-second of last February. The membership at present is more than three hundred. It is with the children that the Library can do its best work, and the League will without doubt be of great assistance in accomplishing the desired results.
Reference.

Warner's Library of the World's Best Literature has been a valuable addition to the reference department. This work of thirty volumes contains selections from the representative literature of all time, together with a critical study and biographical sketch of each author.

The Century Atlas and the Third Supplement of Poole's Index of periodicals have also been purchased.

ELLEN D. BISCOE,
Librarian.

July 1, 1898.

Report of the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors of the Eau Claire Public Library for the year ending June 30th, 1898.

Receipts.

Appropriation .................................................. $3000.00
Fines Collected and Paid to City Treasurer, .................. 82.14
Total ............................................................. $3082.14

Disbursements.

July 1, 1897, Overdraft ........................................ $105.56
Salaries, .......................................................... $1477.83
Books, ............................................................ 106.57
Binding and Repairs, ........................................... 263.49
Newspapers and Magazines, ................................... 178.05
Light, ............................................................. 155.49
Supplies and Sundries, ......................................... 94.72
Rent, .............................................................. 75.00
Furniture and Fixtures, ........................................ 58.79
Annual Report, ................................................... 35.00
June 30, 1898—Balance ........................................ 2734.86
Total ............................................................. 241.72

$3082.14

We have limited our expenditures during the past year to our income, very much to the detriment of the Library and very greatly to the inconvenience of the public.

We have expended only $263.40 for binding and repairs, $178.05 for newspapers and magazines and $396.67 for new books, which certainly has not kept the Library in as good condition as it was a year ago. We have not been able to keep the Library open mornings during most of the year.

We would respectfully submit the following estimate of expenses for the Library year of 1898–9.

Salaries ............................................................ $1600.00
Lighting, ........................................................... 156.00
Papers and magazines ........................................... 200.00
Binding and Repairs ............................................ 200.00
Stationery and Supplies ....................................... 100.00
Furniture and Fixtures ......................................... 75.00
Rent, .............................................................. 119.00
Sundries, .......................................................... 328.00

$1200.00
We refer to our last year's report and estimate, and hope that the City Council will give us what we need and save the Library from retrogression.

We cannot carry on the work that ought to be done for any less than the $2800.00 asked for above, and we cannot maintain the Library even at its present standard with a less sum than $1200.00 for new books.

Respectfully submitted,

W. K. COFFIN,

Sept. 1, 1898. Chairman Finance Committee.
List of Magazines and Newspapers.

Monthlies.

American Amateur Photographer.
Arena.
Art Interchange.
Art Journal.
Atlantic Monthly.
Birds. (Gift)
Book-buyer.
Bureau of American Republics—Monthly Bulletin. (Gift)
Century.
Christian Science Journal. (Gift)
Chautauquan.
Church Echoes. (Gift)
Cosmopolitan.
Critic.
Cumulative Index.
Current Literature.
Cyclopedic Review of Current History.
Eclectic Magazine.
Educational Review. (Gift)
Engineering Magazine.
Fortnightly Review.
Forum.

Harper's Round Table.
Kindergarten Magazine.
Kodak. (Gift)
Library Journal.
Library News Letter.
Literary News.
McClure's Magazine.
Munsey.
Music.
New England Magazine.
Nineteenth Century.
North American Review.
Our Dumb Animals.
Otis Library Bulletin. (Gift)
Popular Science Monthly.
Providence Public Library—Bulletin.
Public Libraries.
Recreation. (Gift)
Review of Reviews.
St. Nicholas.
Scientific American, Bldg. Edit'n.
Scribner's Magazine.

Weeklies.

Acker und Gartenbau. (Gift)
Bloomer Advance. (Gift)
Chippewa Observer. (Gift)
Dial.
Electrical Engineer.
Epworth Herald. (Gift)
Fliegende Blatter.

Folkebladet. (Gift)
Forest and Stream.
Gazette. (Gift)
Good Roads.
Harper's Bazaar.
Harper's Weekly.
Illustrated London News.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent. (Gift)</th>
<th>Outlook. (Gift)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leslie's Weekly.</td>
<td>Publisher's Weekly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life.</td>
<td>Puck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Age.</td>
<td>Reform. (Gift)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutheranian. (Gift)</td>
<td>Scientific American and Supplement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menomonie Times. (Gift)</td>
<td>Ueber Land und Meer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nation.</td>
<td>Union Signal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Tribune.</td>
<td>Weekly Herald. (Gift)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern Lumberman (Gift)</td>
<td>Youth's Companion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Gazette of U. S. Patent Office. (Gift)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dailies.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chicago Times-Herald.</th>
<th>St. Paul Dispatch. (Gift)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Telegram. (Gift)</td>
<td>St. Paul Globe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire Leader. (Gift)</td>
<td>Seattle Post-Intelligencer. (Gift)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee Sentinel.</td>
<td>Skandinaven.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Sun. (Gift)</td>
<td>Superior Leader. (Gift)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gifts to the Library.

Miscellaneous.

AMES, MRS. E. L.
Drawing in charcoal and crayon.

ATKINSON, H. M.
Virgil. Aeneid.

AVELSGARD, R. S.
Lenker. Lutherans in all Lands.

BROWN, J. S. (author)
Partisan Politics.

BUFFINGTON, HON. BYRON
Wisconsin Assembly and Senate Journals. 43rd session.
Public documents, 1895-'96.

BUSSELMAN, W.
Herder. Conversations lexicon.
Geschichte des Bergekriegs in den U. S. Climbers.

DELAP, MRS. S. C.
Bechtel, ed. Temperance selections. 2 cops.

DENISSLIN, C. (comp.)
Descendents of J. C. Schell.

DREXEL INSTITUTE, PHILADELPHIA
Year Book.

EMERY, HON. J. Q.
Arbor and Bird Day Annual.
Books from township libraries.
Memorial Day Annual.
Wisconsin Teachers' Association paper.

FRAWLEY, M. S.

GRIFFIN, HON. MICHAEL
Commercial nomenclature of Spanish, Portuguese and English Republics.

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY Bulletins.

KEITH, ALEXANDER
Railroad map of Wisconsin.

LEIPZIGER, H. M. (author)
Report of free lectures to the people.

MILWAUKEE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONER
Third Annual Report.

MUIR, H. D. (author)
Poems.

N. Y. STATE LIBRARY
Extension Bulletin. No. 20,
Nourse, Miss L.

Palmer, C. F. (author)
Inebriety.

Philadelphia Library Company Bulletins.

Putnam, Mrs. H. C.
Adams synchrological map. Eighteen books for juvenile department.

Racine Public Library Finding list.

Shaw, Mrs. G. B.
Eleventh Census. Education.

Smiley, S. K.
Mohonk Convention. Third Annual report.

Swift, Miss Leila Schaufler. Ways of Working.


Vary, Mrs.

Vilas, Hon. W. F.

Wisconsin—Department of Public Documents

Wisconsin State Board of Control
Conference of Charities and Correction, at Toronto, 1897.

Wisconsin University

Periodicals and Newspapers.

Ashbaugh, H. C.
Evening Free Press.

Atkinson, H. M.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Atkinson, W. K.
Daily Leader.

Christian Science Sunday School.
Christian Science Journal.
COFFIN, MRS. W. K.
Numbers of Century and Scribner.

COTTEN, F. H. L.
Educational Review.

St. Paul Dispatch.

EAU CLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL.
Kodak.

EPWORTH LEAGUE OF BARSTOW
ST. M. E. CHURCH.
Epworth Herald.

HALL, MRS.
Numbers of Munsey and McClure.

HUBBARD, LOTTIE
Youth's Companion.

INGRAM, O. H.
Numbers of Railway Age and Review of Reviews.

PUGH, MRS. W. T.
Numbers of Literary Magazines, Library Magazine and Brotherhood of Local Engineers.

SCHLEGELMILCH, MISS L.
Youth's Companion.

SCHOFF, CARL
Die Gartenlaube.
Illustrirte Welt.

SMITH, MISS A.
Electrical Engineering.

SPAFFORD, MISS S. E.
Numbers of Century Magazine.

STARR, W. J.
Acker und Gartenbau.
Recreation.

SWIFT, MISS L.
Atlantic, 8 vols.
Independent.

WALMSLEY, MRS. H. B.
Weekly London Times.

WELCH, W. P.
Daily Telegram.

WHITTIER, H. L.
Gazette.

SOURCE UNKNOWN
Bloomer Advance.
Chippewa Observer.
Folkebladet.
Lutheranean.
Menomonie Times.
Superior Leader.
Weekly Herald.
Reports from Libraries.

Boston, Mass., Public Library.
Cambridge, Mass., Public Library.
Dayton, Ohio, Public Library.
Detroit, Mich., Public Library.
Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, Md.
Evanston, Ill., Free Library.
Free Public Library of Newark, N. J.
Hartford, Conn., Public Library.
John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill.
Milwaukee, Wis., Public Library.
Minneapolis, Minn., Public Library.
Montclair, N. J., Public Library.
Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.
New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.
Otis Library, Norwich, Conn.
Peoria, Ill., Public Library.
Pratt Institute Free Library, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Public Library, North Adams, Me.
Racine, Wis., Public Library.
St. Louis, Mo., Public Library.
St. Paul, Minn., Public Library.
Salem, Mass., Public Library.
Scranton, Pa., Public Library.
Syracuse, N. Y., Central Library.
Rules of the Eau Claire Public Library.

The Library will be open daily except on Sundays and legal holidays:

The Library is free to all, and every one while in the room is privileged to use the books, magazines and papers.

That those who use the Library may not have their attention distracted, it is necessary for every one to be as quiet as possible, hence any disturbance or extended conversation is forbidden.

Every resident of Eau Claire is entitled to draw books and will receive a card for this purpose when he has filled out the registration blank.

Non-residents may draw books by paying one dollar a year for the privilege and by securing a guarantor’s signature; transients may have the same privilege after depositing a sum sufficient to cover the value of books borrowed.

Every person is entitled to two cards, one of these cards being restricted to works other than fiction.

Teachers may have in addition to the regular cards, a special teacher’s card for school work.

Books may be retained by the borrower two weeks, and may be renewed for one week if the book is returned for that purpose or if the borrower’s card and the name of the book is given. A book cannot be renewed when there is a reserve upon it.

If a reader wishes to have a book reserved for him, he will pay one cent for a “reserve postal card” which will be sent to him when the book comes in. A book thus reserved will not be held more than two days, after that period it will be loaned to the next applicant in regular order.

Books will not be exchanged from one card to another unless the books and cards are returned to the Library.

One book cannot be exchanged for another book on the same day it is taken.

A fine of two cents a day will be charged on every book kept beyond the period for which it is loaned. In the payment of fines two volumes of the same work will be considered as one book.

For the convenience of borrowers we grant the following privilege: A card bearing a fine may be used once before the payment of the fine, but the fine must then be paid before a second book can be drawn.

All injuries to books in excess of ordinary wear and tear shall be paid for by the one who holds the book at the time of injury. All injuries not reported by the borrower shall be considered as occurring while in his possession.

Books lost or so seriously injured as to be unfit for use shall be paid for by the borrower.
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