To the Board of Directors of the Eau Claire Public Library.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honor of submitting to you a summary of the work of the library for the year 1923. You will remember that by statute the fiscal year has been changed from June 30 to December 31, and therefore, this is the first annual report to be given under the change.

The following report is actually for work done in 1923.

CIRCULATION

The total circulation for the year was 153,203 books for home use. Of these 100,420 were from the adult department and 52,783 from the children's room. As our largest yearly circulation to date was 147,776, our gain was 5,427, which under the circumstances that we have worked is most gratifying, inasmuch as libraries all over the country are reporting decreasing circulation - laying the blame on the movies, radio, automobiles, and the fact that more men are employed now than formerly. It has been a pleasing fact that our men patrons are still coming or sending their wives or children in for books when they cannot come themselves. More and more of the books that are useful and informing have been taken out. Our average for non-fiction reading is unusually high, 42 per cent. when compared with statistics from other libraries. While the Western and Mystery stories are still very popular, it is a pleasure to report that such books as Papini's Life of Christ, Americanization of Edward Bok, Post's Etiquette, Life and Letters of Walter Page, have never been put back on the shelves, and they have all been in the library about a year.
It is interesting to compare the cost of circulating a book. The most recent report we have from another library (January 1, 1924) mentions with pride that it only costs them a little over 14 cents to circulate each book. It costs us same fraction over nine cents to circulate our books last year.

The demand for worthwhile books is an established fact. For the past three years during the Lenten season we have been advocating and having as a slogan, "More serious reading for the Lenten Season". The pastors of the city have been very helpful in this. Mr. Wilson, Mr. Schleuter, Mr. Parr, Mr. MacKenny, and Mr. Raue have brought in their own books for us to use at this time. This plan of ours has been written up in Publisher's Weekly and one or two church papers. We (the pastors who have cooperated) have felt that the small effort put forth by us all was well repaid. We will continue this again this year. Our patrons now ask if we will have a Lenten shelf. We try to add books which will be especially attractive for this collection. After the books are put back in their respective places on the shelves, patrons very often ask for the books so we feel the experiment is a good one.

REGISTRATION
We now have 12,089 registered borrowers. Of these 7480 are adults (borrowers over 16) and 4609 in the children's room.

ACCESSIONS
Last year 2213 books were added - of these 91 were gifts. 1250 books were withdrawn. The total number of books in the library is 31,719.

CHILDREN'S WORK
Since September 1, we have again had a regularly trained children's librarian. While the work in the children's room has suffered still we had managed to keep a good supply of the best books. It was fortunate that we were able to have Mrs. Eva Taylor, also a trained children's librarian, to help us out
for part time work. We have already visited the schools once and regular story hours are being held.

STAFF

At the beginning of the year our staff was more nearly normal than it had been for some time before or since. The librarian took advantage of this, and through the generosity of the Board was allowed a three month's leave of absence for study in New York. This is very much appreciated. There have been many changes in the staff. In fact, Miss Witwen and Miss Donaldson are the only ones left besides the librarian. Dan Cupid was mostly responsible for disrupting the staff, with three marriages to his credit. Miss Ruth Sorenson resigned in August. She had been with us five years, both on the staff at the main library and at the high school for the past three years. Miss Alice Evenson resigned in June. She had been with us four years. Miss Lynette McCulloch, after being with us one and a half years, resigned in March. It was with regret that their resignations were accepted. As it has been impossible to obtain trained library workers we have struggled along as best we could breaking in new people from time to time. We have tried hard not to let the public suffer on this account. We would say here that we do not believe there is a more understanding public anywhere than right in Eau Claire. At times annoying situations have arisen that have proved this. Miss Jeanette Lamb succeeded Miss Sorenson as High School Librarian.

NEEDS

We are happy to report that our roof now seems to be intact, so that when we get through burning soft coal we may re-decorate the building which needs this badly. The Council feels as we do that it is not economy to let a building go down too much, and increased our budget to care for the roof and redecorating. Our budget will also take care of a larger staff and trained workers so we hope to do some needed extension work.
We should add foreign books. There are still many foreigners who cannot read English. We have borrowed all we could from the Library Commission. It is some time since we added any Norwegian or German books.

REFERENCE

The public is coming to the library with their every day problems - one time it is calling for poultry flocks and diseases of poultry - books on pipeless furnaces - hardly a week passed that some one does not come to look up about diseases, or diets for children, or for reducing, for diabetes, etc. Wills, contracts, and formulas are frequent demands. One question we could not answer completely was the end point test for gasoline. Assistance in debates, declamatory contest selections, topics for paper, and talks by Women's Clubs, etc. have been more than usual this past year.

GIFTS

The library is grateful to many friends for the always welcome donations of flowers, magazines, and occasional books and reports. The library has received many books this year:

Dr. Payne - medical books
Dr. Thanes's estate - medical books and painting
Dr. French - medical books - in memory of Mrs. French
Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Owen - 69 books
Mrs. S. J. Moon - 17 books
Mrs. A. C. Gower - 3 books
Gardner Teall - magazines, pamphlets, and books.

We are also grateful to the Press for their interest and willingness to give us space. We would express our gratitude to Mrs. Robertson for flowers and for assistance during Good Book Week; also to Mr. Teall for help during Good Book Week, and other times. It is impossible to mention all the nice
and thoughtful things done by our friends, but we do appreciate them and are grateful.

I wish, personally, to acknowledge my deep gratitude to the staff whose loyalty and sacrifice made it possible for me to be away for three months, and my sincere thanks to the members of the Library Board for cordial cooperation and keen interest.

Respectfully submitted.

Laura M. Olsen
Librarian
Annual Statistical Report

For latest completed fiscal year

Year ending........... December 31, 1923

Name of library. Eau Claire Public Library

Post office........ Eau Claire

Total assessed valuation of property in city

$22,962,971.00

Population (last census)........ 20,880

Books lent free to residents of city, township, county, or to all applicants (underscore words that apply)

Percentage of library tax levy (if separately levied) by fraction of mill

Open Morning Hours Afternoon Hours Evening Hours Summer Variations

Monday 9:00 to 9:00 8:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M.
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

Staff
Title Name (Name of school) (the year) (length)

Librarian
Laura W. Olsen
E. Suzanne Whitman
Minnie Wrenel
Anna Donaldson

Salary Vacation

Library training (Name of school) (the year) (length)

Trustees
Term expires Term expires

President
Secretary
Supt. of schools

W. E. Coffin
W. H. Baldwin
W. T. Darling

W. H. Baldwin

R. W. Owen

W. Haggen

M. S. Francey

D. D. Lockerby - Council

R. W. Owen

D. D. Lockerby - Council

M. S. Francey

D. D. Lockerby - Council

W. H. Baldwin

R. W. Owen

W. H. Baldwin

R. W. Owen
### Statistics

**Statistical figures to include main library and all branches.**

#### Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes at beginning of year</td>
<td>25720</td>
<td>5500</td>
<td>31220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes added during year</td>
<td>1444</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>2213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2674</td>
<td>5269</td>
<td>32009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes lost or withdrawn during the year</td>
<td>6275</td>
<td>3294</td>
<td>9569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net volumes at end of year</td>
<td>3087</td>
<td>5526</td>
<td>36396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of borrowers registered at beginning of year</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>4183</td>
<td>11140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of borrowers registered during year</td>
<td>1781</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>2739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2738</td>
<td>5141</td>
<td>7879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of registrations cancelled during year because borrowers died, left city, or discontinued use of library</td>
<td>1268</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of active borrowers at end of year</td>
<td>7480</td>
<td>4609</td>
<td>12089</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Number of borrowers who live outside city (included in above)

Note.—Librarians who wish to record re-registrations may enter figures in red under other figures in space assigned to item.

### Circulation

1. The circulation shall be accurately recorded each day, counting one for each lending of a bound volume, pamphlet or periodical, for home use. The circulation shall be entered upon the express request of a patron at or near the end of a regular term of issue may be counted, but no increase shall be made because books are read by others or for any other reason.

2. Pictures, clippings, etc., are not included in tabulation below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes of non-fiction (English) lent</td>
<td>28590</td>
<td>26703</td>
<td>55293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes of fiction (English) lent</td>
<td>62531</td>
<td>25678</td>
<td>88209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of unbound periodicals lent</td>
<td>6927</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>7329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes in foreign languages lent</td>
<td>2372</td>
<td>2372</td>
<td>4744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100620</td>
<td>52783</td>
<td>153403</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of books, unbound periodicals and pamphlets lent outside the city (included in above)

Other circulation (not included in above)

<p>| | | |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pictures</td>
<td>3169</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clippings</td>
<td>245</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other (itemized)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Service Counted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total number of reference questions answered

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of reference questions answered</td>
<td></td>
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### Number of readers

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of readers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Extension**

**Definitions**

- **Traveling libraries**: The smallest of the general agencies.
- **School deposit libraries**: Collections of about 50 books placed in class rooms, in charge of the teachers, for circulation among the children.
- **School stations**: Larger collections, for the whole school, in charge of an assistant sent from the library once a week or often.
- **Industrial and other stations**: Collections of a few hundred volumes, changed frequently, in charge of an assistant from the library or an employee of the factory or institution served.
- **Branch libraries**: Auxiliary libraries, complete in themselves, having a more permanent collection of books, with hours of opening that approximate those of the central library. May be located in a rented room, a school or a library building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Extension</th>
<th>No. of agencies</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branches (general, high school, junior high, grade school)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stations and traveling libraries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School stations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School deposits (No. of schools)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(Collections for 64 separate class rooms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>8799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Extension</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stations and traveling libraries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School deposits (No. of schools)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Collections for separate class rooms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>County Extension</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Branches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stations and traveling libraries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School deposits (No. of schools)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Collections for separate class rooms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>21,884</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Work with Children**

- Instruction in use of library: **Yes**
- Story hour: **Yes**
- School credit for reading done: **Reading circle - seals + diploma**

**Publicity**

- Library notes in newspapers: **Yes**
- Library exhibits: **Yes**
- Bulletin boards: **Yes**
- Signs: **Yes**
- Window displays: **No**
- Slides at the movies: **Yes**

**Periodicals**

- Number of current magazines received regularly by subscription or gift
- Number of newspapers received
### Auditoriums and Club Rooms
Use by outside organizations:
- Woman's Club
- Delphian
- Red Cross annual ball
Lectures, meetings, etc., arranged by library:
- Library Lecture Course
- Lectures

### Principal Gifts During Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>No. books</th>
<th>Cash</th>
<th>Special</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>$</td>
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### Financial Statement

#### Receipts
- Unexpended balance: $29.82
- Appropriations:
  - City or village: $17,100
  - County: $1,100
  - Town of: $50
- Interest from endowments: $781.65
- Fines, lost books, reserves: $244.29
- Rental collection: $1.55
- Gifts: $683.23
- Rent & Eagle: $1,440.54

#### Payments
- Books: $1439.60
- Periodicals: $297.00
- Binding: $674.44
- Salaries—library service: $6081.65
- Janitor service: $1244.25
- Rent: $1014.00
- Heat: $417.40
- Insurance: $333.67
- Other expenses: $167.00

#### Total expenditures: $13,655.54
#### Balance on hand: $21.53

### Notes

- City to appropriate $1,100 for repairs