

City Librarian's Report

January 1989

I. Statistics

January circulation increased 14% over January 1988 and is the highest January circulation recorded. Twelve month circulation is up 2% (15,332 items) compared with the previous twelve months. Gains were recorded in all library departments. Audiocassette circulation was especially noteworthy with a 124% increase over January 1988 and 72% for the current twelve months.

Use of the library by patrons closely paralleled circulation with a 14% (4,019) increase. Service statistics are down 9%, mainly because we no longer open the videocassette cases.

II. Budget

The 1989/90 budget is enclosed with this report. The budget is due at the City on Friday, February 17.

The 1988/89 budget is 1% below the projected spending rate. The materials section of the budget is 83% spent and will be completely encumbered by the end of February. Materials must be received before payment can be authorized. Therefore, the library overspends the material budget to ensure receipt of enough materials to spend the allotted budget.

I attended a hearing on February 7 in Springfield to oppose possible legislation about municipal annexation. District libraries want a change in library laws allowing them to keep part of the property tax dollars that municipal government annex from them. It appears that DPL will eventually be surrounded by library districts. If the district libraries are allowed to retain part of the tax dollars, DPL financial resources would erode. All surrounding municipal librarians spoke against the proposed change. I met with the librarians after the meeting to discuss this and other problems. We will meet again in May to explore topics of interest to our libraries.

The Altos computer lease/purchase agreement due to begin on February 1, 1989 will first take effect after the computer is installed and operational. CLSI made a pre-site inspection in late January. Mr. Richardson is installing new computer data lines and electrical outlets

The Library has entered the John Cotton Dana Awards (national library publicity award) with its Baby TALK program. Katie Gross, Claudia Quigg, and Sharon Jankowicz did an outstanding job of bringing together all Baby TALK activities and publicity. The library last won a John Cotton Dana Award in 1955 and 1951.

VI. Buildings & Grounds

I recently had a chance to visit the Danville Public Library. The library is in a partially remodeled Carnegie building. They are badly overcrowded with no space for expansion and little room for materials and almost no space for patrons to sit. When I compared this to what we have available, I really appreciated the generous level of support for library service here in Decatur.

I was recently approached by two different library groups concerning the possibility of providing library service to their towns. I would like to discuss this topic with the Board before proceeding.