

CITY LIBRARIAN REPORT

July, 1987

I. Statistics

Library circulation was down 82 items from July 1986. Circulation declines occurred in the Extension Department (due in part to the summer park readers program not generating as high circulation as our regular bookmobile stops) and in Home Reading where adult fiction was down.

Patron usage of the main library was up 2 percent probably partly due to the extremely warm weather.

23.7% of the budget has been spent. The budget was increased by \$35,575 to reflect the Baby Talk grant.

The City Council gave tentative approval to the 1988-89 tax levy of \$1,775,000. This is \$75,000 less than requested by the Board. In order to meet this reduction there will be no new staff, and a reduction in the capital equipment and audio-visual line items.

II. Services and Programs

Quest Summer Reading Program continues to generate a strong interest in reading among Decatur's children. The children and parents are looking forward to attending the David Holt performance sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

The summer park reading program has been popular at Hess Park. However, circulation at Garfield and Lincoln Parks has been low. Mr. Serber will evaluate the program and make a recommendation in September.

Technical Services continues to reduce the backlog of new materials to be cataloged. The current backlog is six to eight weeks. Normal backlog is three weeks.

III. Staff

All staff positions are filled with the exception of Mr. Hsu, the YA/AV department head.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) pays the salary for Mr. Dick Weatherby to work in the library twenty hours per week. He is learning new skills by working on Herald and Review obituaries.

IV. Public Relations

Several of the Department Heads have spoken on the WDZ radio "Breakfast Club" program (Serber, Gross and Seidl) about library

programs and services.

Ms. Ballinger has met with local media representatives; with Ann Lewellen from the Decatur Advantage program; and has attended Sertoma, Rotary, and Decatur Genealogical Society meetings.

The Library participated in the Decatur Celebration Razzle Dazzle parade. One of the bookmobiles was decorated with balloons and posters. Children who used the bookmobiles frequently were asked to carry a banner with Decatur Public Library's logo and sandwich boards spelling the word "LIBRARY".

The Library co-sponsored a performance of Dr. Seuss in the Park by students of Richland Community College. It was attended by 85 to 100 people.