

City Librarian's Report

January 1990

I. Statistics

The Library set a new circulation record in January by circulating 75,790 items. The previous record was established last June when 75,704 items were circulated. No doubt the unseasonably warm weather and the change in the circulation loan periods account for some of the increase. Adult fiction increased from 7,479 circulations in January 1989 to 7,952 in January 1990. Strong increases in circulation were also recorded in adult (6%), young adult (18%), extension (9%), audio-visual (5%), and reference (48%).

Service statistics increased 6% from 8,790 in June 1989 to 8,810. The number of patrons using the library increased 7%, setting a new library record of 31,699. The previous record was set in March 1989 at 31,546.

II. Budget

Since the official month-end financial report was not available, figures were taken from a report run February 5, 1990. Seventy-four percent of the budget has been spent with an additional two percent encumbered. Seventy-seven percent of the materials budget has been spent and an additional eighteen percent is encumbered. At the present rate of spending, the entire materials budget will be spent.

No progress has been reported by CLSI in resolving their problems with the computer at Rolling Prairie Library System. On Monday, February 26, Paul Johnson, Assistant Director of RPLS, and I will attend a seminar on converting from CLSI to Data Research Associates, Inc.

Springfield Credit Bureau has proposed collecting our delinquent accounts for less money than we pay Decatur Credit Bureau. We will conduct a six month trial beginning in March to determine the success of Springfield's service. Springfield Credit Bureau handles accounts for Lincoln Library, and also has an office in Decatur.

Ameritech may supply DPL with only 100 United States telephone directories. We now receive 530 out-of-state directories. They have also announced that next year they will send Illinois directories for only the 217 area code, rather than the entire state. Our alternatives are to stop the service, purchase the directories from the telephone companies, or purchase microfiche of the directories. This could easily cost over \$5,000 (see attached article from the Chicago Tribune, 2/7/90).

A collection of materials for adolescents has been placed in St. Mary's Hospital.

Bob Williams is conducting interviews for the oral history program on a volunteer basis. Miss Betty Turnell, who started and ran the program for ten years, moved to Peoria. Mr. Williams, who is a retired teacher, conducted two interviews in January. The library has over 90 oral histories in its local history collection.

IV. Personnel

Chuck Brown, Bookmobile Clerk-Driver, will remain on the bookmobile for now

Over the past four years, the extension department has experienced a slow but steady decline in circulation. I plan to reallocate eight staff hours per week to the children's department in the main library. During the summer reading program (June through August), it will increase to 16 hours per week.

The reference department has benefited from the services of Linda Buckley, a JTPA employee, and Ralph Runion, an AARP employee. Both are doing clerical work for the department.

Shirley Edwards and Marilyn Shroyer (extension department) attended a one day workshop on volunteer management skills. Mrs. Shroyer coordinates the library's volunteer program.

Leta Burch and Carol Gibson attended the American Institute of Discussion conference in Oklahoma. A new discussion series entitled "Human Relationships" will start February 8.

V. Public Relations

First Night Decatur committee is interested in using the library as part of their program. The library and civic center are being proposed as the main locations for entertainment. First Night would provide staffing and security for the program. I would like to discuss this program with the Board.

Two of the six 1990 foreign films were shown in January. Attendance averaged 70 people per showing. Mark Sorensen is introducing the films.

The Baby TALK lapsit program held four sessions which were attended by 188 people. The program has been included in the 1990/91 budget.

VI. Building & Grounds