

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Sixty-Eighth Annual Report
1942 - 1943

Lib. copy

Mayor and Commissioners of
City of Decatur, Illinois

The Board of Trustees of the Decatur Public Library
with to your honorable body the installed annual report of Miss
A. Hill, Librarian, covering the activities of this branch of
city government.

We would call your attention to the fact that the main
library building is in need of extensive renovation, especially
lighting system is sadly antiquated, insufficient and in need of
modernization.

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We also feel the pressing need of reopening a branch library
at the east end of the city, as well as opening branches in other sec-
tions of the city. The revenue derived from the present tax levy is
insufficient to permit us to expand. The State of Illinois several
years ago recognized the plight of public libraries and enacted a law
authorizing cities to increase their tax levies for library purposes
from one and two tenths mills to two mills. Your Library Board feels
that Decatur should in the very near future follow the lead of other
progressive cities which have already availed themselves of this
privilege. We trust that the honorable City Council will, in the near
future, submit this proposition to a referendum vote in the city of
Decatur.

May the present City Council enjoy a successful term in
office and prove a real benefit to our city; and may we request the
Council as a whole and its individual members to take a deep and
lively interest in its Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund Smith
President.
Jessie R. Buckner
Edith E. Johnson
Orlean C. Jones
Lucile R. Evans
John M. ...
...

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Sixty-Eighth Annual Report
1942 - 1943

To the Mayor and Commissioners of
the City of Decatur, Illinois

The Board of Trustees of the Decatur Public Library submits
herewith to your honorable body the detailed annual report of Miss
Minnie A. Dill, librarian, covering the activities of this branch of
the city government.

We would call your attention to the fact that the main floor
of the library building is in need of extensive renovation, especially
the lighting system is sadly antiquated, insufficient and in need of
revision.

We also feel the pressing need of reopening a branch library
in the east end of the city, as well as opening branches in other sec-
tions of the city. The revenue derived from the present tax levy is
not sufficient to permit us to expand. The State of Illinois several
years ago recognized the plight of public libraries and enacted a law
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that Decatur should in the very near future follow the lead of other
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May the present City Council enjoy a successful term in
office and prove a real benefit to our city; and may we request the
Council as a whole and its individual members to take a deep and
lively interest in its Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund Knuth
President.

Jessie R. Buckner
Edith E. Jarman
Willie E. Mueller
Lucile L. Evans
John Valentine
Charles A. Quibran

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
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To the Board of Directors
Decatur Public Library

Herewith is submitted the sixty-eighth annual report of the Library for the year ending April 30, 1943.

To the librarian the year just closed was a momentous one as it marked her fifty years of service here. In recognition of this the Board of Trustees and Staff planned a dinner in her honor which was held in the Decatur Club on November 13. It was attended by 260 people- thirty of these were librarians and book dealers from Illinois cities, who were old friends. The table decorations of gold and bronze chrysanthemums and candles were lovely, and the program was interesting. Mayor Lee acted as toastmaster and Miss Helene H. Rogers, assistant state librarian, was speaker of the evening. Short talks were ^{also} made by Mr. P. L. Windsor and Miss Anne Boyd of the University of Illinois, and Miss Eugenia Allin and Mr. Edward Powers. Rev. Elmer Freed offered the prayer and Miss Velda Gerber was soloist. A purse of nearly four hundred dollars from townspeople was given Miss Dill, the presentation made by Mr. Knuth, president of the Board. In addition, Miss Dill received many lovely gifts and flowers, and more than one hundred letters, cards, and telegrams from friends all over the country.

War Information Center

Our library was designated one of many in the country to be a center for official government publications on the war and related subjects. Hundreds of pamphlets, posters, etc. are received regularly from the Office of War Information, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Illinois State Council of Defense, etc; also from non-government organizations and associations.

The collection expanded and was moved from the lobby to the rear of the main floor stack room. Here a corner was arranged as a

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War Information Center with tables, bookshelves, steel pamphlet file, and a bulletin board for displays. Books on nutrition and technical subjects relating to essential industries are also shelved here.

With a continual stream of war publications being received it was necessary to catalog the pamphlets in a simple way to make them quickly available. A subject catalog was made for the use of the staff members and is kept at the circulation desk.

Victory Book Campaign, 1943

This year the Victory Book Campaign began January 5, and was to last two months but extended beyond that time and has not yet been entirely completed. Books for the armed forces will be accepted any time.

As in 1942 the sponsors were the American Red Cross, the American Library Association and the United Service Organization, with headquarters in New York City and Springfield in this state. In Decatur, the committee consisted of Mr. H. Wayne Hill representing the U.S.O., Miss Mary V. Love the Red Cross, and the Misses Dill, Wayne and Baker, the A.L.A.. The public library was the main collection center.

The stores furnished boxes for books which were donated, some of the factories collected books, as did the high school, the Decatur Woman's Club, and others. Huston-Patterson Corporation again printed gratis, signs in red, white and blue that were used in collection places. The library had a large box in the lobby and many books came here directly, others were delivered by the stores or under Mr. Hill's direction. Three thousand books were collected.

A small keg which had been used in World War I was placed in the lobby of the library to receive money contributions. Rev. Ernest H. Duling of the Cleveland Avenue Methodist church made the first contribution, and his picture with a story was used in the paper. Chain luncheons and parties started the ball rolling for money contributions. Many outright donations of money were made by organizations and individuals. The total received in cash was \$567.45. The number of books collected this year was small compared to the 1942 drive, but quality had been stressed instead of quantity.

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To George Army Air Field, at Lawrenceville, Illinois, five hundred books were sent. Requests for technical books and foreign language texts were received from the officers in charge there, and these books have been ordered and will be paid for from funds collected. Other books will soon be sent to the camp at Scott Field, Belleville. A small collection will also be sent to the College Training Detachment of the Army Air Forces on the Millikin University campus.

Contents and Accessions

The library now contains 78,670 volumes in the whole system. 6,997 of these are in the Evans Branch and 2,844 in the School collection. The children's room in the Main library has 9,291 books.

Purchased this year were 2,289 new titles and 553 replacements, at the cost of \$6,380.71. Outstanding publications on the War and related subjects were added as quickly as possible, as requests from patrons were numerous. The non-fiction naturally included works on technical subjects, economics, vocations, geography and history of countries at war. Books on nutrition, home economics, nursing, first aid, homes and gardens were added: also many interesting biographies, travel in all parts of the globe, and books on art, literature and music.

Requests for clubs, classes and church groups constituted a considerable part of book purchases. As usual the School collection was built up with hundreds of new books. Replacements must always be taken into consideration for the best books of other days do wear out and some must be ordered in new editions. Indispensable reference works, atlases, annuals, indexes and bibliographies made large inroads in the book fund.

Circulation Department

As was to be expected, the impact of the war has been felt very keenly by the adult circulation department during the past year, and most particularly in the last few months. No doubt we shall feel it more in the year to come. Every list of men inducted into the Services carries familiar names, and we especially miss the eighteen year olds.

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Then when we think of all the women, young and old, gone into defense work and factories, not to speak of Red Cross workers and WAACS and WAVES, a circulation of 117,000 in the adult department seems not so bad after all.

The great demand for technical books reached its peak in the summer and early fall. Since then it has been steady but no longer hectic. Books on current events are still much called for, but the center of interest has shifted from European countries to personal narratives such as "Guadalcanal Diary", by Tregaskis and "They were expendable", by White. It is significant, however, that the non-fiction book most heavily reserved was one on the lighter side of army life, "See Here, Private Hargrove" and the runner-up was the amusing book by Cornelia Otis Skinner, "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay". Third in rank was Brown's "Suez to Singapore", and Wendell Willkie's "One World", only put into circulation April 19, rushed up into fourth place.

The most popular fiction book was "King's Row", by Bellaman, with 77 reserves. This book is having a long run, for it was the third on the list for last year. "The Robe", by Douglas, not published until the year was half over, is in second place and still "going strong". Third is "The Song of Bernadette", by Werfel. It is interesting to note that of these three novels, two are religious in character and none of them about the war. In fact, of the fifteen most popular fiction books, only three are war novels, and they are far down the list.

Owing to the congestion of local bus systems, the high school pupils are dismissed at staggered times, beginning earlier than they used to, and are urged to go directly home. This has made the "school rush" less formidable, and we also notice that fewer return to use the library in the evenings. Still we have done a quite lively business in bound periodicals for use in the reference room.

Two English teachers, Miss Fike and Mrs. Magnusson, have brought their classes, about 100 pupils in all, to become acquainted with the library, and the senior class of the Mt. Zion high school also visited us. Another rural teacher brought a small group, asking especially that they be given practice in using the catalog. About 75 Girl Scouts, in different

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groups, have been shown over the adult department. Mimeographed lists of the most used reference books have been made and distributed to the visiting high school classes and a list called "Books for Leisure Hours" was made and given out to general readers. A list to be used by teenage boys and girls transferred from the children's room is ready for final typing. Other lists used at the desk- detective stories, historical novels, etc. have been revised and made gay with new covers.

Three hundred new pictures were added to the picture file and many more are waiting to be mounted. The display of War Area maps begun last year, has been continued, and there is no end to the war posters we receive. We could use more bulletin boards than we have, for them alone. But we found room for some particularly beautiful Mexican travel posters and they have been borrowed a number of times since. At Christmas, we used colored pictures of the life of Christ by a Chinese artist. They came from the magazine "Life" as did those we used recently for the Jefferson bicentennial. Other colorful displays were Scenes of Sport in Olden Days, and a map of the United States showing the state flowers. More pretentious but less beautiful was a series of twelve large posters showing how a Gallup poll is planned and carried out.

The Camera Club of Decatur was permitted to place two display bulletin cases in the back of the stack room, on which excellent photographs from a Traveling Salon are exhibited. It is in charge of Mr. Gordon Dean of the Camera Club, who changes the photographs every few weeks.

Popular Books
Fiction

Bellaman-	King's Row	Hilton-	Random Harvest
Douglas-	The Robe	Maxtone-Graham-	Mrs. Miniver
Werfel-	Song of Bernadette	Bromfield-	Mrs. Parkington
Chevalier-	Drivin' Woman	Saroyan-	Human Comedy
Davenport-	Valley of Decision	Steinbeck-	Moon is Down
Hale-	Prodigal Women	Williams-	Strange Woman
Aldrich-	Lieutenant's Lady	Bromfield-	Until the Day Breaks
Field-	And Now Tomorrow		

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Popular Books
Non-fiction

Hargrove-	See Here, Private Hargrove	Rawlings- Spence-	Cross Creek
Skinner-	Our Hearts Were Young and Gay	Masters- Van Loon-	Get Thee Behind Me The Sangamon Van Loon's Lives
Brown-	Suez to Singapore	Fosdick-	On Being a Real Person
Willkie-	One World	Stone-	Marriage Manual
Smith-	Last Train From Berlin	Forbes-	Paul Revere
Tregaskis-	Guadalcanal Diary	Seversky-	Victory Through Air Power
White-	They Were Expendable		

Reading Room

No exact count is kept of the number of people using this room, but it is usually filled with readers, many men coming regularly every day to read the newspapers. The bulletin boards are always filled with large posters from the Office of War Information, and current pamphlets of the allied and neutral nations are shelved in here. The total number of periodicals and newspapers currently received was 405. Added this year were:

- American rifleman
- Army ordnance
- Bloomington Pantagraph
- Flying
- Free world
- Information service
- Inter-American monthly
- McCall's magazine
- Mademoiselle
- Plays
- Popular photography
- Survey of current business

Reference Department

The past year 1600 people were helped to find information wanted—some of the questions involved much research, others were answered quickly over the telephone. These are a selection of the questions asked:

- Consumption of sugar in the U.S.— how much per person?
- How long can a man live without food and water?
- In what industries are welders needed?
- What are the duties of an expeditor?
- Press working of metals in order to run a drill press
- List of occupations for the handicapped
- About Albert Kahn, architect, and his methods
for industrial plant construction
- Employment of negroes in defense work
- How is metalizing done?
- What is the mental age of army men as established by
intelligence tests
- Precision instruments and their uses
- Mental tests given to service men and to job applicants
- Examination questions for operators of steam boilers

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Books were placed on reserve for various study groups:

Art Class-	South America
Study Class-	Canada
Millikin University Evening Classes-	Personnel management
High School English Classes-	Drama, Early printing and writing materials
University of Illinois-	Extension course in education
Ill. State Normal University-	Extension course on the literature of music

Important books added to the shelves:

Davis-	Birth Certificates
Hills-	History and Genealogy of the Mayflower Planters. v.2
Hirshberg-	Subject Guide to Reference Books
Jane's Fighting Ships	
Kunitz-	Twentieth Century Authors
Mencken-	New Dictionary of Quotations
United States	Government Manual, Spring, 1942
Webster-	Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms
Who is Who in Music	

Children's Department

There are now 9,291 volumes in the children's room. Among the important new additions were Britannica Junior, 13 vols. and Brewton's "Index to Children's Poetry". The total circulation was 34,268- a small increase of 243 over last year.

Book Week, November 16-21, was observed as usual, the theme being "Forward With Books". This year's special feature was a large "Merry-go-round" which occupied the center of the room. It was designed and built by S. F. Hiser, one of the janitors, with just a suggestion from the children's librarian, Kathryn Green, and was made of old boxes and corrugated paper at very little expense. It was gay and colorful with new books and book jackets, with colored decorations at the base, and a red shingled roof. Our collection of "foreign" dolls came in handy to ride in the chariots. Balloons floated above.

During this week the children's room was visited by classes from schools, and other groups and individuals, many being adults. Several pictures were made of this exhibit, one with two small children from the Gastman school and Miss Green; another with Miss Green and Mr. Hiser. The newspapers carried a story with a picture. The picture of the Merry-go-round was used on the front cover of the March issue of Illinois

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Libraries, the publication of the Illinois State Library. The Merry-go-round was again utilized in the holiday season, with Christmas decorations and new Christmas books.

A clever Christmas display in the small show case was a reproduction of a typical room and furnishings of about 1900,- ingrain carpet, wall paper, curtains, fireplace, and furniture of the period- all set for Christmas eve, with stockings hung up, dolls and toys, and books all in miniature size.

Lists for summer ^{reading} for grades 1-6 were compiled and distributed to all public and parochial schools. Visits to the children's room were made by six Girl Scout troops; by the Gunhild Johnson room for crippled children; by a country school, and by classes from St. James, St. Patrick, and many other schools.

A fine gift to the children's room of a small table bearing the inscription "In Memory of Sarah Mark Imboden" was made by the Decatur teachers. Miss Imboden was for many years the supervisor of elementary work in the public school here and was eminently successful. The table is revolving and has a beautifully carved top with a shelf underneath for books. All books placed here are in memory of deceased Decatur teachers. Two books- "The City of Decatur" and "Our Garden of Thoughts" were compiled and edited by Miss Imboden.

Catalog Department

The outstanding project in the work of the Catalog department for the year was the acquisition of a new sixty-tray cabinet which was greatly needed for the public catalog. The shifting of the cards and the necessary revision of labels and guides entailed a great amount of labor in expanding a catalog of more than 225,000 cards from 240 trays to 300 trays. Plans and diagrams had been made for this exacting work and on Labor day, when the library was closed, the two catalogers,- Misses Pollock and Oakes, shifted the entire catalog, using the new cabinet with the four already here. The enlargement greatly facilitates the use of the catalog, which is an indispensable tool for both the

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library staff and the public as a guide to the contents of the library.

The establishment of a war information section in the library caused the need of a special catalog of the great amount of pamphlet material received for this section. Such a supplementary catalog has been started, and is being gradually enlarged. The regular cataloging work has included the preparation of cards for 2700 new accessions, the re-cataloging of replacements, and the removal of cards and the revision necessitated by the withdrawal of many volumes not to be replaced.

The Catalog room was greatly improved in appearance and convenience by the installation of a fluorescent lighting system, and by the redecoration of the walls and ceiling in a light shade.

	L.C. cards	Typed cards
Main library	5411	2997
Children's dept.		1573
Evans branch	543	757
School collection		29
Rental collection		189
Total no. new cards	11499	
Total no. cards revised	2296	
Grand total	13795	

Extension Department

The important happening at the Evans branch library was its complete renovation which had long been needed. The exterior was given two coats of light yellow paint on the wood trimming. Inside, the walls were redecorated in light green shade and the ceilings an off white. The furniture was painted a dark green to harmonize, and tops of the desk and tables a light tan. The wood-work was all revarnished on the main floor, and painted in the basement hall and north room. The main floor was equipped with new shades of light tan to match the table tops, and the old shades were cleaned and reversed for the basement. Varnishing the shelves meant that almost 7,000 books had to be removed. The light attractive interior has helped working conditions for the librarian and many favorable comments have been made by patrons.

The Evans branch closes with a circulation of 24,826,- a decrease of 3032- and the number of borrowers has dropped to 1506. The loss is

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a result of war conditions, the young men are in service, high school students are working after school and on Saturdays, and many married women are in some of the industries or ordnance works.

Teachers from Durfee school with their pupils visited the library to be instructed in its use, and took out cards, if not already borrowers. Twenty-four story hours were conducted during the year, the largest number attending being 43 and the smallest 12. More interest is shown.

The twelve school libraries had a circulation of 27,361,- a decrease of 3046. St. Thomas school was sent books this year for the first time. Collections of books were loaned to Camp Kiwanis, Camp Seymour, and South Side Center playground.

Meetings and Book Talks

The Macon County Historical Society held its quarterly meetings in the library as usual. At the December meeting Mr. Paul M. Angle, librarian of the Illinois State Historical Library, gave a talk on historical maps, and showed many of them on the screen.

Talks on books and reading were given before P-T. A. groups at Oglesby and Riverside schools by Miss Green, the children's librarian; at Lincoln school by Miss Pollock, head cataloger; and at the Dennis school, and Grace Methodist Women's group Miss Oakes reviewed "For Us, the Living", by Lancaster.

Brief Records

Total no. vols. in library	78,670
No. registered borrowers	17,798
No. books loaned	203,694
Volumes sent to bindery	915
Books mended in library	8,123
Periodicals currently received	405
Overdue notices sent	5,246
Reserve postals sent	1,687
Pictures loaned	8,979
Non-resident cards purchased	246
Cards added to catalog	13,795
Books used in building	8,398
Telephone calls	5,433
Days open during the year	304

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Library Conferences

An Institute for Public Libraries, held in the Illini Union building in Urbana, August 5-7, was attended by four members of the staff. The theme of the meeting was "Libraries and the war".

The same theme was used at the ^{annual} meeting of the Illinois Library Association, held in Chicago, October 21-25. The librarian attended this meeting together with Miss Allin, librarian of James Millikin University. The various programs were excellent with many University of Chicago professors taking part. Our Mrs. Garman presided at the Trustees section.

A regional institute for Post-war planning held in St. Louis, April 6-7, was attended by Miss Oakes. It was stressed that libraries and adult education agencies should promote reading, study and discussion on post-war planning.

Personnel

There have been many changes in the personnel during the year. Three resignations were followed by marriages to men in service: Mary Leek to Ronald E. Lyons, August 11, Kathryn Green to Paul S. Wise, January 19, and Mary Ellen Shulke to Thomas E. Campbell, February 3.

The library was fortunate in securing some former staff members who filled these vacancies. Mrs. Vera White Schoby has been acting children's librarian, Mrs. Eleanor Scranton Mann, assistant at the loan desk, and Miss Ruth Crum, evening supply. Miss Helen Friedrich came on as an apprentice in December. Robert Garvin resigned as page in the adult department and James Ehman took his place.

At Evans branch library, A. E. Weiss, after years of service as janitor, resigned because of illness. Ernest Cowgill who had substituted for Mr. Weiss, took over the work in June, but died suddenly, September 1. J. E. Prosser was appointed to fill his place.

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It is a pleasure to commend my staff for efficient and loyal service, and for their hearty response to the new demands of each day. A friendly teacher remarked recently that he told his class to follow the example of the library assistants in the service of meeting the public.

The library appreciates the space given in the Herald and Review for timely stories, news notes, and lists of new books.

To the Library Board my sincere appreciation is here expressed for the interest and fine cooperation shown in all library affairs, and especially for the great honor paid me in arranging the dinner of November 13, marking my fifty years of service with the library.

April 30, 1943 - Respectfully submitted,

Minnie A. Dill

Librarian.

Lib. 2/11

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Contents of Library

Accessions According to Classification

May 1, 1942 - books on hand	- - - - -	78,146
Additions:		
Purchase (new)	- - - - -	2289
Purchase (replacements)	- - - - -	553
Donation	- - - - -	201
Bindery	- - - - -	214
Books found- previously missing	- - - - -	23
Total added	- - - - -	3280
Losses:		
Worn out and withdrawn (including those missing in inventory)	- - - - -	2708
Lost and paid for	- - - - -	19
Lost and not paid for	- - - - -	29
Total loss	- - - - -	2756
April 30, 1943 - books on hand	- - - - -	78,670

Accessions by Departments

Main library				
Adult dept:				
Circulating	39585	1587	809	40363
Reference	3828	90	43	3873
Sound. period.	9101	193	2	9291
Public docs.	3861	20	3	3888
Child. dept.	8836	562	807	9291
Evans branch				
Adult dept.	3899	133	321	3713
Child. dept.	3406	318	340	3284
East End branch				
Adult dept.	919	0	8	911
Child. dept.	1432	0	0	1432
School coll.	3491	427	1074	2844
Total	78146	3331	2807	78670
Rent collection-	197			

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	Main lib. Adult	Child	branch	Schools	Stations	Total	Per cent
General works	6318					6318	11.11
Philosophy	1116					1116	1.94
Religion	2115					2115	3.86
Sociology	9256					9256	16.32
Language	266					266	0.47
Science	3822					3822	6.74
Useful arts	6673					6673	12.00
Fine arts	4447					4447	8.00
Literature	7936					7936	14.32
History	5435					5435	9.82
Travel	4638					4638	8.44
Biography	5182					5182	9.44
Fiction	20629					20629	376.11
Foreign books	313					313	0.56
Total	78146					78146	141.11

Accessions According to Classification

	No. vols. in Lib'y May 1, 1942	Additions (new replaced found and transferred)	Withdrawals (worn out transferred and missing)	No. vols. in Lib'y April 30, 1943
General works	6318	125	41	6402
Philosophy	1116	35	20	1131
Religion	2115	57	26	2146
Sociology	9256	403	216	9443
Language	266	4	6	264
Science	3822	112	186	3748
Useful arts	6673	331	156	6848
Fine arts	4447	123	72	4498
Literature	7936	149	141	7944
History	5435	217	157	5495
Travel	4638	149	195	4592
Biography	5182	166	110	5238
Fiction	20629	1419	1436	20612
Foreign books	313	2	6	309
Total	78146	3292	2768	78670

Accessions by Departments

Main library					
Adult dept:					
Circulating	39585	1587	809	40363	
Reference	3626	90	43	3673	
Bound. period.	9101	192	2	9291	
Public docs.	3851	20	3	3868	
Child. dept.	8836	662	207	9291	
Evans branch					
Adult dept.	3899	135	321	3713	
Child. dept.	3406	218	340	3284	
East End branch					
Adult dept.	919	0	8	911	
Child. dept.	1432	0	0	1432	
School coll.	3491	427	1074	2844	
Total	78146	3331	2807	78670	

	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Total
Rent collection-					197
Books in force May 1, 1942	12936	3660	739	860	18195
Borrowers registered	2651	887	136	206	4074
Borrowers cards cancelled	3062	577	194	250	4473
Books in force April 30, 1943	12727	3263	891	810	17791
Serial borrowers-	202				
Books purchased by out-of-town students, for summer use-					44

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Circulation by Classes

	Main lib.		Evans branch	Schools	Stations	Total	Per cent
	Adult	Child					
General works	206	8	11	0	0	225	.11
Philosophy	1873	23	19	0	0	1915	.94
Religion	1295	213	73	415	4	2000	.98
Sociology	4355	664	238	889	11	6157	3.02
Fairy tales	0	1808	444	1770	32	4054	1.98
Language	135	1	5	0	0	141	.07
Science	2326	1016	432	943	15	4732	2.32
Useful arts	7161	1508	664	1007	0	10340	5.07
Fine arts	4914	651	358	380	2	6305	3.09
Literature	5732	1212	607	1432	40	9023	4.42
History	4596	729	401	1218	1	6945	3.41
Travel	3976	1148	653	1277	12	7066	3.46
Biography	4472	711	483	778	17	6461	3.17
Fiction	68006	24093	17285	17252	267	126903	62.22
Magazines	3387	483	3153	0	0	7023	3.44
Foreign books	195	0	0	0	0	195	.10
Rent coll.	4479	0	0	0	0	4479	2.20
Total	117108	34268	24826	27361	401	203964	

Circulation by Months

May	9960	2244	2169	2821	0	17194
June	9766	3451	1831	0	0	15048
July	9824	2993	1655	0	182	14654
August	9581	2528	1330	0	178	13617
September	9676	2463	1925	0	0	14064
October	10469	2869	2471	4067	0	19876
November	9840	3410	2464	3999	0	19713
December	8586	2223	1877	2347	0	15033
January	10623	3142	2305	4260	41	20371
February	9200	2989	2231	2837	0	17257
March	10505	3177	2517	4051	0	20250
April	9078	2779	2051	2979	0	16887
Total	117108	34268	24826	27361	401	203964

	Main library	Evans branch
Number of days open	304	299
Average daily circulation	498	83
Largest daily circulation	967	202
Smallest daily circulation	258	25
Periodicals currently received	405	9

Registration

	Main lib.		Evans br.		Total
	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	
Cards in force May 1, 1942	12938	3660	739	860	18197
Borrowers registered	2851	882	136	205	4074
Borrowers cards cancelled	3062	977	184	250	4473
Cards in force April 30, 1943	12727	3565	691	815	17798

Rural borrowers- 202
Cards purchased by out-of-town students, for summer use- 44

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1942 - 1943
Appendix

To the Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the following report of the financial condition of the Public Library for the year ending April 30, 1943.

Balance on hand May 1, 1942		\$	4,760.65
RECEIPTS			
From appropriation			\$38,686.83
" fines, damaged and lost books			1,650.98
" non-resident fees			214.50
" rent collection			223.95
" other sources			59.50
	Total		2148.93 \$40,835.76
DISBURSEMENTS			
For salaries: library staff (includes Victory tax- \$151.88)			\$22,221.45
" salaries: building staff (includes Victory tax- \$ 12.15)			2,835.95
" books			6,380.71
" periodicals			672.60
" binding			1,162.49
" supplies			994.06
" repairs			1,180.91
" light			57.46
" heat			1,101.81
" furniture			394.82
" telephone			183.00
" postage, drayage, etc			54.09
" insurance			309.92
" miscellaneous			414.53
" special building account			1,269.60
	Total		\$39,233.40
Balance on hand May 1, 1943			\$ 6,363.01

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1942 - 1943
Appendix

I, Minnie A. Hill, secretary of the Board of
Directors of the Decatur Public Library of Decatur, Illinois,
do hereby certify that the foregoing statement of the con-
dition and statistics of the library is true to the best of
my knowledge and belief.

Special Building Account

May 1, 1942	Amount on hand		\$ 16.13
Apr. 30	Transfer from general library account	\$1,269.60	
	Total		\$1,285.73
May 1	War bonds purchased	\$1,258.00	
May 1, 1943	Amount on hand		\$ 27.73

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of May, 1943.

Special Bequests

Caroline S. Loeb Fund (no interest during 1942-43)		\$ 601.86
--	--	-----------

Notary Public.

1931.45

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1942 - 1943

I, Minnie A. Dill, secretary of the Board of Directors of the Decatur Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of the library is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Miscellaneous- Fines, etc	3,700.00
Total	\$43,200.00

SUBJECT

Secretary, Board of Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of May, 1943.

Salaries: library staff	\$24,120.00
Salaries: building staff	3,100.00
Periodicals	800.00
Printing	50.00
Binding	1,700.00
Supplies	1,200.00
Repairs	1,200.00
Light	80.00
Heat	1,300.00
Furniture	400.00
Telephone	200.00
Postage, drayage, etc	75.00
Insurance	375.00
Miscellaneous	400.00
Total	\$43,200.00

Notary Public.

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Anticipated Income
1943 - 1944

Tax levy		\$39,500.00
Miscellaneous-	Fines, etc	3,700.00
	Total	\$43,200.00

DECATUR BUDGET LIBRARY

Salaries: library staff		\$24,120.00
Salaries: building staff		3,100.00
Books		7,500.00
Periodicals		800.00
Printing		50.00
Binding		1,700.00
Supplies		1,200.00
Repairs		1,900.00
Light		80.00
Heat		1,300.00
Furniture		400.00
Telephone		200.00
Postage, drayage, etc		75.00
Insurance		375.00
Miscellaneous		400.00
	Total	\$43,200.00

Sub. 10

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Sixty-ninth Annual Report
1943 - 1944

To the Mayor and Commissioners of
the City of Decatur, Illinois

The Board of Trustees of the Decatur Public Library takes great pleasure in submitting to your honorable body the inclosed detailed annual report of Miss Mianie A. Hill, librarian. This report covers the activities of the library so completely that we, on our part, have nothing further to add.

May we express our deep appreciation to the honorable Council for the kind and sympathetic interest shown in the welfare of the library during the past fiscal year. We feel that we are standing on the threshold of a prosperous year in respect to our library finances. Favorable action on the part of the City Council on our recent petition will mean so much to the future welfare of the Decatur Public Library, for we are confident that the public will not let us down at the polls.

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
1943 - 1944

May the present Council enjoy a successful administration in the future as in the past year and thus prove a great blessing to our beloved city.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund Smith
President.

Lucile L. Evans
Ed. P. Hanson

Silv.

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Sixty-ninth Annual Report
1943 - 1944

To the Mayor and Commissioners of
the City of Decatur, Illinois

The Board of Trustees of the Decatur Public Library takes great pleasure in submitting to your honorable body the inclosed detailed annual report of Miss Minnie A. Dill, librarian. This report covers the activities of the library so completely that we, on our part, have nothing further to add.

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May the present Council enjoy a successful administration in the future as in the past year and thus prove a great blessing to our beloved city.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund Knuth
President.

Lucile L. Evans
PA Ambrose

Library

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

To the Board of Directors
Decatur Public Library

Herewith is submitted the sixty-ninth annual report of the Library for the year ending April 30, 1944.

After many years of hoping and planning for an increase in the appropriation to permit the library to give better and wider service to all residents of the City, we have now advanced to the stage of requesting the City Council to permit a special election, backed with petitions containing over 3,000 signatures of towns-people. The whole-hearted support of the Parent-Teacher Association, of men's and women's clubs and other organizations, of individuals who canvassed their neighborhoods and friends, and of patrons who signed at the library, is much appreciated. The City Council is considering the proposal and a favorable decision is expected soon. The question to be voted on at a special election would increase the library tax rate from one and two-tenths mills to a maximum of two mills on the dollar.

Building and Grounds

The fact that the present building has been in use since 1903 should remind everyone that owing to its age repairs and improvements must be made during every year to keep it in good condition and attractive. Last year the entire main floor and stackroom was redecorated and other repairs made. The coming year extensive repairs must be made on the roof, walls must be cleaned and other inside work done, and the grounds given more attention.

The addition to the stackroom in 1934 was partially equipped with steel stacks on two floors and the balcony with the expectation that this would allow for growth for ten years. With the normal acquisition of books, and the annual binding of periodicals, which are bulky and require much space, the time is not far distant when more

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

stacks will be needed here, and also for the bound volumes of the Decatur Herald and Review which are shelved in the historical room in the basement. Before many years there will be a problem as to where another newspaper stack can be placed, as space is limited. The library should ^{soon} be considering the need of micro-filming the newspapers, as a space-saver. Many old files of newspapers need special treatment for preservation.

Contents and Accessions

The library now contains 80,954 volumes in the whole system. 7,191 of these are in the Evans branch and 3,257 in the School collection. The children's room in the Main library has 9,509 books.

Purchased during the year were 2,591 new titles and 597 replacements, at a cost of \$6,000.82. An effort was made to keep up with important new publications which are in demand, not forgetting the necessary standard books in many classes, and reference sets. As reported last year, outstanding publications about the war and related subjects are obtained as soon as possible as the demand for them is steady, especially personal narratives. Description and histories of the countries involved, biographies, post-war planning, as well as practical books on business, home-making, education, religion, literature and art were added. Many juvenile books were purchased for the children's room, the Evans Branch and the School collection.

Book orders were somewhat delayed as the wholesalers report they cannot get enough copies of popular books from the publishers, who in turn are limited under war conditions by shortage of paper, book cloth and other supplies, and both of these concerns, like everyone else, are handicapped by a reduced and inexperienced working force.

Reading Room

The number of periodicals and newspapers currently received was 410. Most of these are on file in the reading room; some belong in

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

departments,- reference, catalog, children's room or office, and sixteen are on file in the Evans Branch library. Quite a number of magazines are gifts of groups or individuals- among them are Revista Rotoria, official publication of Rotary International in Spanish; Catholic Digest; Negro Digest; Reader's Digest- Braille edition. Governments of the United Nations send many serial publications which are filed in a special section. Some of these are Australia, Britain Today, Canada at War, News of China, Voice of Korea, Netherlands News Digest, News from Sweden, Soviet Russia Today.

The bulletin boards in this room have a succession of large war posters and maps. An important display is "Our Democracy" which consists of 16 charts. These are so large that only three can be posted at one time. Teachers find them useful.

Circulation Department

The war continues to play havoc with our circulation, but we continue to be just as busy as ever; partly because there are fewer of us, and partly because people are using the library in many ways that do not result in books being charged. For instance, we spend much time trying to help people locate the places mentioned in soldiers' letters. Sometimes we succeed, sometimes not, but the maps and atlases get a good workout and so do we. One boy wrote that he was "where there are more cocoanuts than men", and his family was disappointed when we could not decide which dot on the map that would indicate. And, much as we would like to, we cannot point out "Sans Origine". Now that transportation is limited, we do more business over the telephone, and that works against circulation, for seeing books makes people want them, and we do not have television yet.

The call for technical books has lessened on the whole, though in the last month we have had a sudden strong demand for a certain few books recommended by the Navy Examination Board. Personal narratives of the war are still very popular, and there is some interest in discussions

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

of peace aims and post-war planning. One very dead issue, so far as our books and pamphlets are concerned, is civilian defense. We are glad to have it so of course, yet it seems a pity for so much good material to be unused. Practical books on gardening, rabbit keeping, etc. are always asked for in the spring, and the young boys hover around the books on the army, navy and marines.

The most steadily popular non-fiction book of the year has been "Under Cover", by Derounian. It is a somewhat sensational exposé of un-American activities in high places. Wendell Willkie's "One World" had a great run at the first of the year, and just as great a drop after a couple of months. In contrast to this the book which takes third place, "Burma Surgeon", by Seagrave, has never had many reserves at one time, but nearly always two or three. "Goodnight, Sweet Prince", Fowler's life of John Barrymore, has not been on the shelves so long as the others, but has a long waiting list.

None of these books, however, can compare in popularity with the outstanding fiction book, which is "The Robe", by Lloyd Douglas. This book was second on our list in last year's report, having been published only about six months at that time. Fifty-eight reserves have been put in for it, and during this year there have been 145 more, a record that has not been equalled even by "Gone with the Wind". Next to it comes "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn", by Betty Smith, with 77 reserves. Following are "So Little Time", by Marquand, "In Bed We Cry", by Ilka Chase, and Davenport's "Valley of Decision". "The Apostle", story of St. Paul by Shalom Asch, has not been published long but is steadily gaining popularity. It will be interesting to watch how it compares with "The Robe" as time goes on.

Displays have been kept up as usual, and have been commented upon perhaps more than usual. One especially enjoyed was England, which included cut-outs of Shakespeare's birthplace, Anne Hathaway's cottage, and Stratford-on-Avon church. For Christmas we had pictures by Loren Ford, the Gospel story as it might have been in a New England setting.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

For China Book Weeks we had real Chinese war posters, and made a list of books on China for the newspapers. Other displays were: Forests and Forest Products, the Four Freedoms, paintings by modern American artists, and a particularly beautiful garden display.

Our visitors this year have been mostly Girl Scouts, except that one teacher from Harristown brought her entire class of boys and girls. Since many people are unable to come to the library as often as they used to, we began on December first to allow them to take more fiction at a time than heretofore. Also a number of the older books were made four weeks instead of seven days. Both these changes have been greatly appreciated by our patrons. And over and over again they remark "I don't see how I could stand this war without the library".

Reference Department

Among the important additions to this department were:

Adams-	Atlas of American History
Craigie & Hulbert-	Dictionary of American English on Historical Principles. 4v.
Greet-	War Words: Recommended Pronunciations
Independent Schools;	Directory of American Private Schools
Jane's All the World's	Aircraft
Stephenson-	Abbrevs; a Dictionary of Abbreviations
Vodarsky-Shiraeff-	Russian Composers and Musicians
Who's Who in American	Portrait Photography

The library cooperated as usual with the University of Illinois in its Extension courses in Education by making available the loan collection sent for the use of teachers here and in nearby towns. Subjects for club members were looked up. Books were reserved for the Art Class on Ceramics; the Study Class on Russia; and for Recreation leaders on Cowboys and the West. Questions pertaining to the war and related subjects for which answers were found:

- Bill to defer fathers from the draft
- Military occupation
- Soldiers mustering out bill
- Map of islands in the Pacific
- Japanese Americans
- Teheran Conference
- Nutrition and U.N.R.R.A.
- Blood plasma- when first used?
- Tests for army induction
- History of the service flag

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

Story of penicillon
Peace and post-war planning
Location of "crossroads of the world"; of army camps in New York state; of Camp Polk; of Mendosa island
Translation of a letter in Spanish from a soldier

Many and various were the other reference problems which were solved:

Words to the national song of China
Negro industries
Who is now ambassador to China
What is basic English
Building outdoor fireplaces
Rating of colleges
Citizenship questions
Writing business letters
Best encyclopedias to buy
Program suggestions on South America
Books for refresher in bookkeeping and arithmetic
Quantity cooking for a school cafeteria
Who were candidates in presidential elections of 1860 and 1864
Control of termites

Children's Department

There are now 9,509 volumes in the children's room, and the circulation was 34,870,- an increase of 602 over last year.

The room is kept attractive with posters, groups of books on the display rack and tables, and exhibits in the showcase, which are changed each month. Exhibits receiving special attention were Airplanes and Trains; Valentines; Mexico, China, and an English village scene.

New books for children were selected from authoritative sources and from reviews by experts in the field of juvenile literature. Sometimes a boy or girl suggests a book to add. There ~~are~~^{were} many requests for Elting- "Soldiers, sailors, fliers and marines".

Each year the highlight in the children's room is Book Week which always comes in November- this year from the 14th to the 20th. This is a national festival of books and the theme was "Build the future with books". The center attraction in the children's room was a huge round clock six feet in diameter with hands pointing at eight o'clock, and hand-painted figures of well-known characters in children's books stationed at the twelve hours. Under the clock a huge sign said "Time to read". One hundred new books were displayed and other exhibits

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

added to the attractions of the room, which was visited by school-room groups and many others. Pictures were taken of the children grouped around the clock and the newspapers carried a story with the picture.

Lists for summer reading for grades 1 to 6 were compiled and distributed to all elementary and parochial schools in May. Many of the children eagerly followed the suggestions and read most of the books.

The children's librarian gave a talk before the Roach school P-T.A. on the subject "Good books shape a child's character". She displayed books in nice editions and distributed lists of recent books which had been especially compiled for the talk.

Catalog Department

The Catalog department suffered a great loss in the resignation of Miss Charlotte Oakes, who had given such valuable and efficient service in this department for several years. Miss Mabel Kowalsky has given some very helpful assistance during the last four months of the year, but more help is greatly needed.

The year's work has included not only the cataloging of the more than 3,000 new volumes added, but the recataloging of replacements, and the removal from the files of various cards for books which have been withdrawn, and will not be replaced.

The growth of the library has made necessary the gradual expansion of all files of catalog cards and other records. New cases have been ordered for the shelf-list, which has been in need of more space for some time.

The statistical record of catalog cards is as follows:

	L.C.cards	Typed cards
Main library	5182	1963
Children's dept.		1237
Evans branch	612	521
School collection		50
Rental collection		129
Total no. new cards	9694	
Total no. cards revised	2505	
Grand total	12199	

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

Extension Department

The Evans Branch library now contains 7,191 volumes,- 3,766 for adults and 3,425 for children. There was a circulation of 21,343 among the 1,408 borrowers. Twelve rooms from the Durfee school visited the library during the year, and twenty-seven story hours were held, with the largest attendance being 46 and the smallest 12. Many patrons come in to read the magazines and use reference books. The picture and pamphlet files have had many additions and are used by the teachers.

The School collection now contains 3,257 books. Last year it was completely revised and 544 new books added. The total circulation through the fourteen elementary public and parochial schools was 37,382, and increase of 10,021. Roach and St. James schools were sent collections for the first time.

Through the stations there was a circulation of 433. Staley's had one collection of books during the year. In the summer, Camp Kiwanis had a collection.

Wartime Activities

The library continues to receive packets from the Office of War Information which consists of pamphlets, posters, maps, etc. These and other federal and state publications, together with many non-government publications about the War and Post-war are filed with similar material in the rear of the main floor stack room. Some are listed in an index kept at the loan desk; others are placed in the pamphlet file alphabetically under subject.

Posters filled the bulletin boards all over the library. A most effective display was "The Unconquerables", a series of pictures with poems by Joseph Auslander, relating to Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Norway and Poland.

There was an exhibition of reprints of September magazine covers showing "Women in necessary civilian jobs". The exhibit was

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

planned by the O.W.I. which furnished the fifty or more covers that were supplied by magazine publishers to librarians agreeing to exhibit them. This was held from Labor Day through the month and during the time the newspapers carried a story with a picture.

As Illinois is continuing the Victory Book Campaign this year we agreed to participate by placing a few posters, furnished by the State Library, over town, and to distribute bookmarks asking for books for a "fighting man". No special drive is being made, but a few hundred books have gradually accumulated at the library. These will be sent to Springfield for distribution to camps and hospitals in this country, as special "Armed Service editions" are being sent abroad by the millions through an arrangement between American book publishers and the Army and Navy.

The library, on request of the Office of Price Administration, has a set of Food Price lists for consultation, and distributes bookmarks furnished by that Office with suggestions as to how to make wartime price control work in the community.

The library employees contributed 100 per cent to the Red Cross and to the United War Fund, and purchased war bonds.

Brief Records

Total no. vols. in library	80,954
No. registered borrowers	16,614
No. books loaned	194,578
Volumes sent to bindery	885
Books mended in library	8,963
Periodicals currently received	410
Overdue notices sent	5,530
Reserve postals sent	1,710
Pictures loaned	9,437
Non-resident cards purchased	265
Cards added to catalog	12,199
Books used in building	6,451
Telephone calls	5,560
Days open during year	304

Meetings and Book Talks

An Institute and Clinic for Public and School Libraries held in Urbana in July was attended by Miss Mabel Kowalsky. In March she

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

talked to a Girl Scout group at the Y.W.C.A, on the Newbery and Caldecott awards made each year for important children's books, and had samples of these and other nice editions on display.

Miss Ruth Pollock gave a talk on "Building through books" before the Pugh school P-T.A., during Book Week. Mrs. Vera Schoby talked at the Roach P-T.A. meeting and distributed lists.

The quarterly meetings of the Macon County Historical Society were held in the children's room, as usual. Mr. William E. Baringer, Executive Secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association, was the speaker at the December meeting.

Longview Library

Books that had been in some of the W.P.A. libraries in this area were turned over to the community center in Longview place by the Illinois State Library, with the request that the Decatur Public Library give some supervision. Members of the library staff assisted in arranging the books and gave some instruction to volunteers at that place and have visited it a few times and received several reports of the circulation there. It is not a part of the public library so the statistics are not included. The library is open Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7 - 8 o'clock.

Personnel

There were two changes on the staff during the year. Miss Charlotte Oakes, assistant cataloger, resigned in December and went to Redlands, California, where she took the position as head cataloger at the University of Redlands, January 1. She had been with our library for eight years, - three as general assistant in the circulation department and, after her year at the University of Michigan School of Library Science, for five years as assistant cataloger where she was very efficient. Her place has not been filled as it is difficult to obtain catalogers from any library school.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

The last of March Miss Marjorie L. Grow resigned and was inducted in the Waves and is now at Hunter college taking the prescribed course. Miss Grow had been in the library for three years as general assistant in the circulation department. She began as an apprentice, after giving some time in the library through the N.Y.A., and proved to be a capable assistant. Her place has not ^{yet} been filled. To help out in the emergency two former staff members, - Mrs. Mildred J. Cooper and Miss Ruth Crum are supplying certain days and evenings.

Barbara Moody who was a page in the children's room came on full time during the summer. New pages at the Main library were Alice Keyl and Martin Fitzpatrick, and Mildred Pryde at the Evans branch. Eleanor Kwasny helped mend school collection books during the summer. There were many changes in the janitorial force, - George Paire resigned and was followed by George Rogers who was succeeded by August Lischewski, Sr. The library's problem of securing and retaining necessary employees is similar to that of all other places.

Friends of the Library

To Mrs. Reuben Judge, president of the City Council of the Parent-Teacher Association, and her organization, special thanks are expressed for their interest and activity in furthering the library's important project of requesting a special election to vote on the increased tax rate from one and two-tenths to two mills. Of the 3,200 signers on the petitions presented to the Mayor, 1,398 names were obtained by P-T.A. workers.

Sincere appreciation goes to our many friends, to groups and organizations for their interest and encouragement in the present solicitation for signatures on the petitions.

To the Herald, Review, and Decatur Advertiser we express our thanks for the many good library stories through the year and for the insertion of lists of new books, but especially for the publicity regarding a special election for an increased tax rate.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944

Staff

To the loyal staff that "stays with the ship" in spite of swollen salaries in war plants and elsewhere, and continues to give better and better service even though their number grows smaller and smaller, too much praise cannot be given. Our patrons seem pleased with the service which is only limited because of numbers. It is found difficult to fill both minor and important positions under present war conditions with the library's present appropriation.

Library Board

To the Library Board my sincere appreciation is expressed for your wonderful cooperation in our immediate project of getting more revenue, and for time and interest given in all current affairs of the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Minnie A. Dill

Librarian.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944
Appendix

Contents of Library

Accessions According to Classification

May 1, 1943 - Books on hand	- - - - -	78,670	15, in
Additions:			Lib'y April 30, 1944
Purchase (new)	- - - - -	2591	
Purchase (replacements)	- - - - -	597	
Donation	- - - - -	353	6434
Bindery	- - - - -	209	1155
Books found- previously missing	- - - - -	23	2809
			9672
			278
			3839
			7042
			4860
			8040
			5796
			4020
			8348
			21451
			513
Total added	- - - - -	3773	
Losses:			
Worn out and withdrawn	- - - - -	1381	
Lost and paid for	- - - - -	58 60	4020
Lost and not paid for	- - - - -	58 48	8348
			21451
			513
Total loss	- - - - -	1489	
April 30, 1944- books on hand	- - - - -	80,954	30984

Accessions by Departments

in library				
Adult dept:				
Circulating	40363	1746	635	41574
Reference	3673	153	158	3884
Bound period.	9291	198	0	9479
Public docs.	3868	53	1	3920
Child dept.	5291	448	230	5969
Pres. branch:				
Adult dept.	3713	146	95	3754
Child dept.	3284	307	165	3425
Pres. branch:				
Adult dept.	511	0	7	504
Child dept.	1432	0	0	1432
Pres. coll.	2844	769	368	3257
Total	78670	3812	1628	80954
Pres. collection-	138			

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944
Appendix

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944
Appendix

	Main Lib. Adult	Main Lib. Child	Evans branch	Schools	Stations	Total	Per cent
General works	199	11	1	0	0	211	.21
Philosophy	1581	16	86	0	0	1725	.88
Religion	1283	207	52	943	0	2490	1.28
Sociology	3748	0	0	0	0	3748	2.77
Language	0	1024	0	0	0	1024	2.33
Science	3482	0	0	0	0	3482	2.57
Useful arts	6848	0	0	0	0	6848	5.08
Fine arts	4498	0	0	0	0	4498	4.23
Literature	7944	0	0	0	0	7944	4.81
History	5495	0	0	0	0	5495	4.11
Travel	4592	0	0	0	0	4592	3.41
Biography	5238	0	0	0	0	5238	3.91
Fiction	20612	0	0	0	0	20612	15.44
Foreign books	309	0	0	0	0	309	0.23
Total	78670	0	3776	0	1492	80954	

Accessions According to Classification

	No. vols. in Lib'y May 1, 1943	Additions (new replaced found and transferred)	Withdrawals (worn out transferred and missing)	No. vols. in Lib'y April 30, 1944
General works	6402	126	94	6434
Philosophy	1131	41	17	1155
Religion	2146	89	26	2209
Sociology	9443	379	150	9672
Language	264	14	2	276
Science	3748	137	46	3839
Useful arts	6848	277	83	7042
Fine arts	4498	93	31	4560
Literature	7944	192	96	8040
History	5495	392	92	5795
Travel	4592	286	58	4820
Biography	5238	165	55	5348
Fiction	20612	1579	740	21451
Foreign books	309	6	2	313
Total	78670	3776	1492	80954

Accessions by Departments

Main library					
Adult dept:					
Circulating	40363	1746	535	41574	
Reference	3673	153	138	3688	
Bound period.	9291	188	0	9479	
Public docs.	3868	53	1	3920	
Child dept.	9291	448	230	9509	
Evans branch:					
Adult dept.	3713	148	95	3766	
Child dept.	3284	307	166	3425	
E. End branch:					
Adult dept.	911	0	7	904	
Child dept.	1432	0	0	1432	
School coll.	2844	769	356	3257	
Total	78670	3812	1528	80954	

	Main Lib. Adult	Main Lib. Child	Evans branch Adult	Evans branch Child	Total
Cards in force May 1, 1943	12787	3546	481	816	17790
Borrowers registered	2247	521	124	204	3096
Borrowers cards cancelled	3378	577	186	240	4781
Cards in force April 30, 1944	11696	2877	329	793	15695

Lib.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1943 - 1944
Appendix

Circulation by Classes

	Main Lib.		Evans branch	Schools	Stations	Total	Per cent
	Adult	Child					
General works	199	11	1	0	0	211	.11
Philosophy	1681	16	28	0	0	1725	.88
Religion	1285	207	52	946	0	2490	1.28
Sociology	3749	557	227	867	0	5400	2.77
Fairy tales	0	1624	481	2429	0	4534	2.33
Language	131	4	5	0	0	140	.07
Science	1824	926	425	1785	19	4979	2.56
Useful arts	5320	1498	523	1124	3	8468	4.35
Fine arts	3857	695	303	287	10	5152	2.65
Literature	4767	911	551	1997	1	8227	4.23
History	5444	860	521	2137	2	8964	4.61
Travel	3682	1477	503	2580	4	8246	4.24
Biography	4050	732	318	1360	18	6478	3.33
Fiction	58066	24776	15068	21870	376	120156	61.75
Magazines	2783	576	2337	0	0	5696	2.93
Foreign books	231	0	0	0	0	231	.12
Rent coll.	3481	0	0	0	0	3481	1.79
Total	100550	34870	21343	37382	433	194578	

Circulation by Months

May	8468	2647	1816	2994	0	15925
June	7608	3171	1456	0	100	12335
July	7556	2590	1115	0	333	11594
August	7269	2624	1097	0	0	10990
September	7945	2831	1745	0	0	12521
October	8573	2929	1860	4030	0	17392
November	8211	3824	2175	5842	0	20052
December	7730	2254	1648	3460	0	15092
January	9403	3216	2142	4988	0	19749
February	8629	2713	2039	5325	0	18709
March	10141	3254	2203	6072	0	21670
April	9017	2817	2047	4671	0	18552
Total	100550	34870	21343	37382	433	194578

	Main Library	Evans branch
Number of days open	304	304
Average daily circulation	445	70
Largest daily circulation	875	155
Smallest daily circulation	215	17
Periodicals currently received	410	16

Registration

	Main Lib.		Evans branch		Total
	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	
Cards in force May 1, 1943	12727	3565	691	815	17798
Borrowers registered	2345	921	124	204	3594
Borrowers cards cancelled	3373	979	186	240	4778
Cards in force April 30, 1944	11699	3507	629	779	16614

Rural borrowers 235
Cards purchased by out-of-town students for summer use 30

Lib. exp.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1943 - 1944

Appendix

To the Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the following report of the financial condition of the Public Library for the year ending April 30, 1944.

Balance on hand May 1, 1943 *war bonds purchased to date* \$ 6,363.01

RECEIPTS

From appropriation	\$39,893.11
" fines, damaged and lost books	1,853.62
" non-resident cards	242.50
" rent collection	174.05
" other sources	108.17
Total	2378.34 \$42,271.45

DISBURSEMENTS

For salaries: library staff	\$21,839.75
" salaries: building staff	2,979.05
" books	6,000.82
" periodicals	691.10
" printing	30.02
" binding	1,018.37
" supplies	826.94
" repairs	1,028.77
" light	75.48
" heat	1,046.05
" furniture	84.77
" telephone	183.00
" postage, drayage, express	39.08
" insurance	395.69
" miscellaneous	236.06
Total	\$36,474.95

Balance on hand May 1, 1944 \$12,159.51

Subcopy

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1943 - 1944
Appendix

I, Minnie A. Dill, secretary of the Board of
Directors of the Decatur Public Library of Decatur, Illinois,

do hereby certify the **Special Building Account** of the con-
dition and statistics of the library is true to the best of
my knowledge and belief.

May 1, 1944	Total war bonds purchased to date	\$8,288.00
	Balance on hand	27.73

Special Bequests

Caroline S. Loeb Fund (no interest during 1943-44) \$601.86

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of May, 891759

Notary Public.

Mayor

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1943 - 1944

I, Minnie A. Dill, secretary of the Board of Directors of the Decatur Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of the library is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Total \$40,500.00

BUDGET

Salaries: library staff	Secretary, Board of Directors.	\$24,250.00
Salaries: building staff		7,500.00
Books		500.00
Periodicals		1,500.00
Binding		1,200.00
Supplies		1,850.00
Repairs		100.00
Light		1,350.00
Heat	Notary Public.	500.00
Furniture		200.00
Telephones		75.00
Postage, drayage, express		425.00
Insurance		400.00
Miscellaneous		
Total		\$43,500.00

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of May, 1944.

Major

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Seventeenth Annual Report
1944 - 1945

To the Mayor and Commissioners
of the City of Decatur, Ill.

Anticipated Income
1944-1955

Tax levy	\$39,500.00
Miscellaneous,- Fines, etc.	4,000.00
Total	\$40,500.00

In a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Decatur Public Library, held on the 15th day of May, 1945, the librarian, submitted her first annual report. Having been approved by action added this report to the files of the library, the Board takes great pleasure in submitting to the honorable City Council a copy of said report.

BUDGET

Salaries: library staff	\$24,220.00
Salaries: building staff	3,300.00
Books	7,500.00
Periodicals	800.00
Printing	50.00
Binding	1,500.00
Supplies	1,200.00
Repairs	1,850.00
Light	100.00
Heat	1,380.00
Furniture	500.00
Telephone	200.00
Postage, drayage, express	75.00
Insurance	425.00
Miscellaneous	400.00
Total	\$43,500.00

The Board wishes to thank the members of the Council for the support given the library by permitting a referendum on the question of increasing the tax levy for library purposes. The present Board feels that librarians, the staff and trustees in years to come will often, in sincere gratitude refer to that event and to those who were instrumental in bringing it to pass.

The present condition of the library, its needs, its activities as well as its financial standing are covered in the accompanying librarian's report.

May the council enjoy a successful administration and continue to be a blessing to our beloved city.

Respectfully submitted

President.

S.W.

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Seventieth Annual Report
1944 - 1945

To the Mayor and Commissioners
of the City of Decatur, Illinois

In a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Decatur Public Library this the 14th day of May, Miss Mabel Wayne, librarian, submitted her first annual report. Having received and by motion added this report to the files of the library, the Board takes great pleasure in submitting to the honorable City Council a copy of said report.

During the past year, after many years of faithful and efficient service, Miss Minnie A. Dill has resigned as librarian. In her place your Board has appointed Miss Mabel A. Wayne. Miss Wayne having served under Miss Dill as assistant librarian is well qualified for her new position and deserving of it.

The Board wishes to thank the members of the City Council for the splendid support given the library by permitting a referendum on the question of increasing the tax levy for library purposes. The present Board feels that librarians, the staff and trustees in years to come will often, in sincere gratitude refer to that event and to those who were instrumental in bringing it to pass.

The present condition of the library, its needs, its activities as well as its financial standing are covered in the accompanying librarian's report.

May the council enjoy a successful administration and continue to be a blessing to our beloved city.

As the city grew the library service expanded. The Evans branch was erected. Respectfully submitted in outlying

schools which were too far distant to be served by the Main library, other collections were placed in several large industrial

the hospital, and several stations were opened in various parts of the city. Another branch was opened in the east end of Decatur.

But during the depression of the early 1930's sufficient funds were

S.W.

Lib 45

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

To the Board of Directors
Decatur Public Library

Herewith is submitted the seventieth annual report of the Library for the year ending April 30, 1945.

Two very important events mark this year,- the resignation of Miss Minnie A. Dill as librarian, and the special election to increase the library tax rate.

The satisfactory result of this election is a fitting close to Miss Dill's long, successful library career of fifty-two years, nineteen of them as librarian. Miss Dill came to the library as an assistant in 1892 and several years later was granted a year's leave of absence to attend the Library School at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Upon her return to Decatur she immediately began her work of recataloging and reorganizing the entire library system. Mrs Alice G. Evans, the librarian, was most enthusiastic in her support of the new ideas and changes, and the two worked together to bring the library up to a high standard.

When the present building, erected through a gift from Andrew Carnegie, was opened to the public in 1903, Decatur had one of the most modern, up-to-date buildings and systems in the state,- a separate children's room, reading room and reference room, open shelves where people could come to select their own books, and a fine card catalog.

As the city grew the library service expanded. The Evans branch was erected, collections were placed in outlying schools which were too far distant to be served by the Main library, other collections were placed in several large industrial plants, in the hospital, and several stations were opened in various parts of the city, another branch was opened in the east end of Decatur. But during the depression of the early 1930's sufficient funds were

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

not available to carry on, so it was necessary to discontinue hospital and station service and to close the East End branch.

In all these years there had been no increase in the tax rate for public library support. But in 1941 the Illinois State Legislature passed an amendment permitting cities, by referendum vote, to increase the library tax rate from one and two-tenths to two mills on the dollar. Decatur voted this tax favorably on October 24, 1944.

Much preparatory work was necessary to convince the public that there was need of the increase. In this the Parent-Teacher Association and the newspapers were our most helpful allies. The P.-T.A. gave many hours to securing signatures on petitions to bring the amendment up for vote at a special election. On election day they were busy at the polls. The newspapers gave their enthusiastic support at all times. Many friends of the library, as well as the library trustees and staff gave their services. The result was gratifying, - 579 for to 89 against. The increase will not become effective until 1946. We can, however, have a forward vision.

We can anticipate an improved, enlarged and modernized Main building and, over a period of years, branches in different parts of the city. With more help available our various files which require much time for clipping and mounting can be enlarged and kept up-to-date, - the local history file, local records of World War II, and the pamphlet and picture files. All of these are important but impossible to maintain with our present staff.

The room containing the bound volumes of our local newspapers must be enlarged unless the newspapers are microfilmed so they will occupy less space.

With the return of our servicemen the library will have new opportunities. These men will be inquiring about new industries, and new ideas for small business, new trades. Some, wishing to

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 45

continue their education will need to know what the various colleges and universities offer. Those who are handicapped will find occupational suggestions in books and monographs.

If possible, there should be stronger cooperation with the State Library in its Regional Library plans to give service to rural and small town communities which have no library service at the present time. Statistics show there are 1,717,711 unserved persons in the State of Illinois. Where can be found a more far-reaching or more accessible source for adult education than the free library? It is school and college to thousands of men and women who can secure their education in no other way. Any adult education program should include consideration of the library program.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

For many years the skylight above the stacks has caused trouble during heavy rains. This year the top part of the skylight was removed and a roof built over it. The roof above the ^{new} stack room was also repaired.

The walls of the trustees' room were redecorated and the floor refinished. The ceilings and walls of the Children's room and Catalog room were washed.

The retaining walls built across the front of the grounds forty-two years ago should be replaced or removed. It has been repaired several times but is now in too poor condition for further repair. The platform in connection with the outside walk immediately in front of the building should be removed and replaced with steps to conform with the rest of the walk. Doors to cars parked in that space cannot be opened and people must get out of their cars on the street side.

The parking space at the rear of the library is in bad condition and should be taken up and replaced with a new and enlarged pavement. The four dead poplar trees should be removed.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

Contents and Accessions

The library now contains 83,200 volumes in the whole system. There are 9,692 books in the children's room, 7,342 in Evans branch and 3,491 in the school collection.

The expenditure for books during the year was \$6,228.44,- this purchased 2,224 new books and 514 replacements. The book situation continues to become more and more difficult due to the extreme shortage of paper. Even though orders are sent long before date of publication, sufficient copies are not printed to supply the demand, and sometimes popular titles cannot be obtained unless there is a second printing.

Many pamphlets on postwar plans, peace plans, occupations and material to be used by returned veterans have been purchased or given to the library. These short concise articles, often containing illuminating graphs and cartoons are always in demand by busy patrons, as are maps and atlases to follow the movements of our fighting armies.

Several collections of books have been presented or willed to the library,- the two largest were the private library of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. West containing about 450 volumes, and the library of Mrs. Eda K. Pegram, about 300 volumes. In addition to these, a number of separate volumes have been presented as memorials.

Reading Room

Four hundred seventeen periodicals and newspapers are currently received. Many of these are gifts from various organizations and groups, some are trade publications, others are issued by the different governments of the United Nations.

New periodicals subscribed for this year are

Home Garden
International Postwar Problems
National Parks Magazine
The Woodworker

The children's room receives 10 periodicals and Evans branch 17.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

Circulation Department

This year has been notable for casualties at the circulation desk. As one girl fell ill, another left to be married, and others had to be drafted to fill gaps elsewhere in the system, we were forcibly reminded of one of the childhood classics that every-

body knows:

Ten little Injuns standing in a line
One went home and then were nine.
Nine little Injuns swinging on a gate
One tumbled off and then there were eight.

And so on; but we had not ten in the first place, only about five and a half, so we began to feel uncomfortably close to the place where there would be no little Injuns left. Fortunately the subtractions came to an end just before the breaking point. In the emergency many good things had to be left undone, but we hope that our team work kept people from noticing too many delays in service.

The war still lays its heavy hand on the library, as it does on everything and everybody. Our patrons are about equally divided in their reactions to it. Some want to read all about it, others do not want it even to be mentioned in what they read. We find it much easier to satisfy the first group. There is more interest than last year in postwar reconstruction. The demand for technical books remains about the same, except that now it is mostly older young men who are asking for mathematics refreshers and books on radio. It seems that Decatur is interested in all kinds of antiques; we have plenty of books on glass and furniture, but not on buttons and some other collectible items.

We have sold this year 1,622 reserve cards. Those for non-fiction books have been well divided among a variety of titles, with no great number for any one book unless we except "Brave Men", by Ernie Pyle. In the few months we have had this book it has collected more reserves than any of the others. The second in demand is quite a contrast in subject matter, Maureen Daly's clever etiquette book for adolescents called "Smarter and Smoother". Other books of the same type are steadily popular also. Our young people do read about good manners, whether they always practice them or not. Other outstanding books have been: "Anna and the King of Siam", by Landon, a fascinating

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

biography of an intrepid Victorian woman; "Snowshoe Country", by Florence Page Jaques, a book equally delightful to look at and to read; "We Live in Alaska", by Helmerick; "Walkin' Preacher of the Ozarks", by Howard; Sumner Welles' "Time for Decision", and Grace Moore's autobiography, "You're Only Human Once".

In fiction the rather unsavory "Forever Amber" has the lead. It is a good example of the power of advertising plus a catchy title, for we have many other historical novels, better written and very nearly as unsavory, and they were never such a rage. "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn", by Betty Smith, which was in second place last year, is still second. For a while we had no reserves for it, but the moving picture has stirred up demand again. The most outstanding instance of long popularity we have ever had is "The Robe", by Lloyd Douglas, which was first on our list last year, second the year before that, and still third this year. "Strange Fruit", by Lillian Smith, had a good run for awhile, but since last December no one has cared to reserve it. "Razor's Edge" has not only been popular but has revived interest in Maugham's earlier books. Others to mention are: "Green Dolphin Street", by Naomi Goudge; "Leave Her to Heaven", by Ben Ames Williams; "Green Years", by A.J. Cronin; Pearl Buck's "Dragon Seed"; "Immortal Wife", by Stone; and "Earth and High Heaven", by Gwethalyn Graham Brown.

The library was asked to make an exhibit at the Decatur and Macon County Conference, held in the Masonic Temple December 7-9. This organization takes the place of the old Farmer's Institute. For this we prepared a large map showing the locations of our out-of-town borrowers, of which we have 265 in our own and adjacent counties. This, with various pictures and posters and more than a hundred selected books, made an attractive display, comparing well with the other exhibits. The map was later posted in our own vestibule.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

For Book Week we had "The Adventures of Mark Twain" and this came right after the movie was here, so was much enjoyed by young and old. We had a display on Nutrition which was praised by a federal expert, and have made use of many other war posters. Our Christmas poster was the first bars of "Come, All Ye Faithful", the notes consisting of little colored bells; above in the center was the manger, with a procession of kings approaching from one side and shepherds from the other; the whole beautifully illuminated.

Over 600 pictures were added to the picture collection during the year, and many of them were first displayed on the bulletin board.

Reference Department

The whereabouts of service men and interest in those far places still claimed attention of reference patrons. They asked for books about seashells of the South Pacific, fishes and flowers of New Guinea, and birds of the Pacific islands. Several soldiers located there had requested their parents to send them such books.

The reference department helped to serve and instruct the young people in the use of the library. Nine classes visited the reference rooms to gather material for research themes.

Many fine pamphlets added to the War Information File are are useful among persons wanting to know about postwar problems. The vocational material will help returning veterans and others seeking guidance.

During the Dumbarton Oaks study by various women's organizations, books, magazines, and pamphlets were set aside at the rear of the stacks. Some comfortable chairs, a bookcase, tables and bulletin board, placed in a light airy corner, provided a study space for reading and discussion. For five afternoons of the week preceding the San Francisco Conference, groups of women came to talk about and study the peace plans and proposals. The interest and enthusiasm at the discussions was gratifying.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

Books on the Western Hemisphere were reserved for the High School classes on International Relations. Other reserve collections were Glass for the Art Class, books on Russia for the Study Class, and Education for the University of Illinois Extension Course.

A few of the questions asked were:

- What does our government do for the Indians?
- What is the meaning of Jima and Shima?
- Where in France was the first flight of the Wright brothers?
- What countries are invited to the San Francisco Conference?

Material about the following subjects was requested:

- Mottoes for a graduating class
- Socialized medicine
- Peyote (Indian religious cult)
- White Russians
- History of the postal service
- Thunderbird design to be used as a decorative motif in a boy's room.

About 1500 questions were answered for patrons.

Children's Department

The children's department now contains 9,692 volumes,- 340 of these were purchased this year.

The cheerful room is always attractive with posters and displays of books. This year it has been made more so, by Mr. W.E. Mueller's gift of a beautiful painting by Francis Lee Jaques, husband of the former Florence Page of Decatur. Mr. Jaques is considered by the best authorities to ^{be} the top ranking American bird painter and we are fortunate to own his "Mallards in Wild Rice". It is greatly enjoyed by both children and adults.

Book Week, celebrated November 12-19, had for its slogan this year "United Through Books". The chief exhibit was an immense globe made by Mr. Hiser and decorated by Mrs. Mann. On steps leading to the globe were dolls dressed in costumes of various countries. These were connected with their countries by narrow colored ribbons. Below was a sign carrying the slogan, and tables filled with appropriate new books. The room was gay with other book displays, and decorations around the walls. School rooms of pupils and teachers came all week.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

Mrs. Schoby broadcast under the P.-T.A. program , with Mrs. Haikalis, a patron asking questions about Book Week and the children's room.

Mrs. Schoby talked on October 24 to the first grade at Oakland School, on the use of the library; and on January 19 to the Ullrich P.-T.A. on "Need of adult cooperation in the use of library facilities".

Lists for summer reading for grades 1-6 were again compiled and distributed to all elementary and parochial schools. This is a service much appreciated. During November the children's librarian cooperated with the Public School Reading Committee in preparing a list of books for the new kindergartens to be opened in the schools next year.

Four Girl Scout troops visited the children's room during the year.

Catalog Department

The catalog department has special reason to feel a sense of great loss in the retirement of Miss Minnie Dill. Her helpful interest and wise counsel have been of immeasurable value to her successors in this department of which she was formerly head, and her outstanding work in the cataloging field has been a continual inspiration.

The department has continued its usually little known but very important work behind the scenes, in the classification and cataloging of books for all departments and extension services of the library. The work is necessarily quite detailed and time consuming, and cannot be measured by the simple statistics of catalog records included in this report. Various other cards and records are made, and there are constant problems of classification and revision.

All files and records have required expansion as the library has grown. The special need for additional space in the shelf-list has been met during the past year by the purchase of several new cases and this file is being expanded as time permits.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

The record of catalog cards made is as follows:

	L.C.cards	Typed cards
Main library	4961	1825
Children's dept.		1014
Evans branch	948	636
School collection		25
Rental collection		145
Total no. new cards	9554	
Total no. cards revised	1428	
Grand total	10982	

Extension Department

Alice G. Evans Branch

The Evans branch closes the year with a circulation of 20,434, a decrease of 909 over last year. The decrease is very easily explained. Everyone is working, from grandmother down to brother and sister in junior high school. We have missed many of the adult readers and the junior and senior high school boys and girls. We hope the time is near when they will come flocking back to the library.

The branch now contains 7,342 volumes,- 332 new books were added during the year and seventeen magazines are currently received. There are 1,298 borrowers, 514 of whom are adults .

During the year teachers from the Durfee school, visited the library with their students nineteen times. Seven story hours were conducted.

Deposit Stations

During the summer, books were loaned to Camp Kiwanis, the Day Camp, and the Recreation Department. The circulation for these three camps was 538, an increase of 105.

Schools

There are now 3,491 books in the School collection and these were distributed among the fourteen schools in September. The total circulation was 37,738, an increase of 356 over last year.

The many new titles that have been added in the last few years have made the collection a very attractive one.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

Roach school has shown its appreciation of the books by having the largest circulation,- 5,612.

Brief Records

Total vols. in library	83,200
No. registered borrowers	15,116
No. books loaned	190,760
Volumes sent to Bindery	542
Books mended in library	6,841
Periodicals currently received	417
Overdue notices sent	6,138
Reserve postals sent	1,436
Pictures loaned	7,938
Non-resident cards purchased	306
Cards added to catalog	9,554
Books used in building	6,197
Telephone calls	4,917
Days open during year	304

Public Relations

Miss Dill attended the Institute for Librarians held in Urbana, July 3-6. She reported a good program on library expansion.

The library had a very creditable exhibit in the Masonic Temple during the Decatur and Macon County Conference, December 7-8. A detailed description is given in the report of the Circulation department.

Miss Kowalsky reviewed Emily Kimbrough's "How Dear to My Heart" at a meeting of the Art and Literature Division of the Woman's Club. She also talked on the use of books and the library first to the senior class, and later to the junior class of the Nurse's Training School at the Decatur and Macon County Hospital.

Mrs. Schoby talked to the first grade at Oakland school about the library, and to the Ullrich P.-T.A. on the cooperation of mother and teachers with the library.

Miss Baker spoke at a luncheon meeting of the Macon County Wartime Nutrition Committee on the library's contribution to the nutrition program.

During Peace Week the library cooperated with the group of women's organizations studying the Dumbarton Oaks Peace Plan. A corner was set aside for their use where books, pamphlets, periodicals, maps,

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

and charts were placed. Each afternoon there were interesting discussions by different groups of women.

Personnel

There were many changes in the staff this year,--the most important was the resignation of Miss Minnie A. Dill as librarian, effective January 1, 1945. Miss Mabel Wayne, assistant librarian, was appointed as her successor.

Miss Helen Friedrich resigned in March to be married, and was succeeded by Mrs. Jean McCumber, a recent graduate of the University of Illinois. Miss Claire Wurdell, a graduate of the Library School of the University of Illinois, began work as assistant cataloger, July 5. Alice Key1, a senior in the Decatur high school and previously a page in the children's room, began work as half time assistant at the circulation desk, the last of September. Barbara Moody, a sophomore at the University of Illinois, helped full time during the summer.

New pages are Florence Grabowski and Lois Smith at the Main library, and Eleanor Kwasny at Evans branch.

Miss Pollock, head cataloger, was granted a three months leave-of-absence, beginning December 1.

This has been a trying year, with resignations, leave-of-absence, illness, etc. The few members of the staff left to carry on were required to work irregular hours and at unaccustomed tasks, but there was no complaining,-- only the most commendable effort to make the best of an unfortunate situation.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation--

To Mr. W.E. Mueller for the beautiful picture given to the children's room.

To Houran's for the flowers which have daily brightened the desk, encouraged and overworked staff, and been greatly appreciated by the public.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945

To the Parent-Teacher Association for their enthusiastic and untiring help in putting over our special election in October.

To the newspapers for space so generously given for library purposes, especially for their active support during our campaign to secure an increase in the library tax rate.

And to you, who as Library Trustees, have so well understood and considered our problems,- cooperating at all times.

Respectfully submitted,

Librarian.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945
Appendix

Accession Contents of Library Classification

	No. vols. in 1, 1944	Additions replaced found and transferred)	Withdrawals transferred and missing)	No. vols. in April 30, 1945
May 1, 1944 - books on hand - - - - -				80,954
Additions:				
Purchase (new) - - - - -				2224
Purchase (replacements - - - - -				514
Donation - - - - -				151
Bindery - - - - -				200
Books found- previously missing - - - - -				11
Total added - - - - -				3100
Losses:				
Worn out and withdrawn (including those miss- ing in inventory)				764
Lost and paid for - - - - -				65
Lost and not paid for - - - - -				25
Total loss - - - - -				854
April 30, 1945 - books on hand - - - - -				83,200

Accessions by Departments

Main library				
Adult dept:				
Circulating	41574	1769	346	42988
Reference	3688	60	13	3764
Sound period.	9479	170	6	9643
Public docs.	3920	18	1	3934
Child. dept.	9508	340	157	9692
Evans branch:				
Adult dept.	3766	168	35	3891
Child. dept.	3425	174	148	3481
L. End branch:				
Adult dept.	804	0	0	804
Child. dept.	1432	0	0	1432
School coll.	3257	396	162	3451
Total	80954	3113	866	83200
Rental collection-	150			

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945
Appendix

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945
Appendix Classes

	Main Lib. Adult	Child	Evans branch	Schools	Stations	Total	Per cent
General works	149	12	2	0	0	163	.09
Philosophy	1852	19	23	0	0	1894	.89
Religion	1564					2076	1.09
Sociology	3124	231	205	1338	7	5372	2.82
Language	1654	1		201	0	3822	1.82
Science	1654	761		156		4071	1.92
Useful arts	4662	1122				7239	3.79
Fine arts	4159	82		422	12	5615	2.89
Literature	4207	723	450	1524	25	7009	3.57
General works	4528	6434	350	2212	15	7846	6516
Philosophy	3636	1155	43	2207	31	7271	1165
Religion	3766	2209	261	1484	19	6122	2264
Sociology	6102	9672	1513	23612	61	124068	9937
Language	2263	276	171	0	1	4323	292
Science	170	3839	0	0	37	174	3930
Useful arts	3320	7042	0	0	55	3320	7284
Fine arts		4560			26		4704
Literature	9978	8040	2043	37730	56	100760	8162
History		5795			28		6073
Travel		4820			43		4909
Biography		5348			27		5527
Fiction	781	21451	1413	2937	459	14973	22126
Foreign books	7180	313	1266	0	3	11699	311
Total	80954	3107	861				83200

Accessions According to Classification

	No.vols.in Lib'y May 1,1944	Additions (new replaced found and transferred)	Withdrawals (worn out transferred and missing)	No.vols.in Lib'y April 30,1945
General works	6434	97	15	6516
Philosophy	1155	41	31	1165
Religion	2209	74	19	2264
Sociology	9672	326	61	9937
Language	276	17	1	292
Science	3839	128	37	3930
Useful arts	7042	297	55	7284
Fine arts	4560	170	26	4704
Literature	8040	178	56	8162
History	5795	306	28	6073
Travel	4820	132	43	4909
Biography	5348	206	27	5527
Fiction	21451	1134	459	22126
Foreign books	313	1	3	311
Total	80954	3107	861	83200

Accessions by Departments

	Main library	Evans branch	Schools	Stations	Total
Main library					
Adult dept:					
Circulating	41574	1769	37738	345	42998
Reference	3688	89		13	3764
Bound period.	9479	170		6	9643
Public docs.	3920	15		1	3934
Child. dept.	9509	340		157	9692
Evans branch:					
Adult dept.	3766	158		33	3891
Child.dept.	3425	174		148	3451
E.End branch:					
Adult dept.	904	0		0	904
Child.dept.	1432	0		0	1432
School coll.	3257	396		162	3491
Total	80954	3111		865	83200

	Main Lib. Adult	Child	Evans Br. Adult	Child	Total
Books in force May 1, 1944	11899	3507	629	779	16814
Books registered	2325	311	113	220	3469
Books cards cancelled	3520	1394	229	215	4967
Books in force April 30, 1945	10504	3314	514	794	15116

Books purchased by out-of-town students for summer use 41

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1944 - 1945
Appendix

Circulation by Classes

	Main Lib.		Evans branch	Schools	Stations	Total	Per cent
	Adult	Child					
General works	149	12	2	0	0	163	.09
Philosophy	1652	19	23	0	0	1694	.89
Religion	1354	190	84	445	3	2076	1.09
Sociology	3194	631	205	1335	7	5372	2.82
Fairy tales	0	1354	389	2018	67	3828	2.01
Language	118	1	3	0	0	122	.06
Science	1680	761	438	1669	73	4621	2.42
Useful arts	4662	1122	625	827	3	7239	3.79
Fine arts	4159	623	293	428	12	5515	2.89
Literature	4207	723	460	1594	25	7009	3.67
History	4528	745	350	2219	4	7846	4.11
Travel	3535	1096	433	2207	0	7271	3.81
Biography	3762	573	281	1484	22	6122	3.21
Fiction	61028	24066	15137	23512	322	124065	65.04
Magazines	2263	350	1710	0	0	4323	2.27
Foreign books	173	0	1	0	0	174	.09
Rental coll.	3320	0	0	0	0	3320	1.74
Total	99784	32266	20434	37738	538	190760	

Circulation by Classes Months

May	7812	2410	1814	2937	0	14973
June	7160	3120	1265	0	154	11699
July	7847	2593	1254	0	0	11694
August	8080	2739	1089	0	384	12292
September	8387	2375	1603	0	0	12365
October	8793	2931	1836	4869	0	18429
November	8919	3256	1865	5749	0	19789
December	7638	2108	1379	3335	0	14460
January	9281	2589	2134	5834	0	19838
February	8385	2511	1839	5517	0	18252
March	8561	3131	2112	5531	0	19335
April	8921	2503	2244	3966	0	17634
Total	99784	32226	20434	37738	538	190760

	Main Library	Evans Branch
Number of days open	304	304
Average daily circulation	434	67
Largest daily circulation	908	202
Smallest daily circulation	231	14
Periodicals currently received	417	17

Registration

	Main Lib.		Evans Br.		Total
	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	
Cards in force May 1, 1944	11699	3507	629	779	16614
Borrowers registered	2325	811	113	220	3469
Borrowers cards cancelled	3520	1004	228	215	4967
Cards in force April 30, 1945	10504	3314	514	784	15116

Rural borrowers 265
Cards purchased by out-of-town students for summer use 41

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1944 - 1945

To the Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the following report of the financial condition of the Public Library for the year ending April 30, 1945.

Balance on hand May 1, 1944 \$12,159.51

RECEIPTS

From appropriation	\$39,945.50	
" fines, damaged and lost books	2,063.38	
" non-resident cards	275.50	
" rental collection	166.00	
" other sources	123.32	
Total	26,282.20	\$42,573.70

DISBURSEMENTS

For salaries: library staff	\$23,182.55	
" salaries: building staff	3,280.00	
" books	6,228.44	
" periodicals	730.95	
" printing	36.44	
" binding	1,075.12	
" supplies	586.07	
" repairs	747.04	
" light	66.98	
" heat	1,035.39	
" furniture	322.56	
" telephone	188.45	
" postage, drayage, etc	62.15	
" insurance	284.39	
" miscellaneous	199.94	
" special building account	6,700.04	
Total		\$44,726.51

Balance on hand May 1, 1945 \$10,006.70

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1944 - 1945
Appendix 1945

I, Habel A. Wynn, secretary of the Board of
Directors of the Special Building Account Decatur, Illinois,
do hereby certify that the foregoing statement of the con-
dition and statistics of the library is true to the best of
my knowledge and belief.

May 1, 1945	Total bonds purchased to date	\$14,911.00
	Balance on hand	104.77

Special Bequests

Caroline S. Loeb Fund (no interest since 1942)	\$601.86
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Secretary, Board of Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of May, 1945.

Notary Public.

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 1944 - 1945

Anticipated Income

I, Mabel A. Wayne, secretary of the Board of Directors of the Decatur Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of the library is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

BUDGET

Salaries: library staff	\$25,670.00
Salaries: building staff	3,600.00
Books	7,500.00
Periodicals	500.00
Printing	1,500.00
Binding	1,000.00
Supplies	100.00
Light	1,380.00
Heat	500.00
Furniture	200.00
Telephone	75.00
Postage, drayage, etc	425.00
Insurance	400.00
Miscellaneous	400.00
Total	\$45,000.00

Secretary, Board of Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of May, 1945.

Notary Public.

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Anticipated Income
1945 - 1946

Tax levy		\$40,000.00
Miscellaneous	Fines, etc.	5,000.00
	Total	\$45,000.00

BUDGET

Salaries: library staff	\$25,670.00
Salaries: building staff	3,600.00
Books	7,500.00
Periodicals	800.00
Printing	50.00
Binding	1,500.00
Supplies	1,000.00
Repairs	1,800.00
Light	100.00
Heat	1,380.00
Furniture	500.00
Telephone	200.00
Postage, drayage, etc	75.00
Insurance	425.00
Miscellaneous	400.00
Total	\$45,000.00

Lib

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Seventy-first Annual Report
1945 - 1946

To the Mayor and Commissioners
of the City of Decatur, Illinois

We again take great pleasure in submitting to you the annual report of the librarian, Miss Mabel Wayne. This report was read and considered in a special meeting of the Library Board on May 14, 1946. The report covers the activities of the Decatur Public Library in detail. Therein you will also find the future needs pointed out.

During the past year the Board has frequently discussed the advisability of opening another branch. A committee has investigated the possibility of renting a building in the east end of the city for that purpose. So far, no suitable building at a desirable location has been obtainable. It seems that a building erected for that purpose will be the only solution to our problem. However no effort will be spared to give the citizens of Decatur the library service they are entitled to.

Respectfully submitted,,

President

This year has seen one of our recommendations in each yearly report over a long period of years, realized. The lack of space for housing bound volumes of our local newspapers and their slow deterioration, has been brought to your attention many times. Last October, when the Herald and Review found it necessary to have their own file of the Decatur Herald microfilmed, it was suggested that the library have duplicate films made at the same time. This seemed advisable and we now have microfilm reels for the Decatur Herald for the years 1900-1913 and for October, 1945 through February 1946. The back file will be completed next year and current issues be kept up-to-date.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

To the Board of Directors
Decatur Public Library

Herewith is submitted the seventy-first annual report of the Library for the year ending April 30, 1946.

For the first time ^{since} closing the East End branch and several other extension agencies in April 1932, the circulation of books is showing a slight but steady increase in all departments except the schools. This is also true of the number of borrowers. The return of our service men and women and the release of civilian war workers has brought a new interest and given more time for reading. We are welcoming back many of our patrons of the years previous to the war. These boys and girls are anxious to return to their normal way of living, they are readers, and one of the first things they do is to check up on their library cards. Some of them have had access to army and navy libraries and are most enthusiastic about the service there, comfortable easy chairs, the latest lighting equipment, fine staff service, and books most suited to their needs. But they are all delighted to return to their old home library and find things "not too much changed".

This year has seen one of our recommendations in each yearly report over a long period of years, realized. The lack of space for housing bound volumes of our local newspapers and their slow deterioration, has been brought to your attention many times. Last October, when the Herald and Review found it necessary to have their own file of the Decatur Herald microfilmed, it was suggested that the library have duplicate films made at the same time. This seemed advisable and we now have microfilm reels for the Decatur Herald for the years 1900-1913 and for October, 1945 through February 1946. The back file will be completed next year and current issues be kept up-to-date.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

The viewer for the films is in the Reading room on the main floor of the library and may be used by patrons at any time, by requesting the film desired, at the desk. A new cabinet for holding the reels will be ordered and placed near the viewer, making the films easily accessible.

Late in March a request was received from the Maroa Township Library Board for contract service from our library. Such contracts are in operation in several Illinois communities. For a sum agreed upon by both parties a certain number of books are loaned to a smaller library by a larger one, for a stated period. Such collections do not include the new popular fiction nor other books in special demand at the larger library. A tentative contract was submitted to the Maroa Township Library Board for their consideration but has not yet been accepted. There is little doubt that a satisfactory plan will be worked out.

An event of great importance to the librarian and staff was the favorable vote by the citizens of Decatur on the Municipal Retirement Act, last December. This furnishes a degree of security not otherwise possible for most of us and we fully appreciate its benefits.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Very few repairs and improvements were possible this year because of the shortage of material and labor. The walls and ceiling of the main floor of the Evans branch library were washed, the tile roof was repaired, and new copper gutters and downspouts were installed.

Most of the cement work around the Main building is in very poor condition, especially the retaining wall. As suggested in our last report, steps to conform with the rest of the outside walk should replace the high platform directly in front of the entrance to the building.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

A modern lighting system should be installed on the first floor of the Main library and new wiring should replace the old on all floors. The building was constructed forty-three years ago when insulation was not as adequate as at the present time.

Contents and Accessions

Due to an increasing shortage of paper, the book situation has become more difficult than ever before. Only a limited number of copies of each title are printed and even though orders are sent long before date of publication we have failed to receive our copy of some important books. Occasionally a copy will come later if the demand for the book has justified a second printing.

The library now contains 84,450 volumes in the whole system. The children's room ^{has} 9,529, Evans branch 7,546 and the school collection 3,499.

The expenditure for books during the year was \$6,243.15,- this purchased 2,246 new books and 136 replacements. In addition many attractive pamphlets on careers, the United Nations, economics, business, etc have been purchased. Many others have been donated.

A number of books have been presented to the Library in memory of servicemen and others, and a large collection of good popular fiction from the library of Mrs. Mary A. Lichtenberger was donated by her daughter, Cleo Lichtenberger.

Reading Room

Four hundred thirty-seven periodicals and newspapers are currently received. Many of these are gifts from organizations and industries, and government publications are both national and international.

New periodicals subscribed for this year are

Airports magazine	Home craftsman
American legion magazine	Industrial and engineering chemistry
Chemical industries	Junior natural history magazine

The children's room receives 11 periodicals and Evans branch, 16.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

Circulation Department

Yes, we know the fleet's in, the marines have landed, the army is demobilizing. Bronzed faces appear at the desk, and cheerful voices inquire, "Do I still have a card?" It certainly does us good to see them again, and to know that they take coming back to the library for granted, just a natural part of their return to normal living. Needless to say, if a card has lapsed during its owner's absence it is renewed swiftly with no red tape.

Our registrations show an encouraging increase, not all due to returning servicemen, though they have helped. We hope we have some new readers among them, men who learned to appreciate books while in service. We have this year 310 out-of-town cards, more than ever before, showing that our rural and suburban neighbors make use of their library privileges.

Our circulation shows a substantial increase, the largest gain being in technical books and fiction. The only classes showing a loss were religious books and history. Many veterans use our mathematics and English texts in preparing for high school examinations, and we haven't had so much call for civil service books, since the depression. They also want to read up on the countries where they have been. We notice that books on health, particularly on specific diseases, are more and more popular; and that may be because it is so hard nowadays to get to see a doctor. The housing situation also affects our circulation. People can't build real houses these days but they are certainly building them on paper.

The number of books and magazines used inside the library, has grown in proportion to the increased enrollment at the high school and university. The total this year was over 8,000, of which nearly 3,000 were bound magazines.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

More reserve cards were sold than last year, and as usual the bulk of them were for fiction. "Forever Amber" still heads the fiction list, having had 87 reserves, twice as many as Costain's "Black Rose", (a much better book) which is second. Then, neck and neck, come "King's General" by Du Maurier, and "A Lion in the streets" by Langley. The movie, "Leave Her to Heaven", caused quite a revival of interest in the book of that title by Ben Ames Williams. "Cass Timberlane" by Sinclair Lewis, "The Peacock Sheds His Tail" by Hobart, and Street's story of a Baptist minister, "The Gauntlet" have all been fairly popular. And though they are now old books, we still frequently have reserves for "The Robe", "Strange Fruit", and "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn".

In non-fiction, there were 33 reserves for "Black Boy" by Richard Wright; his wife's appearance on the lecture course may have helped in this. Not on the shelves so long, but going very well, is Betty MacDonald's humorous account of a woman on a chicken-ranch, "The Egg and I" "Up Front", by Mauldin, and Ernie Pyle's "Brave Men" keep the war represented. Newer books starting out well are "Burma Surgeon Returns" by Seagraves, and "Starling of the White House".

Our most elaborate display was a traveling exhibit called "Our Neighbor Republics" prepared by the Library Service Division of U.S. Office of Education and loaned to us through the Illinois State Library. It included an attractive collection of books and pamphlets on Mexico, and Central and South America, flags of the various countries and a few small articles made in these countries. The addition of some large and informative posters made it colorful and interesting. A smaller display on the Springfield Plan was made in cooperation with Mrs. Andrews, who is ⁱⁿ charge of Public Relations for the city schools. At present we are featuring "The Constant Invader" (tuberculosis) at the request of Miss Rubye Mochel. Other displays have been on Arizona, Incas of Ancient Peru, Transportation and See America First.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

Reference Department

The reference department closed the year fittingly,- during the last two weeks, high school students thumbed the periodical indexes for material on term papers, and both students and librarians wrestled with bound magazines. About 1,800 periodicals were used at that time.

One adult club completed its study of Alaska; another will continue the study of India next fall; the different divisions of the Woman's Club studied a large variety of subjects. Two extension classes in Education used books sent from the University of Illinois.

Reference work consisted mainly of finding facts for library patrons rather than extensive research,- 1556 questions covering a wide range of subjects were recorded.

Many new pamphlets, especially those on careers helped some of our borrowers with their problems. The returning service men also made good use of career material in planning for school and their future job. On display recently were pamphlets about farming for the veterans, with a huge chart showing other civilian occupations suited to knowledge secured in military training.

Children's Department

The children's department now contains 9,529 volumes,- 395 of these were purchased this year. Many old unused and shabby books were weeded out, making more space and a better appearance on the shelves, and a more active collection. The total circulation was 32,456, an increase of 190 over the previous year. The increase in registration was 67.

The slogan for Book Week this year was "United Through Books". For our display a stagesetting was used. The floor of the display was a world map and a very large open book stood upright on it. Curtains draped around it gave the stage effect. Dolls representing different nationalities peeped out from between the pages of the book.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

The various displays in the glass cases have received many complimentary comments and several teachers sent their classes in to see them. Some of the best were Holland, China, Pioneer life, The Seashore, Circus, Mexico, Valentine and Easter. The children's librarian has personally furnished most of the articles in the displays.

Altogether, thirteen groups visited the children's room during the year,- boy scouts, girl scouts, kindergartens and other school groups. The children's librarian talked on books at six P.-T. A. meetings.

An appreciated service rendered to the schools is the graded lists of books for summer reading. A special list is compiled for each grade and enough copies sent to the public and parochial schools to supply each pupil.

Catalog Department

The catalog department has prepared more than 10,000 cards during the year for the various catalogs maintained in all departments, including the public catalogs in the adult and juvenile departments and in Evans branch. This does not include many cards added to other files not used by the public, but indispensable tools in the administration of the library.

Various changes and revisions were made on more than 1,000 cards. Problems in classification and subject headings are ever present as new subjects are constantly being added. Other problems have arisen ^{from} as changes in procedure of the Card Division of the Library of Congress, from which printed cards are ordered for many books, and adapted to our own use.

The catalog department has furnished much of the newspaper publicity for the library in preparing lists of new accessions and comments on various titles.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

The record of catalog cards made is as follows:

	L. C. cards	Typed cards
Main library	4913	2301
Children's dept.		1524
Evans branch	716	968
School collection		23
Rental collection		133
Total no. new cards	10578	
Total no. cards revised	1352	
Grand total	11930	

Extension Department

Alice G. Evans Branch

The Evans branch closes the year with a circulation of 23,860, an increase of 3,426 over last year. The library now contains 7,546 volumes,- 347 new books were added during the year. Sixteen magazines were currently received and the adults have enjoyed reading them in the library as well as at home. The picture collection was used constantly by teachers and students,- 502 were circulated during the year.

The number of borrowers has increased from 1298 to 1387, and of this number 502 are adults. During the year teachers with their students, visited the library 22 times; 21 were from Durfee school and one from St. Johns.

Washing of the walls and ceiling last summer, greatly helped the appearance of the room. The new spouting has made entrance to and exit from the library much more comfortable on rainy days.

Schools

There are now 3,499 books in the school collection, which were distributed among fifteen schools. Oak Grove was sent books for the first time this year. The total circulation was 33,340, a decrease of 4,398 over the last year.

Camps

Camp Kiwanis was the only camp requesting books this year,- the circulation at this camp was 326

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

Brief Records

Total vols. in library	84,450
No. registered borrowers	15,126
No. books loaned	196,520
Volumes sent to bindery	1,017
Books mended in library	10,886
Periodicals currently received	437
Overdue notices sent	6,223
Reserve postals sent	1,663
Pictures loaned	5,852
Non-resident cards purchased	362
Cards added to catalog	10,578
Books used in building	8,169
Telephone calls	4,516
Days open during year	300

Meetings and Book Talks

Miss, Baker, Mrs. Garman, Miss Kowalsky and Mrs. Schoby attended the regional meeting at Mattoon, November 6th. Miss Kowalsky spoke about various kinds of reference helps and Mrs. Schoby about children's books.

Misses Dill, Davis, Martin, Wayne and White attended the regional meeting in Clinton, where Miss Dill spoke briefly about Decatur's campaign the previous year, for an increased library tax rate.

Mrs. Schoby talked to P.-T.A. groups at Lincoln, Oglesby, French, Dennis and Oakland schools, also to a young mothers group from the First Presbyterian Church. Miss Kowalsky spoke at a meeting of the P.-T. A. of Durfee school, and to a Woman's group at the First Baptist Church, also to a group of nurses at the D. & M.C. hospital.

Campaigns

Many Russian libraries were destroyed during the German invasion and libraries in this country were asked to help in replacing them. Only standard books by English and American authors, and books descriptive of American life were requested. A campaign during October for books of this type, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Arthur Wait and the Woman's Club, resulted in the receipt of 71 volumes for this purpose.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

Personnel

There have been few changes on the staff this year. Mrs. Jean McCumber resigned in January, when her husband returned from service. Miss Betty VanHyning and Miss Beth Bloomquist joined the staff as new assistants at the Loan desk.

We wish to express our thanks,-

To the newspapers for space given for library purposes.

To Houran's for flowers for the Loan desk.

And to you, who as library trustees, have given so generously of your time, interest and understanding, in consideration of our problems.

Respectfully submitted,

Librarian.

Lib

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946
Appendix

Contents of Library

	Additions (new found and transferred)	Withdrawals (worn out and missing)		No. Vols. in Library April 1946
May 1, 1945 - books on hand - - - - -				83,200
Additions:				
Purchase (new) - - - - -			2246	
Purchase (replacements) - - - - -			138	
Donation - - - - -			202	
Bindery - - - - -			200	
Books ^{found} previously missing - - - - -			19	
Total added - - - - -			2805	
Losses:				
Worn out and withdrawn - - - - -			1442	
Lost and paid for - - - - -			100	
Lost and not paid for - - - - -			13	
Total loss - - - - -			1555	
April 30, 1946 - books on hand - - - - -				84,450

Accessions by Departments

Main library				
Adult dept:				
Circulating	42999	1519	454	44081
Reference	3764	87	39	3812
Ed. periodicals	9543	135	1	9827
Public docs.	3934	14	121	3827
Child. dept.	9692	393	558	9529
Evans branch:				
Adult dept.	3891	152	39	4004
Child. dept.	3431	198	107	3542
E. End branch:				
Adult dept.	904	0	7	897
Child. dept.	1432	0	0	1432
School coll.	3491	272	264	3499
Total	63200	2822	1872	64450
Rental collection-	125			

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946
Appendix

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946

Circulation Appendix

	Main lib. Adult	Child	Evans branch	Schools	Stations	Total	Per cent
Accessions According to Classification							
General works	6516	899	34	95	26	6585	
Philosophy	1165	831	51	34	5	1194	
Religion	2264	805	41	69	40	2293	
Sociology	9937	753	4	266	208	9995	
Language	292	790	388	8	2	298	
Science	3930	4880	1827	81	46	3965	
Useful arts	7284	348	14	268	45	7507	
Fine arts	4704	0	0	120	30	4794	
Literature	8162	0	0	112	63	8211	
History	6073	0	0	251	42	6282	
Travel	4909	3248	388	134	79	4964	
Biography	5527	0	0	235	56	5706	
Fiction	22126	0	0	1130	912	22344	
Foreign books	311	0	0	6	5	312	
Total	83200	2276	2809	2804	1559	84450	

	Adult	Child	Evans	Schools	Stations	Total	Per cent
January	10681	2678	2780	4838	0	20750	
February	7737	2659	2659	4897	0	13977	
March	7382	2359	1424	0	281	11046	
April	7377	2588	1213	0	0	11156	
May	8178	2038	1663	0	0	11834	
June	10112	2492	2551	3720	0	16115	
July	9391	2659	2659	4897	0	20616	
August	7737	2659	2659	4897	0	13977	
September	10681	2678	2780	4838	0	20750	
October	9511	2367	2307	4478	0	19253	
November	10048	3027	2278	4873	0	20421	
December	7737	2659	2659	4897	0	13977	

	Main library	Evans branch	Schools	Stations	Total
Accessions by Departments					
Main library					
Adult dept:					
Circulating	42998	1519	436		44081
Reference	3764	87	39		3812
Bd. periodicals	9643	185	1		9827
Public docs.	3934	14	121		3827
Child. dept.	9692	395	558		9529
Evans branch:					
Adult dept.	3891	152	39		4004
Child. dept.	3451	198	107		3542
E. End branch:					
Adult dept.	904	0	7		897
Child. dept.	1432	0	0		1432
School coll.	3491	272	264		3499
Total	83200	2822	1572		84450

	Main lib. Adult	Child	Evans br. Adult	Child	Total
Registration					
Ards in force May 1, 1945	10604	3314	814	784	16116
Borrowers registered	2810	778	129	764	3979
Borrowers cards cancelled	2958	709	141	163	3969
Ards in force April 30, 1946	10358	3381	802	888	16126
Ards purchased by out-of-town students for summer use					52

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
1945 - 1946
Appendix

Circulation by Classes

	Main lib.		Evans branch	Schools	Stations	Total	Per cent
	Adult	Child					
General works	267	28	13	0	0	308	.16
Philosophy	1933	16	24	0	0	1973	1.00
Religion	1291	211	115	397	0	2014	1.02
Sociology	3880	566	228	642	0	5316	2.71
Fairy tales	0	989	553	1602	18	3162	1.61
Language	119	1	0	0	0	120	.06
Science	1985	898	429	1220	0	4532	2.31
Useful arts	6071	1193	680	1115	0	9059	4.61
Fine arts	4960	699	348	210	0	6217	3.16
Literature	4689	831	511	1086	15	7132	3.63
History	3796	585	415	1954	0	6750	3.43
Travel	3603	753	465	1659	0	6480	3.30
Biography	3877	790	388	1669	16	6740	3.43
Fiction	64705	24550	18275	21786	277	129593	65.94
Magazines	1859	346	1409	0	0	3614	1.84
Foreign books	169	0	7	0	0	176	.09
Rental coll.	3334	0	0	0	0	3334	1.70
Total	106538	32456	23860	33340	326	196520	

Circulation by Months

Month	Main lib. Adult	Main lib. Child	Evans branch	Schools	Stations	Total
May	7664	2276	2034	2804	0	14778
June	7891	3762	1393	0	75	13121
July	7282	2859	1424	0	251	11816
August	7377	2566	1213	0	0	11156
September	8176	2095	1663	0	0	11934
October	10152	2692	2551	3720	0	19115
November	9391	2869	2559	5697	0	20516
December	7787	1920	1565	2705	0	13977
January	10661	2678	2755	4636	0	20730
February	9611	2867	2307	4478	0	19263
March	10046	3227	2275	4873	0	20421
April	10500	2645	2121	4427	0	19693
Total	106538	32456	23860	33340	326	196520

	Main library	Evans branch
Number of days open	300	300
Average daily circulation	655	80
Largest daily circulation	1140	173
Smallest daily circulation	260	16
Periodicals currently received	437	16

Registration

	Main lib.		Evans br.		Total
	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	
Cards in force May 1, 1945	10504	3314	514	784	15116
Borrowers registered	2810	776	129	264	3979
Borrowers cards cancelled	2956	709	141	163	3969
Cards in force April 30, 1946	10358	3381	502	885	15126

Rural borrowers 310
Cards purchased by out-of-town students for summer use 52

Lib

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1945 - 1946

To the Honorable Mayor and Commissioners
Gentlemen:

I herewith submit the following report of the financial condition of the Public Library for the year ending April 30, 1946.

Balance on hand May 1, 1945 \$10,006.70

RECEIPTS

From appropriation	\$41,337.79
" fines, damaged and lost books	2,224.09
" non-resident cards	322.50
" rental collection	166.70
" other sources	107.09
Total	\$44,158.17

DISBURSEMENTS

For salaries: library staff	\$24,116.90
" salaries: building staff	3,524.50
" books	6,243.15
" periodicals	752.30
" newspaper microfilms	767.02
" printing	28.25
" binding	1,027.51
" supplies	846.01
" repairs	778.39
" light	83.63
" heat	913.97
" furniture	493.09
" telephone	175.23
" postage, drayage, etc	39.55
" insurance	323.58
" miscellaneous	236.54
" special building account	3,558.88
Total	\$43,908.50

Balance on hand May 1, 1946 \$10,256.37

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1945 - 1946
Appendix

I, Mabel A. Wayne, secretary of the Board of
Directors of the Decatur Public Library of Decatur, Illinois,
do hereby certify that the foregoing statement of the con-

May 1, 1946 Total bonds purchased to date \$18,537.00
Balance on hand 37.65

Special Requests

Caroline S. Loeb Fund (no interest since 1942) \$601.86

Secretary, Board of Directors
19176.51

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of May, 1946.

Notary Public.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1945 - 1946

I, Mabel A. Wayne, secretary of the Board of Directors of the Decatur Public Library of Decatur, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing statement of the condition and statistics of the library is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Total \$48,700.00

BUDGET

Salaries: library staff Secretary, Board of Directors.
Salaries: building staff 3,700.00
Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of May, 1946.

Printing	100.00
Binding	1,000.00
Supplies	1,000.00
Repairs	1,800.00
Light	100.00
Heat	1,400.00
Furniture	500.00
Telephone	200.00
Postage, stamps, etc.	75.00
Insurance	425.00
Microfilms	2,500.00
Miscellaneous	400.00

Notary Public.

Total \$48,700.00

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Anticipated Income
1946 - 1947

Tax levy	\$43,000.00
Miscellaneous- Fines, etc	5,700.00
Total	\$48,700.00

BUDGET

Salaries: library staff	\$26,500.00
Salaries: building staff	3,700.00
Books	7,500.00
Periodicals	850.00
Printing	150.00
Binding	1,500.00
Supplies	1,000.00
Repairs	1,800.00
Light	100.00
Heat	1,400.00
Furniture	600.00
Telephone	200.00
Postage, drayage, etc.	75.00
Insurance	425.00
Microfilms	2,500.00
Miscellaneous	400.00
Total	\$48,700.00