

## City Librarian's Report

June 1989

### I. Statistics

The Library set a new one month circulation record in June when 75,704 items were checked out. The previous record was 74,232, set in July 1987. Circulation increased 2.6% (1,901 items) from June 1988. For the twelve month period, circulation is up 3.3% (25,322 items). The children's and audio-visual departments had the largest gains. I want to congratulate the staff on achieving this record.

Comparative figures for past years are listed below:

	1979	1984	1989
Adult	23,812	26,849	28,965
YA	2,225	2,667	2,713
Juvenile	23,108	31,934	33,550
AV	<u>1,280</u>	<u>3,469</u>	<u>10,476</u>
TOTAL	50,425	64,919	75,704
Staffing	45 full-time 13 half-time	41 full time 30 half-time	45 full-time 27 half-time

Library attendance increased 2.4%, or 672 people over June 1988. The average daily attendance is 1,090.

Service statistics reflected circulation with a 6% increase in professional assists and a 12.2% increase in directional information requests. Recording of service statistics during a busy month like June is difficult. When a large number of patrons are using the library, it is hard to provide the level of service required while trying to keep track of services provided.

### II. Budget

The Library was awarded a \$78,535 grant by the Illinois State Library to fund the Decatur Area Resources for Economic Development. A large part of the funding will be used to purchase materials and equipment for the library. For example, the reference budget will increase from \$21,500 to \$44,500.

Recent passage of a 20% increase in the taxes paid by Illinois businesses should help to increase library revenue. I estimate that this new tax may generate an additional \$32,000 in the replacement tax

One of the library goals submitted to the City Council was to conduct a survey of magazine jobbers, similar to the book jobber survey done last year. A list of the 500 plus magazine titles and a questionnaire concerning services offered has been sent to four jobbers. Information received from the magazine jobbers will be compared to our present method of ordering direct. Findings will be presented to the Finance Committee in August or September.

The Finance Committee will also be reviewing several important areas that effect library financing, including:

1. Reviewing the use of an off-duty policeman vs. hiring a security firm.
2. Reviewing service maintenance contracts for the two elevators.
3. Reviewing the effectiveness of the Credit Bureau in collecting delinquent accounts.

### III. Collection Development

A silent auction was held from June 29 to July 1 to eliminate the collection of 78 sculptures. The auction was extremely popular, with the average bid being around \$18.00. We plan to retain the sculpture display cases to display other library materials.

The Last Temptation of Christ has been ordered in video-cassette format. While this movie has been somewhat controversial, the library has had a copy of the book since 1960. This purchase is based upon the material selection policy. The last controversial title purchased was Salman Rushdie's Satanic Verses. This book was the subject of a June book review given by Carol Voorhees (library assistant in the adult services department). The review was very well received by the audience.

The Illinois State Library has informed me that effective July 1990, all Illinois public libraries will be required to use Avenues to Excellence II when requesting per capita grant monies. The submission date has also been changed from October to July of each year.

### IV. Personnel

The Staff Development Committee has scheduled the 1990 Staff Institute Day for Wednesday, March 21. A needs assessment survey is being distributed to the staff to determine the types of training each employee feels they need to perform their job effectively. Results from these surveys will be used to develop training programs for the staff.

Mrs. Gibson and Mr. Merrick attended a day-long workshop entitled "Economic Development and the Public Library." Mrs. Gibson was a speaker on the panel.

Cathy Ritchie attended an ALA conference on young adult services. Mr. Merrick and Mrs. Gibson also attended the conference.

Sixty volunteers worked 162.5 hours for the library in June.

#### V. Public Relations

The children's department signed up 1,595 children during the "Great Book Hunt" summer reading program, which is an increase of 22.8% over June 1988. The extension department signed up 437 children, a 9% increase. Seventeen additional programs were also sponsored, including preschool story times, school age story times, film programs, and a special story teller, John Braden Dashnay. Mr. Dashnay was funded through a grant from the Illinois State Library to increase awareness for library service to the blind and physically disabled. Over 50 people attended this very special program.

Story times were also held on bookmobile 547 at the Main and Linden stop. A retired teacher volunteered to tell stories.

Mrs. Burch, staff artist, has designed new displays on the outside rear wall of the bookmobiles.

"Hot Reads", the YA summer reading program, started June 15. Twenty-three teens had signed up as of June 30. The juke box display of the top twenty hits for YA readers has been very popular.

Some upcoming programs the library will be sponsoring include an adult discussion program and a forum with the League of Women Voters on September 23 about mental health.

Media coverage of the library and its program was extensive. Seven articles appeared in the local papers. Staff spoke on the radio four times, not counting the regular book reviews given by the extension staff on WXFM. Ms. Burch appeared on WAND "At Your Service" on June 27 to explain the silent sculpture auction. We also received coverage in the July/August "Good Times" magazine.

#### VI. Other

Installation of the CLSI circulation computer upgrade has been postponed. It was mutually agreed upon by Decatur Public Library and