

✓ N.C. Libraries

ANNUAL REPORT

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DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

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WHITE Library

The
Durham Public Library

ANNUAL REPORT

1940



Durham, North Carolina

THE LIBRARY 1941

"The American Library Association believes it is the privilege and duty of every library and library agency in North America to make its books and services contribute in all possible ways to the preservation and improvement of the democratic way of life.

"Libraries must help the unskilled, unemployed man preparing himself to hold a job in an essential industry; and the unskilled worker preparing himself for greater responsibilities.

"The wars now being waged are not merely against nations and races. They have as their aim the destruction of ideas as well, even in those countries not engaged in military combat. The freedoms and principles which represent the highest achievements of civilized society are menaced, from abroad and at home. Libraries are inevitably involved in this war of ideas.

"Unusual opportunities exist to increase understanding of what democracy is, what its achievements and failures have been, and above all what its future can be.

"The war and its causes, our own country's relation to it, aid to Great Britain, hemispheric solidarity, problems of the Pacific, social reconstruction at home, the kind of peace we want, the kind of world organization—these and scores of other wartime subjects need public consideration and reasoned discussion in the light of facts available in books.

"Libraries have an opportunity to promote the reading of thought-provoking books on socially significant questions; they have an obligation to make it difficult for people to escape the influence of such books.

"Intellectual freedom is never permanently assured. It is apparently endangered by war. The right of the citizen to find in his library the best material on all sides of controversial public question must be protected.

"The Library cannot work alone, but must co-operate with all other agencies concerned with research, education, training, and the diffusion of ideas.

"When as now, it becomes necessary to mobilize all educational and cultural resources for defense and for the preservation and improvement of the American way of life, it must be deplored that millions of Americans do not have library service.

"The social and intellectual unrest growing out of the present world situation may lead to confusion and despair; or it may lead to a renaissance of critical inquiry and constructive thinking. Whether the result will be the one or the other will depend in no small measure on the ability of libraries and other agencies of enlightenment to adapt their services to present needs."

Quotation from a statement of policy adopted by the Council of the American Library Association. December 26, 1940.

DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY,
Durham, N. C.

January 1, 1941.

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
DURHAM, N. C.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

As librarian, I have the honor to submit herewith the annual report and review of the activities of the Durham Public Library for the year of 1940.

Twenty years ago this summer, the library moved into this, its new building. In order to get a picture of what the library is doing to fulfill its function variously referred to as "education for democracy, maintaining morale, or helping people to understand the meaning of events," let us look for a moment at ourselves twenty years ago. We might say that the library was poised for flight since its former home had been sold and this building was not completed. The library occupied the dining room of the former Lochmoor Hotel. The staff consisted of two persons, Mrs. A. F. Griggs, librarian and Ethlynnne Graham, assistant. Book stacks from the old building, still used in the basement rooms of this one, held the 7,700 volumes which comprised the collection. The annual budget was \$4,320 from City and County, or 10 cents per capita, and the circulation was about 33,000 books, 95% of which was fiction. The members of the Board of Trustees who were reported in attendance at meetings during 1920 were General Julian S. Carr, Chairman; Mr. T. B. Fuller, Vice-Chairman; Mr. John F. Wily, Treasurer; Mr. C. W. Toms, Mr. T. C. Worth, Rev. S. S. Bost, Mr. W. L. Foushee, and Mr. W. J. Brogden.

Compare these same items in 1940. There are now ten members of the staff and the book stock, as reported January 1, 1941, was 32,834 volumes, the City and County appropriation, \$18,450.00 or 23 cents per capita, which is just $\frac{1}{4}$ of the minimum standard set for libraries. Circulation was 184,000 of which 74% represented the fiction readers. Trustees in attendance at meetings during 1940 were Mr. Finley T. White, Chairman; Mrs. W. C. Davison, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. J. B. Mason, Secretary; Col. M. B. Fowler, Treasurer; Mayor W. F. Carr, Mr. W. L. Foushee, Mr. Luther Barbour, Dr. John W. Carr, Jr., Mrs. St. Pierre DuBose, Mr. G. F. Kirkland, and Mr. O. A. McCullers. But much that does not appear in the records of 1920 can be added to the picture. This building was occupied July 6, 1921 and a part time assistant employed to keep the library open in the evening. However this service was discontinued since there was an average of only 20 persons per night.

In September 1923 the Kiwanis Club presented to the library a one ton Ford truck equipped as a Bookmobile which served the people of Durham County for fifteen years. To pay for "Miss

Kiwanis" as the book van was called, the Kiwanis Club put on a minstrel show under the direction of the future "Andy Brown." It was while "Andy" was thus engaged that he met his partner-to-be, "Amos Jones." Therefore "Miss Kiwanis," it may be said, was responsible for the creation of "Amos an' Andy."

In 1927 the library tried to establish Hospital service but the loss of books was so great that the meagre book stock could not stand the strain, therefore Hospital work was discontinued. In 1929 a trained children's librarian was added to the staff, and this emphasis on the needs of younger readers led the Kiwanis Club to furnish and equip a separate Children's Room in the basement during the following year. By 1936 the crowding in this building had become so great that plans were made for an addition to be built. Funds were secured by the Board of Trustees from the Public Works Administration but City and County, finding it impossible to reach their requirements, had to turn the appropriation back to the Government. However, extensive repairs were made to the building at that time. A new roof and a new furnace were installed, and the appearance of the building greatly improved by fresh paint inside and out. But this did not provide additional space for books and borrowers. In order to give some relief to the over-crowding several thousand volumes were removed from the building and stored in the basement of City Hall. Only last summer was the library able to make these books available to the public again, when it secured space in the Durham Warehouse, put up stacks there, and shelved some 5,500 volumes which can be sent for as needed.

Evening service was re-established late in 1939 and during the past year 10,425 persons, largely new borrowers, have benefitted from the added hours. We expect the recently installed adequate lighting to materially increase the nightly average attendance of 40 persons.

But the quality of service given by the library is something which cannot be measured in figures. We, the staff, feel the deepest satisfaction in the quality and degree of help made available with the increased facilities which have been provided. The addition to the staff of trained and experienced people in various departments have made possible an efficiency in meeting the needs of the borrowers that was undreamed of by the public in 1920. Some of these are: a trained cataloger, to analyze and introduce the new books to the staff and the public, an experienced Children's librarian to co-ordinate the Public Library and its many facilities with the School Libraries so that the one supplements the others. Mr. Warren and others from the School System have commended the accomplishments in this field and we hope by this, that the children have formed the habit of depending upon books and will turn in later life to the Public Library to satisfy their requirements.

The installation of an automatic charging machine has shortened the time of the mechanical process of passing books across the desk and freed the individual staff member to use her head instead of her hands in the service of the public. This has enabled the librarian to assign individuals to give special aid to persons needing special help. We now maintain: an information desk for general questions; floor service to help the borrower find the book he is seeking; a reader's advisory service to plan systematic reading courses for those desiring it; the usual reference service whereby a question is verified and answered, either over the telephone or to the borrower in person; a radio story hour has recently been established; and shortly a reading club for the teen age boys and girls will be organized.

The re-establishment in 1933 of County service after a two year lapse with an experienced County librarian giving part of her time exclusively to this work, and the purchase and equipping in 1937 of a one-half ton Chevrolet Bookmobile has given new impetus to reading on the farm. The most recent improvement of service, begun with the New Year, is; the broadening of the Reserve system to include every circulating book in the library; the taking of requests and renewals over the telephone; and the delivery of books to homes within the city by the Merchant's Delivery Service upon the payment of 10 cents for each delivery.

During the years that we have occupied this building the library has bought 46,000 books, however, the readers have worn out and lost 20,000 of our collection but in so doing they read 2,660,000 volumes. In his inaugural address, President Roosevelt said, "A nation like a person has a mind, a mind that must be kept informed and alert, that must know itself, that understands the hopes and needs of its neighbors, all the other nations that live within the narrowing circle of the world." To keep a mind "informed and alert," it must be fed upon the best information and philosophy; if the best is not available it would gorge itself upon second hand and false philosophies, as Herr Goebbels has demonstrated to us. A library's function in this time of crisis is, first; to procure the authoritative books and information needed, and secondly, to make it "difficult to escape the influence of such books." When a small institution, long understaffed, and even yet financially undernourished reaches so many people in the area of 312 square miles that is Durham County, it demonstrates, in its little corner, the essential function of libraries in a democracy.

May I, as librarian, personally, express to you, the members of the Board of Trustees, my gratitude for your help in carrying forward the banner of service in Durham County. Also, may I commend to you the loyal and unfailing help of my staff which has made the functioning of these services possible. To the City Council, County Commissioners, City and County Managers, we extend our

thanks for their understanding and co-operation. To the newspapers and the Radio Station, who have been most generous and helpful, our thanks; also, to the Junior League and many others, too numerous to name here, who have encouraged the staff and helped the library in innumerable ways, we wish to say, "Thank you" each one.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARA M. CRAWFORD, *Librarian.*



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ANNUAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1940

City: Durham, N. C.
Name of Library: Durham Public.
Date of Founding: 1897.
Name of Librarian: Clara M. Crawford.
Date appointed: 1923.
Population served: 80,244 (1940 census).
Terms of use: Free to all residents of Durham County.
Location: Central building owned by the Library.
Number of days open during the year: 306; holidays: 7.
Hours open each week: 67.
Total agencies: 33.

Consisting of: Main library
Community houses 5
Stores and filling stations..... 10
Homes 7
Church 2
Stations in schools..... 6
Hospital 1
Bookmobile 1

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
BOOK STOCK			
Number of volumes at beginning of year.....	25,321	6,404	31,725
Number of volumes added during year.....	1,827	810	2,637
Total.....	27,148	7,214	34,362
Number of volumes withdrawn or lost.....	908	620	1,528
Total number of volumes Jan. 1, 1941....	26,240	6,594	32,834

Number of volumes per capita.....	4
Number of volumes per registered borrower.....	3.0
Number of newspapers currently received.....	9
Number of periodicals currently received.....	103

CIRCULATION AND USE

	Volumes	Percentage of Total Circulation
Number of volumes non-fiction lent for home use.....	16,646	26%
Number of volumes of fiction lent for home use.....	92,747	74%
Number of books for children lent for home use.....	74,780	40%

Total number of volumes lent for home use.....	184,173
Number of volumes circulated to unregistered borrowers..	58,786 33%

Circulation per capita.....	2.3 books
Circulation per registered borrower.....	17 books
Circulation per library staff.....	20,463 books
Turnover of book stock.....	6 times per volume
Period of loan of majority of adult books.....	14 days

REGISTRATION*

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Borrowers registered or re-registered during the year	1,104	986	2,090
Total number of registered borrowers.....	8,919	1,895	10,814
Registration period	4 years		

* Registration shows only borrowers from the Main Library.
No registration is kept at other agencies.

CLARA M. CRAWFORD, Librarian.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR 1940

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand January 1, 1940.....	\$ 184.21
Amount received from City.....	11,500.00
Amount received from County.....	5,749.92
Amount received from Rents and fines.....	1,073.26
Total library receipts	\$18,507.39
Amount received from City and County for building Repairs and improvements	1,200.00
	\$19,707.39

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries	\$10,813.98
Bank account	
Books	\$ 3,777.30
Periodicals and binding	298.65
Service	\$ 4,075.95
Page	\$ 180.00
Janitor	780.00
Truck	486.74
Maintenance	\$ 1,446.74
Supplies	\$ 734.79
Lights	396.16
Telephone	89.18
Water	14.67
Rent	70.00
Insurance	105.65
Fuel	222.05
Charging machine rental	35.00
Miscellaneous and cash items	274.76
	\$ 1,942.26
Total library expenditures	\$18,278.93
Library fund balance	228.46

Extraordinary Expenditures

New lghts	\$ 942.85
Repair terrace	888.89
Stacks for Annex	100.00
Electric fans	72.58
Minor repairs	38.30
Total Extraordinary Expenditures	\$ 2,042.62
Grand Total	\$20,321.55
DEFICIT	614.16

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