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YORK

PUBLIC

LIBRARY

1968

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YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1968

The outstanding event of the year for the York Public Library was the announcement that the Chief Librarian, Evelyn Gregory, would retire at the beginning of 1969. To this was linked the other important happening, the opening of the Evelyn Gregory Branch in February to honour her notable contribution in pioneering library service for The Township and later The Borough of York. Her influence will be perceptible for many years and her absence from the staff is greatly regretted.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY REGION

Several changes are evident in our library service since the appointment of the new Director of the Metropolitan Toronto Region. Among these is the use of teletype to link the six local library systems* and the Metro Central Library, by this, making available very rapidly any information or materials in all of these libraries.

Mutual co-operation is producing further efficiency in service by means of a daily Metro delivery for books and films on interlibrary loan. Staff members continue to participate in the Metro Library committee meetings for the purpose of further co-ordination or development of services.

FILM SECTION

1968 was the first year of full operation for the Film Section which had opened at the Main Library in September 1967. On July 1, 1968, the Metropolitan Toronto Library Board Audio Visual Services became the new name for the services that had been operating, and at the same time free distribution of films began. In September a six day delivery started.

A new catalogue which will list the films held by all member libraries will be available to the public in 1969. In addition to films, the Library has a collection of filmstrips for young children, a special collection based on children's picture books.

Films, filmstrips, projectors, screens, slide and filmstrip projectors are at the Main Library. Catalogues are available for consultation by the public at all Branches. Program advice and classes in projectionist training are given at the Main Library.

* Borough of East York, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York and the City of Toronto.

FILM SECTION - continued

A number of new films have been added to the collection, some by purchase and others by extended loan deposits from the National Film Board.

In addition to the above services, the film section programs for the branches for adult or children's films, has held several workshops for community groups, and has arranged a weekly film program for the public given by Extension Services in the Main library.

Circulation of films and filmstrips had tripled in the past year and the demand is growing.

EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMMES

Eighteen exhibitions of art and handicrafts of wide variety were arranged. Among the most successful were the Handicraft one at Mount Dennis branch attended by 559 persons, the Art Show at Main Library in January viewed by over 400, and the Photography Show at Main exhibited in November to 463.

Poetry readings were held in the Spring at Mount Dennis and Evelyn Gregory branches with varied response. At the latter some Italian film evenings were tried with success.

ADULT SERVICES

Acquisition of books kept pace with the heightened interest in every conceivable subject by young adults, university students, and adult readers. Non-fiction material was selected by the Head of Adult Services and her committee, and adult fiction by the Chief Librarian. A special project of this committee reached fruition when the Evelyn Gregory Library opened on February 18th with a stimulating basic collection of adult books.

230 periodicals provided current information for varied reading interests. The library also acquired a large number of pamphlets, many Canadian, for additional up-to-date material.

Italian language books were in increased demand and Musical recordings showed an increase in circulation of 501 from 1967.

Annotated list of books of literary interest are prepared monthly as a reader's advisory service. Two additional lists were a list of Canadian Fiction and Recent Movies from books.

ADULT SERVICES - continued

Young adult services continued to expand. In this connection during the fall at Main class visits invited closer co-operation with school projects. As an example of this a list of books in the library on COMMUNICATIONS was prepared by the Young adult librarian and made available to the students.

The photocopying service reached a peak of performance with an accelerated use by students of all grades.

The Head of Adult Services was a member of a Metropolitan Library Committee which made recommendations for a single borrower's library card for use in any library in Metropolitan Toronto. The committee also recommended a uniform system of registration and circulation procedures, where feasible, to take effect March 1st, 1969. Registrations in 1968 reached a total of 39,050.

Groups made regular use of the auditorium at Main throughout the year. These included the monthly meetings of the Governing Committee of the Metro Social Planning Council, and the Pre-natal classes held weekly during each session.

BOYS AND GIRLS SERVICES

The beginning of the year just ended is well remembered for the urgency with which we worked to supply an acceptable book stock in time for the opening of the new branch library.

A fire in the Bookmobile garage, although discovered quite soon, did disastrous damage mostly to the books for boys and girls. This meant intensive attention to the task of ordering replacements and checking number of copies needed, as the sections of history, biography, crafts and travel were the hardest hit.

Beginning in January and ending in May, we had all the classes from J.R. Wilcox School visit the Main library in the hope that more use would be made of our fiction titles. Because this school did not have a school library we thought that they would value this opportunity.

A new graduate of the Library School began her career in the Boys and Girls Department as an Assistant. This was a long-awaited and much needed event.

During the summer months we had a series of film programs for the children which were well attended. The Story Hour Program extends from the first Saturday in October to the end of June, and although the attendance fluctuates the response is always warm.

BOYS AND GIRLS SERVICES - continued

For Young Canada's book Week, we produced two plays with two different groups of children.

The York Creche Group visits the library once a month. These children are from broken homes, disturbed children, or from homes where the mothers work outside at jobs.

Four boys now in their early teens who were regular library users from kindergarten age asked permission to practise their music group in our Story Room. With three practises during Christmas holidays, they were able to provide us with a program for the special Christmas film event.

A Language Class from the neighbouring school, St. Thomas Aquinas, visits periodically with their teacher. We select books with simple but good reading and pictures, for them to handle and examine. They are mostly boys and girls in their first teen year.

The Boys and Girls Library has a small collection of books in French and English for the very young; only two or three in Italian, and one or two in German and Spanish. These books are not on the open shelves, partly because we have no space, and partly because with our public they are used to best advantage when given out upon request. Requests for Italian books usually are from children who want to take them for their parents. There is a need for easy books in Italian which would help the non literate adults. We meet many frustrated but eager and co-operative Italian parents.

It was revealing to hear from one principal that they have had difficulty in getting these parents to come to the school. He was interested that they came to the library and had hopes that this would perhaps eventually bring them to the school too.

BRANCH SERVICES

The Evelyn Gregory Library opened for service in February, 1968. It is situated in an Italian-oriented section and serves a population of about twenty-five thousand. Programmes in 1969 will be designed to reach this community and materials acquired which will provide for its special needs.

Borrowers in the children's section account for about 60% of the library's circulation. The high school students use the library for reference purposes but the circulation of books to these students is low. Students come from Silverthorn, Keelesdale, St. Matthews and Webster secondary schools.

BRANCH SERVICES - continued

The book collection in the adult department is a good basic collection. The collection in the boy's and girl's department is still far from capacity.

The staff enjoys working in such a pleasant building and is most anxious to provide good library service.

As a new feature at Jane Street Branch we introduced film evenings for which we made posters and gave out leaflets to our readers. Undaunted by one evening's low attendance, we intend to make it a regular monthly occasion, except for the holiday months. The idea for film showings came from the members who became aware of the film programmes at the Main library and regretted that they could not make it there especially in winter.

During the summer months adult books were transferred to the Main library, either to be stored until we had a larger building or to be circulated there. A substantial number of children's books were transferred to the Evelyn Gregory Library where they were urgently needed.

In October, with an assistant appointed to do mainly children's work, the staff situation was stabilized.

So with a staff that not only functions but actually harmonizes, and amidst readers who take a lively interest in their library, it has indeed been splendid to work at this branch.

The year at Mount Dennis has continued the change of emphasis, noted in the past few years, from the use of the library as a lending institution to the in-library use of books and reference materials. Virtually every evening sees individual students or groups of students working on projects or assignments with masses of books and reference materials piled on the tables before them. Frequently, even the Boys' and Girls' tables are filled, after 6 p.m., with high school, community college and university students doing research. This trend has brought a highly dramatic increase in the number of reference questions handled by the library staff, twelve-fold since 1960.

During 1968, we placed more emphasis on local sources for Art Room exhibitions, rather than obtaining outside exhibitions. As in the past, the Amateur Art Show and the Amateur Craft and Hobby Show have brought us several private exhibitions of high calibre during the next year. One such very popular showing was the Stamp Picture Art of Mr. Robert Clarke, an 87-year-old Mount Dennis artist which drew an attendance of 475 visitors, brought city newspaper coverage, and resulted in calls from outside points long after the exhibition was over. Art exhibitions are held at the branch from October through May inclusive.

BRANCH SERVICES - continued

This year we experimented with a series of science films at teen-age level, which were held after school and drew an attendance of 30 to 40 students. We hope to continue this in 1969 with more varied subject matter.

December was, as always, the height of our Children's programmes. During the month we featured Christmas films, a puppet show, Christmas film-strips, and a programme of Christmas stories and carol-singing.

Altogether, it was a year of high activity at Mount Dennis.

The year 1968 at Weston Branch was a busy one with an increase in circulation over the previous year. There appeared to be an increase in the use of the adult department by senior students - no doubt because of the rapidly growing collection of literary criticism and other books of interest to students.

The film shows for children were well attended.

Readers here represent a wide range of interests at all levels, as shown in the great variety of requests for books and information.

BOOKMOBILE

In the first half of 1968 the Bookmobile was beset by much bad luck resulting in poor circulation figures. The severe weather of January caused the cancellation of many stops and a fair number of flat tires caused further cancellations. Added to this came the near disaster of the fire in June. As a result of this fire we lost two and one half weeks of circulation and the additional circulation of summer books. The loss in circulation results not only from the frequent absences of the Bookmobile, but also from the cumulative effect of loss of confidence on the part of the children. If the Bookmobile does not appear regularly, neither do they. In the last four months of 1968, only three stops had to be cancelled.

The opening of the Gregory branch has further attracted many of the older readers (grade 4-6) away from the Webster and St. Matthew stops.

The adult circulation remains between one and two percent of the total. This does not seem to justify the space used to house the adult books, even though this small space provides only inadequate selection for the few adults we do have.

The circulation for 1969 should approach normal figures judging by the circulation rates of November and December of 1968.

HOSPITAL SERVICE

Hospital officials approached the Chief Librarian in 1959 with a request for the establishment of library service for the patients at Northwestern General Hospital. A plan evolved by which the Library Board provided the book stock, the processing systems and a staff member who gave several hours of working time in advisory capacity. The members of the Ladies' Auxiliary through its Volunteer Service provided personnel to circulate the books to the patients every Tuesday and Friday. Two cupboards in the basement of the hospital were assigned as storage space for the books and supplies.

Subject matter, size of print, and physical weight of book are all matters of concern in the selection of books for hospital reading. At the present there are 382 books, fiction and non-fiction, for use by the patients. Our staff members spend about four hours a month at the hospital, assisting the volunteers through procedure instruction and explanation of book content.

An innovation was the addition, at the end of 1968, of some paperback volumes in Italian. The first of these are now ready for circulation, and will provide service to a larger and hitherto neglected group of patients.

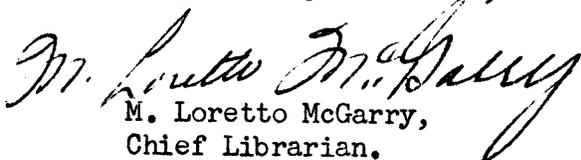
TECHNICAL SERVICES

The year was an extremely busy one for the Technical Services Department. Although only one clerical-typist was added to the department staff, the addition of 25,779 books and 159 records to the library's stock represents an approximate 33% increase over the department's work output for the previous year. With only 7,305 withdrawals during the year, the present total stock is 204,660 volumes and 1297 records.

The addition of the Gregory Library to the York system and the necessity of reclassifying the juvenile stock at the Weston Library required a revision of the records and cataloguing methods in the Boys and Girls Department. A continuous program of recataloguing the juvenile stock is being undertaken as the previous simplified methods and records were inadequate.

I am grateful to all the librarians in charge of services or outlets whose reports have been most helpful to me and from which reports most of the above has been abstracted; and I thank the Library Board for their forbearance and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,


M. Loretto McGarry,
Chief Librarian.

CIRCULATION - 1968

	CIRC. OF BOOKS	EST. USE OF REF. BKS.	RECORDS	FILMS AND FILMSTRIPS	TOTAL
Main Adults	121,521	34,596	1,976	1,033	
Main B&G	72,827	8,280			
Total	194,348	42,876			240,233
Jane Street	96,121	10,204			106,325
Mt. Dennis	63,993	10,240			74,233
Weston	82,294	3,088			85,382
Gregory	52,567	3,476			56,043
Bookmobile	73,977				73,977
Hospital	4,160				4,160
Grand Total	<u>567,460</u>	<u>69,884</u>	<u>1,976</u>	<u>1,033</u>	<u>640,353</u>

CIRCULATION - 1967

	CIRC. OF BOOKS	EST. USE OF REF. BKS.	RECORDS	FILMS AND FILMSTRIPS	TOTAL
Main Adults	115,431	32,736	1,475	365	
Main B&G	70,919	9,996			
Total	186,350	42,732			230,922
Jane Street	101,896	10,184			112,080
Mt. Dennis	72,258	9,548			81,806
Weston	76,707	3,340			80,047
Bookmobile	97,830				97,830
Hospital	3,665				3,665
Grand Total	<u>538,706</u>	<u>65,804</u>	<u>1,475</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>606,350</u>