

FINAL INVENTORY RESULTS

The sudden closing down of the library project, and the lack of adequate secretarial help during the last two weeks, made it almost impossible to collect outstanding books and make accurate records. The following statistics, however, were compiled:

31 books were lost or destroyed because of diseases in borrowers' homes.

53 books belonging to the Fayette Library proper were unaccounted for.

41 books belonging to the Lexington Public Library were lost.

Although the librarian regrets that these books were lost or unaccounted for at the time of the library's closing, she does not feel that the number is at all excessive in view of the very large circulation, the fact that it was the first time that many of our patrons had used a public library, that registration was not at first considered feasible, and that the WPA personnel was in such a continual state of flux and change that it was almost impossible to keep proper records.

Books accessioned and classified and prepared for circulation: 1912.

Books given to the library, but not as yet prepared for circulation: 559.

An attempt to record our borrowers, by FAMILY only, was made in the spring, and at the time of closing, 750 FAMILIES had been registered. This was not by any means the total registration.

CIRCULATION ANALYSIS

When the project closed August 1, 1939, the circulation figures, cold and unimaginative- showed that 44985 books and magazines had been read during the time in which the library functioned. This did not include circulation figures for the Girls' Division of the Kentucky Houses of Reform, where books had circulated for at least four months.

The number, 44985 does not give any real estimate of the number of times each book was read by other members of the borrowers' families, or how many times the books were passed from farmhouse to farmhouse. We do know that a book which was checked once for circulation records was often read by many people. The pack-horse libraries were allowed to estimate this extra usage, but as we were nominally a branch of the Lexington Public Library, and as the American Library Association does not allow such estimates to show on circulation records, we did not make the estimate. I am sure that the real use of the books, therefore, was many times greater than the total circulation figure.

Of the 44985 books and magazines read in the eleven months,

MAGAZINES.

15722, or 34% of the whole circulation represents magazines read by both adults and juveniles.

Adults read 9148 magazines; children read 6574.

Thus, 49% of the adult circulation was magazines and only 25% of the juvenile circulation was magazines.

22,866, or 50% of the whole circulation represents fiction read by both adults and juveniles.

FICTION { Adults read 8539 books of fiction, juveniles read 14,337.

Thus, 46% of the adult circulation was fiction, and 54% of the juvenile circulation was fiction.

HISTORY { 79 Adult books of history were circulated; 356 books of juvenile history. Many of the fiction books for children were actually historical fiction, however.

Notes: The normal circulation figures for an American public library usually show approximately 50% fiction. I believe that the reading of fiction is very desirable and I do not want to detract from the inferences involved in the statement. But I must point out that in the juvenile classification many books which were, at first, counted as fiction, really were probably better classified as non-fiction. The classification of books belonging to the Board of Education differed from that of books belonging to the Fayette Library proper and to the Lexington Public Library in many instances.

Most popular of all classes of books were those classed as Western adventure, animals, aeroplanes.

MAGAZINES: APPROXIMATELY 28,000 magazines were given to the library. Many of them came as the response to an item in "Jay Jay"'s column in the Lexington Leader. Even today, four months after that item appeared, I am still being offered additional magazines by persons who want to help the library.

Circulation figures did not include the 4731 which the library gave the Eastern State Hospital, the 288 magazines which we gave the Kentucky Houses of Reform, and the 284 which we gave the County Infirmary.

We gave to the Rockcastle County Library 285 books and a thousand religious magazines which were not of the kind which could be used in this library.