

ELEVENTH

ANNUAL

REPORT

NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
COMMISSION

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1910

*New Jersey State Library*

JERSEY CITY, N. J.  
GADDIS BROS., PRINTERS

1911



WORLD LIBRARY  
COMMISSION

THE WORLD

THE WORLD LIBRARY

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THE WORLD LIBRARY



**ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**COMMISSION**

**OF**  
**NEW JERSEY**

**For the Year Ending October 31st**

**1910**

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**JERSEY CITY, N. J.**  
**GADDIS BROS., PRINTERS**  
**1911**



ALBERT H. HARRIS

PUBLIC LIBRARY  
CITY OF ALBANY

1892

ALBANY, N. Y.



## Public Library Commission

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W. C. KIMBALL, Chairman (1915).....Passaic.  
M. TAYLOR PYNE (1911).....Princeton.  
E. C. RICHARDSON (1912).....Princeton.  
HOWARD M. COOPER (1913).....Camden.  
EVERETT T. TOMLINSON (1914).....Elizabeth.

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HENRY C. BUCHANAN, Secretary.....Trenton.  
SARAH B. ASKEW, Organizer.....Trenton.  
EDNA B. PRATT, Assistant Organizer.....Trenton.  
MILDRED F. BUCHANAN, Assistant.....Trenton.



## PROVISIONS OF THE LAW

The act creating the New Jersey Public Library Commission provides that it shall assist public libraries by giving "advice in regard to the selection of books, the cataloguing thereof, and any other matter pertaining to the establishment, maintenance, and administration of such library." Libraries needing such assistance, and especially the smaller libraries that cannot afford to employ trained help, and those dependent on voluntary service, should apply to the Commission, at Trenton.

The annual fee for the use of the traveling libraries is \$2, to be paid in advance. Arrangement of the libraries has been changed, and instead of being made up of collections of fifty books on varied subjects, not subject to change, the books are selected to suit the applicants.

Charges for conveying the libraries to the express office or railroad station nearest their destination, and for their return to Trenton, are borne by the Commission. The local cartage must be paid by those to whom the libraries are sent. Traveling libraries are loaned to communities that are without library facilities, on the application of taxpayers, who must select a trustee and librarian to become responsible for the proper care and distribution of the books.

Further information and blank forms will be furnished on application to the Commission, at Trenton.



# ANNUAL REPORT

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*Hon. John Franklin Fort, Governor of New Jersey:*

Dear Sir—The following report of the operations of the New Jersey Public Library Commission for the year ended October 31st, 1910, is respectfully submitted in compliance with the act of March 20th, 1900, creating the Commission.

Steady and continued interest has been shown during the year. Fourteen libraries have been added to the list, bringing the total up to 208. In 1900 the New Jersey Library Association had a record of only seventy-six, a number of which were seldom open. Besides these fourteen free public libraries, twenty-one traveling library stations have been started, making the total number 237; 811 traveling libraries have been sent out, containing 40,500 books, which, with the special loans included, total 41,613. Approximately 118,500 books have been circulated through these libraries, at an expense for transportation of \$603.93. Seven libraries have been re-organized; 282 visits have been made; 164 libraries given aid by advice, instruction, book-lists, and suggestions in purchasing books and furniture; libraries in thirty-three State correctional institutions were supervised; seventy-four addresses made; thirty-one programmes made out for clubs, and twenty-eight for study classes and granges; book-lists furnished to forty-seven clubs and thirty-one granges; bulletins, pictures and exhibits loaned to supplement books on various subjects; 2,545 books were purchased and 200 books received as gifts, making a total of 2,745 books prepared for circulation.

In compiling the statistics given, the term "traveling library station" is applied only to the places to which are sent a collection of fifty books for circulation. No place is considered a traveling library station which is not at the time of the compilation of this report subscribing for such a collection. The places to which only an occasional book, or a loan of several books for a special purpose, have been made, are considered under the head of "special" and "individual" loans. This explanation is made because of the fact that in a number of the States any place to which books are sent, either as special or general loans, is con-



sidered a traveling library station, and, also, because in a number of States any place which may have subscribed for books within three years' time is considered still a traveling library station.

Of the 237 traveling libraries, 153 are in rural districts, being under the charge of the granges, farmers' clubs, agricultural societies and farming communities; twenty-seven of them are in the hands of libraries with incomes too small to supply the towns with books without this help; and the remaining stations are in small communities, only three of which are towns of over 3,000 inhabitants.

With the supplemental appropriation of last spring, sixty new cases were purchased, as at the close of 1909 there were only 156 cases for 216 traveling libraries. There have been purchased, at a cost of \$2,212.10, 2,545 books, at an average price of 86.9 cents. Three hundred and fifty of these are in the "special" or prison libraries. The total number of accessions for use in the traveling libraries since the beginning of the work in 1899, is 16,763. The total number of books discarded during the same length of time is 3,377, leaving a working stock of 13,386. Of this number at least 500 are unfit for circulation, being old, worn and soiled; but they are kept in use because of the need of books. Some of them have been in use ten years. The books discarded have been sent to prisons, the "Pine" districts, where reading matter of any kind is scarce; the mountain districts, where the same conditions prevail; to the canal missionaries, and to some of the small libraries and schools.

The Summer School in May and June was conducted on the same plan as in former years. The course was five weeks in length and covered the elementary branches of library science. There were twenty-two students in attendance, representing the following libraries: Atlantic City, Lambertville, Perth Amboy, Ridgefield Park, Belleville, Newton, Montclair, Bradley Beach, Kearny, Vineland, Hoboken, Asbury Park, Tenaflly, Bayonne, Had-donfield and Rahway. The outside lectures were given by the following persons: Mr. J. I. Wyer, Jr., State Library, Albany; Miss M. W. Plummer, Director Pratt Institute Library School; Miss Clara W. Hunt, Supervisor of Children's Work in Brooklyn; Miss Annie Carroll Moore, head of the Children's Department of the New York Public Library; Miss Anna Tyler, of the New York Public Library; Miss Theresa Hitchler, Chief of the Cataloguing



Department, Brooklyn Public Library; Miss Ruth Yeomans, Librarian Public Library, Madison, N. J.; Miss Marilla W. Freeman, head of the Reference Department, Newark Free Library; Dr. Everett T. Tomlinson, Elizabeth, N. J.; Dr. E. C. Richardson, Librarian of Princeton University Library.

Four annual sessions of the school have been held, with a total attendance of 108 students. Of this number forty-nine are heads of libraries, the others being assistants, indexers, etc. Six of the number are not now in library work. These 108 students have represented seventy-eight libraries. The school for the time being having accomplished its mission, it will not be held in 1911. In its place will be conducted a week's institute for advanced work.

The 237 traveling library stations are divided among the counties as follows:

Atlantic .....	7	Middlesex .....	12
Bergen .....	9	Monmouth .....	16
Burlington .....	21	Morris .....	20
Camden .....	8	Ocean .....	10
Cape May.....	7	Passaic .....	5
Cumberland .....	15	Salem .....	11
Essex .....	17	Somerset .....	9
Gloucester .....	14	Sussex .....	12
Hudson .....	4	Union .....	8
Hunterdon .....	13	Warren .....	5
Mercer .....	14		

The number of books circulated by the traveling library stations can be given only approximately. The librarian in charge of each station is depended upon for statistics, and it is not always possible for her to keep them accurately. In many cases the books pass from family to family before being returned to the library. Since it is the desire of the Commission to circulate these books as freely as possible, this is allowed. From the statistics returned, the average circulation at a station is shown to be approximately 500 books per year, making a total for the State of about 118,500. The number sent out by the Commission has been 41,663. The increase in the number of stations has been small, because with the appropriation available it has been impossible to enlarge the scope of this work to any extent, the Commission deeming it better to serve a few well than many poorly. There have been many more requests than could be filled, new stations being made only



where the need seemed urgent. We have now on file a list of forty-one communities desiring libraries, and eighty-seven more that are interested in and inquiring about them.

There are still over 600 small communities in the State absolutely without library facilities. To fill the forty-one requests now on hand, and to supply the towns known to be interested in the libraries, would require \$3,000 in addition to the money to take care of the stations already established. To keep up the present stations a book fund of not less than \$200 a month is needed. The traveling library, to attain its greatest efficiency, should serve the same purpose in the smaller communities and rural districts of the State as the public library does in the city. This cannot be done until a representative of the Commission can visit each station at least once a year, talk to the people and find out their needs. The traveling libraries, with money enough to afford a continual and adequate supply of books to fill all requests that are made for new stations, and with some one to visit these stations, will be one of the greatest educational agencies in the State.

Besides the regular work of the traveling libraries, a great effort has been made to meet the need for books for study purposes by individual loans. To put books for individual study in a library limited to fifty volumes, loaned for general reading, deprives a whole community of a number of books in order that one person may be satisfied. Yet the student should be helped. To meet this need, the individual and special loan has been put into operation.

During the year, 1,113 books have been circulated in this way. Many of these were, of necessity, borrowed from the Trenton Free Public Library and the Newark Free Public Library. That these libraries have been generous and accommodating in this matter is greatly appreciated by the Commission. Without their co-operation many requests must have been refused. In addition to the study clubs and reading courses started in previous years through the agency of these libraries, there have been established this past year reading courses in nineteen communities, and sixteen in the country districts.

The traveling libraries are by no means made up wholly of fiction. The agricultural collection is large and in constant circulation, as are the books on history, travel, art and literature; yet in no class is the supply adequate. These are some of the subjects covered by the libraries and special loans:



Pure food law,	Direct primaries,
Wheat growing,	Woman's suffrage,
Agricultural bacteria,	Present day education,
Laundry work,	American artists,
Defective children,	Commission plan of government,
Child study,	Income tax,
Diet and dietetics,	Initiative and referendum,
Poultry raising,	American literature,
Apple growing,	Drama,
Corn growing,	Present day novelists,
Concrete work on the farm,	Household economics,
Famous women of New Jersey,	Farm sanitation,
Early history of New Jersey,	Musicians of the day,
Religious sects of America,	Poisonous preservatives,
Celtic literature,	Plumbing,
Barn plans,	Mental diseases,
Manual training,	Mosquitoes,
Child labor,	Public utilities,
Rural schools,	Bush fruits,
Advertising,	Pedagogy,
Accounts,	German literature,
Public speaking,	Civil engineering,
Nobel prize,	English drama,
Immigration,	Diseases of swine,
Civil service,	Roman history,
United States history,	New Jersey industries,
Canning fruits,	Egyptian archaeology,
Italian art,	Intensive farming,
Improvement of towns,	Dress making,
Organic chemistry,	Also the history, government
Greek art,	and literature of many of the
Forestry,	countries of the world.

The New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs has sent out seventeen boxes and barrels of books to traveling library stations and small communities, besides giving books directly to the Commission. It has also paid for the services of a librarian, who has served seven stations.

During the coming year the Commission has arranged to work more extensively with the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs, the Woman's Work Committee of the State Grange, and the New Jersey Congress of Mothers, by furnishing them lists of the programmes for study that the Commission has on hand, the suggestive lists of books on various topics, and lists of subjects on which the Commission has material.



At the beginning of the year when the subject of changing the prison libraries was taken up with the wardens and chaplains of the various institutions, they expressed a desire to retain the same collections, especially in the county jails, as the jail population is a shifting one. This was satisfactory to the Commission, and few of the libraries have been exchanged. Some of the collections, however, were reported worn out, and, after investigation, these were replaced with the aid of the supplemental appropriation. Seven of the institutions have requested more books. It is hard to ascertain the number of times any of the books have circulated, as no complete records are kept, but in answer to a questionnaire it was found the books were much used and greatly appreciated. Replies were received from all but five of the institutions. The fact that some of the collections are entirely worn out proves their use.

In the institutions that have been visited, the inmates themselves have expressed their desire for more reading matter. In order that the libraries should do the most good, some one should visit these institutions and see that the books are properly circulated. The prison and jail officials cheerfully co-operate with the Commission in this work, but they have not the time to attend to it, nor have they given the subject enough attention to know the books suited to individual inmates. An appropriation is needed to keep up the supply of books, as the ones first purchased are wearing out. The total number bought for this purpose is 3,387, of which 3,172 are now in use. These books have been selected carefully, after advising with specialists on the subject. It is learned from such reports as could be secured, that the books are given out and returned twice a week. In some of the larger institutions there are not enough for each inmate to have one.

The re-organization work has gone steadily forward. One hundred and thirty-one libraries have been visited during the year, some of them three or more times. Seven libraries have been entirely re-organized with the aid and supervision of one of the Organizers. The policy of the Commission is not to do the work, but to teach the librarian in charge how to do it, helping her as she progresses, and returning to correct the work and to aid in the solution of fresh problems. Twelve libraries have been assisted in buying furniture and materials; specifications for furniture, rooms and buildings have been furnished to five; seven have been



aided in securing librarians and assistants. In five towns the town council has been successfully urged to give an increased appropriation for the library; in nine towns the boards of trustees have been conferred with as to rules and regulations for the government of the library; in four others as to the proper division of the library income.

One of the most important branches of Commission work is that of aiding the small libraries by acting as a central bureau of information and instruction, thus enabling them to do their work with the greatest degree of efficiency. These small libraries cannot subscribe to book helps; are not in touch with the book market; do not know the relative merits of the different binderies; cannot visit the furniture supply houses, and have not the material for reference work. Forty-two libraries are now acting under the advice of the Commission in these various ways. The reference questions answered by the Commission average ten a day and cover a wide range of subjects. The Commission acts as an inter-loan bureau, furnishing the small libraries, the traveling libraries and individuals with books they cannot afford to buy. The important thing is for a library to supply a book which is needed, at the time it is needed. Many libraries cannot afford to buy expensive books for only occasional use. The inter-loan system solves this problem for them. The Commission has helped ninety-two libraries by lending them additional material. Some times it is only a pamphlet, some times a typewritten copy, but in every instance a need has been supplied. Book-lists are checked and mailed monthly to seventy-eight small libraries; regular lists are made and sent out on special subjects from time to time; lists of periodicals have been sent to twenty-five towns. Many questions about cataloguing, classification and administration are settled by correspondence. This correspondence entails an average of forty letters a day. An assortment of the best tracts and handbooks on library economy and administration are kept on hand and constantly circulated. During the past year thirty-one clubs have been supplied with programmes and study outlines, and forty-seven were furnished with books to cover their year's work. Magazines have been distributed among a number of small libraries and traveling library stations.

In the interests of library extension, better reading, and study work, representatives of the Commission have spoken at fifteen

**New Jersey State Library**



grange meetings, twenty-one clubs, twelve town meetings in towns having no libraries and seven having libraries; in sixteen schools, to children, teachers and parents.

To further the work in the rural districts, the Commission is co-operating with the State Department of Agriculture. Arrangements have been made for talks by a representative of the Commission before the Farmers' Institutes in sixteen different districts upon "Books for Farmers."

A story hour for children has been conducted in seven libraries, to show what is useful and what is not, in this line of work. The Commission was represented on the lecture staff of the Cape May Summer School for Teachers, and at the New Jersey Conference of Charities and Corrections.

In the past requests for books for the blind have been referred to the Philadelphia Free Library, an arrangement having been made with them that such requests would be filled. The Commission subscribed a small sum from year to year for the publication of books. This library has now a rule that books in Braille type shall not be circulated outside the State of Pennsylvania. It has deprived many of the blind people of New Jersey of reading privileges. There has been appointed, however, a Commission for the Blind in New Jersey, which will take this matter into consideration.

The libraries added to the record during the past year are: Delanco, Scotch Plains, Edgewater, Helmetta, Franklin Furnace, Dunellen, Gibbsboro, Collingswood, Haddon Heights, Port Norris, Hasbrouck Heights, Cedar Grove, Mount Arlington and Rocky Hill. A town of less than 200 inhabitants is not large enough to support a library, unless that town be a trading centre and the library is supported and used by the surrounding community. The very small towns are urged to establish a reading room, supplied with a good encyclopaedia and magazines, and to meet the demand for circulating books with the traveling libraries.

The fees received for the use of the traveling libraries amounted to \$242.45, which has been paid into the State Treasury.

W. C. KIMBALL,  
M. TAYLOR PYNE,  
E. T. TOMLINSON,  
E. C. RICHARDSON,  
HOWARD M. COOPER.







