

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY

1945-1946

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Illinois Wesleyan University

Annual Report of the Librarian, 1945-1946

I hereby present my report for the year, 1945-1946, which covers the period from October 1 to June 1.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE LIBRARY

Total number of books in the Library, June 1, 1946 44,396
This includes 740 new books added this year

Circulation

Reserve books circulated, Oct.1,1945 to June 1,1946 24,504
Reserve books loaned for overnight use 3,626
Total 28,130

Two week books loaned for use outside library 5,126
TOTAL 33,256

The report for 1944-1945, an 11 month period shows the following circulation

Reserve books circulated 12,875
Reserve books loaned for overnight use 2,907
Two week books loaned for use outside library 5,026
TOTAL 20,808

There are probably two reasons for larger circulation figures this year, the larger number of students enrolled and the putting on reserve of many of the books for the use of the survey classes.

The function of the college library was considered formerly to be that of collecting and preserving books. Now the function of the college library is to make its resources available to students and faculty. Several factors such as changes in educational theory and methods of teaching have been responsible for this. Modern educational theory affirms that the student should see life whole and its problems interrelated. That this object may be accomplished curriculums include survey courses which cut across several fields of study. To meet the demands of such courses the

college library needs to provide broader collections of books. Teaching methods have also undergone changes and there has been a shift from the text-book-lecture method to the assignment of problems to be worked out individually in the library. And the college library now offers books on many phases of a subject and on a wide range of subjects. Through adapting its practices to changes such as these the college library has come to take its place as an extension of the classroom. To further this aim the librarian at Wesleyan this year has attempted to administer the library so as to make available its resources as widely as possible, within the limitations of the building and the size of the library staff. Certain methods and devices have been used in this. To keep the faculty informed of educational trends and advancement in their own fields, the post-current numbers of magazines have been sent to those who wished them. Typed reviews of new books pertaining to their fields have been sent to various faculty members. Clippings from the NEW YORK TIMES which deal with educational events have been routed to members of the administration. Clippings about scientific progress go to the Science Dept. That the faculty and students might know the new books being added to the library, a mimeographed pamphlet, BOOK MIRROR, which gives brief reviews of the books of current interest, and lists others, has been edited the winter and spring quarters by the library staff.

To assist students to use the library's resources to better advantage lists of the magazines which the library has has been posted in the Reading Room. A list on cards of all the bound magazines owned by the library is now being compiled. This will be an aid in locating such library materials quickly. There is much material in the vertical file which will be more

usable now that subject heading cards have been put in the card catalog. Talks were given to five Freshman English sections at the request of the English department. These talks were followed by class assignments which required the students to use the library. As some students are interested in subjects not covered in courses, books are being added which deal with them. Displays call attention of the students to them. For example, a few weeks ago a display on the bulletin board showed the red sickle and hammer of Russia and jackets of books about that country. As it would be helpful to the library staff to know more about the recreational reading of college students here, a special call slip has been printed and used this year so that the data ^{are} ~~is~~ here for such a study to be made.

7 The above services have been added to make the library serve the college community more effectively--to assist faculty and students to attain the educational objectives of this institution. However, the regular library routines of the ordering, cataloging, and classification of new books, the answering of reference questions, the discussing with students of problems involved in writing papers and instructing them in how to find the materials they need, the putting of books on reserve, the keeping of the necessary records, and the training and supervising of student assistants have gone on.

This program has been carried on under certain handicaps. Due to the increase in the size of the student body, the Reading Room is not large enough to accommodate those who want to use it. It has chairs for 140 which is less than twenty-five per cent of the student body, usually accepted as the minimum which the library should accommodate. Noise is still a problem. The situation can be improved as soon as the basement and rooms

on the third floor of the building again become available for library use. The walls of the building, especially in the halls, need re-decorating or cleaning. The tables and chairs need cleaning and waxing. Too, with the larger student body, there is an increased demand for library services. The two members of the library staff are asked reference questions frequently. Due to pressure of technical library work, they cannot be in the Reading Room to answer questions and assist students. Many students need such help and would ask for it if there were a trained person in the Reading Room. Other colleges, such as Coe, Cornell, and Grinnell, have library staffs of four or more persons. As the student body increases, the number of faculty members does also. And to take care of the heavier load which the library is assuming, a larger library staff is essential.

On the whole, the attitude of the students this year has been very commendable, and it has been pleasant to work with them. The faculty members have also been cooperative.

Respectfully submitted,

Illinois Wesleyan University

Buck Memorial Library

June 7, 1946