



Los Angeles Public Library

Highlights Forty-Eighth Annual Report

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

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CITY LIBRARIAN

Althea Warren

CITY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Central Library 530 South Hope Street

Municipal Reference Library 300 City Hall

48 Branch Libraries

69 Library Stations

An Average Day at the Los Angeles Public Library

The fifty libraries of the Los Angeles City System and the community stations are hosts to 30,000 guests in an average day. These visitors come to the reading rooms for study, or research, to enjoy books and magazines and to select books for home reading. They carry home a daily average of 35,000 books.

Branch libraries are community centers where neighborhood gatherings of a civic or educational nature may be held and where individual aid in selection of books is given for adults and children.



10,000 Visitors Daily Enter Central Library

Are you one of the "card holders" of the Library who enjoys an average of 30 books a year? 364,000 people or 29 percent of the resident population were registered card holders on June 30, 1936 and others are applying for cards at the rate of 405 every day.

Requirements for a library card are simple. Anyone who lives in Los Angeles and may be identified as a registered voter or whose name is in the current City or telephone directory receives a card upon application. Other residents may secure a resident guarantor and non-residents may have borrowing privileges by paying a small annual fee of \$2.00.



Each Borrower Reads 30 Books in a Year

The public expects libraries to be information centers and to supply correct data on current events and local happenings as well as to direct people to books. During the week of October 14, 1935 nearly 50,000 questions were brought to the Library. These varied from requests for cultural reading lists in art or literature, to a formula for making soap; from points of grammar to rules of being a gentleman; from customs of Ethiopia to politics of Spain—ranging from current and general topics to individual and personal problems.



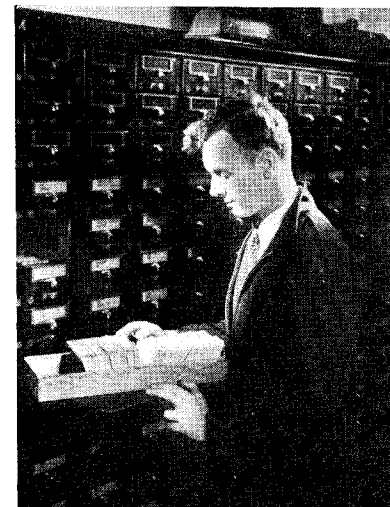
8,000 Questions Asked Daily at Libraries

The Book Order Department in the Central Library receives books at the rate of 300 per day, from local bookstores and dealers, from New York jobbers and publishers, and from markets abroad. Purchasing books for the City Library of the fifth City of the United States requires a well established system in ordering, and a knowledge of books and readers.

Department librarians, branch librarians and children's librarians regularly attend book-order meetings when books, sent as approval copies from publishers' lists, are recommended for purchase.



Librarians Select Books for Their Public



The Catalog Tells the Story if the Book Is in the Library

The CATALOG is the all important KEY to the books in the Library. To keep this card file up-to-date, at least one quarter million cards are provided annually. In one comprehensive file the general catalog in the Central Library places the total book resources of the entire system before the student.

The Catalog Department is responsible for CLASSIFICATION of books determining the field of knowledge in which the book belongs, and CATALOGING which provides a complete index by author, title and subject, and supplies cards for each Branch and Central Library reading room.

Library books are worn out at the rate of one hundred books a day. In the course of a year about one-seventh of the book stock has to be mended, repaired or rebound. The Library Bindery Department repairs a daily average of 300 books and sends out as many more for complete re-binding.

Careless readers mark and mutilate books. Hundreds of dollars could be saved if readers would handle books more carefully and refrain from writing personal opinions in public library books. W.P.A. assistants spent 4000 hours this year in erasing marks in books.



Making Old Books Look Like New

LARGEST CITY

Los Angeles extends over 450.75 square miles---territorially the largest city in the United States. Cities the size of Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit could be placed within the limits of Los Angeles and leave 37 square miles untouched

SPREADING LIBRARY SYSTEM

To extend library service to all parts of city territory, 48 branch libraries are maintained supplemented by 69 stations. These stretch from the San Fernando Valley to the beach town of Venice, the harbor towns of Wilmington and San Pedro, back through the shoe-string strip and the more congested central district to High-

land Park and Eagle Rock. There are 121 units in the system and 2911 hours of book service are offered to the general public each week. 8,540,286 books were borrowed from branches and stations in the last fiscal year, 78% of the total circulation of books which amounted to nearly eleven million.

THE SMALLEST BRANCH A LINK IN THE LIBRARY CHAIN

The smallest and most distant branch may borrow from the Central Library collection through the inter-library loan system. 57,000 books were loaned to branches last year to supplement their collections. Readers from the Valley, from Sunland,

Chatsworth, Point Firmin, Pacific Palisades, Mt. Washington and other outlying communities may send in requests for books which are filled by the inter-library loan service from a special collection or from Central or Branch collections.

The Central Library

Division of books by subjects in specialized reading rooms characterizes the Central Library. Each of the fourteen public reading rooms contains circulating and reference material on specialized subjects, indexes, digests, handbooks, gazetteers, and the more specialized reference works such as Thorpe's Dictionary of Applied Chemistry, The Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, the Dictionary of National Biography, Larned's History for Ready Reference, Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, and the New Oxford Dictionary.

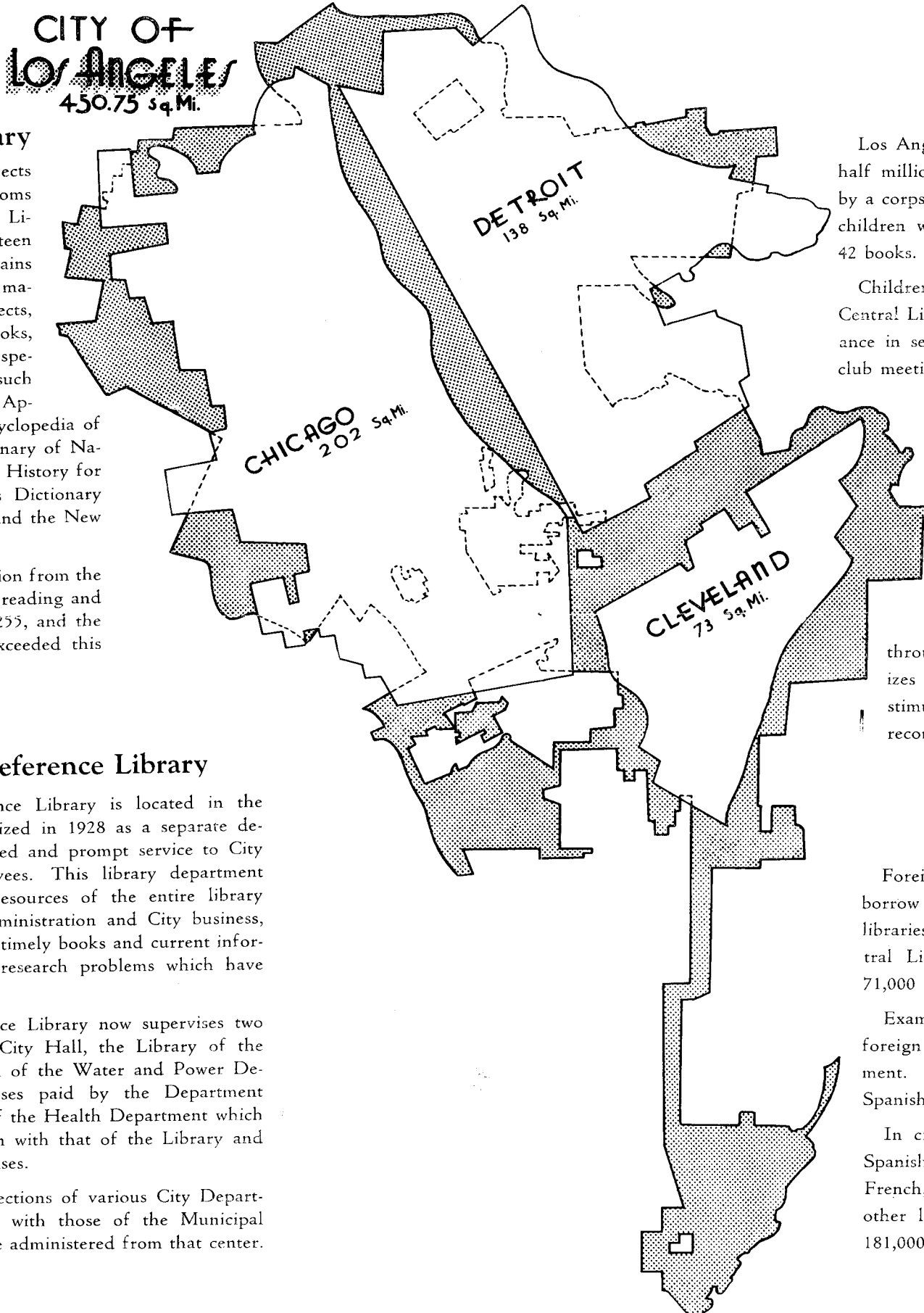
The year's book circulation from the Central Library for home reading and study amounted to 2,420,255, and the use of reference books exceeded this number many times over.

Municipal Reference Library

The Municipal Reference Library is located in the City Hall and was organized in 1928 as a separate department to give specialized and prompt service to City officials and City employees. This library department endeavors to place the resources of the entire library before those active in administration and City business, to bring to their attention timely books and current information, and to assist in research problems which have bearing on City interests.

The Municipal Reference Library now supervises two branches outside of the City Hall, the Library of the Power and Light Division of the Water and Power Department with all expenses paid by the Department served, and the Library of the Health Department which merged its book collection with that of the Library and shares maintenance expenses.

Smaller specialized collections of various City Departments have been merged with those of the Municipal Reference Library, and are administered from that center.



Younger Readers

Los Angeles children read more than two and one-half million books this year, books carefully selected by a corps of children's librarians. Each of the 62,000 children who have library cards read an average of 42 books.

Children's librarians in all branch libraries and the Central Library "Ivanhoe Room" give individual guidance in selection of books and hold story hours and club meetings to stimulate the reading of good books, and visit the schools to keep in touch with the curriculum.

Parents are assisted in choice of books for children through book talks, exhibits, book lists and personal consultation with the children's librarians.

Young people of high school age are given assistance in selection of books at the Central Library and branch libraries, through consultation with a librarian who specializes in young people's reading, through lists of stimulating reading and a special marking of recommended books with a "green diamond."

Foreign Book Collection

Foreign readers in all districts of the City may borrow books in foreign languages from their branch libraries or may request books sent from the Central Library foreign collection which consists of 71,000 books in 33 languages.

Examples of foreign arts and crafts as well as foreign books are displayed in the Foreign Department. Open lectures in French, German and Spanish are offered at the Central Library.

In circulation of books in foreign languages, Spanish books lead, followed by those in German, French, Russian, Italian, Yiddish, Swedish and other languages in lesser numbers. A total of 181,000 foreign books were borrowed this year.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

THROUGH PLANNED READING

The Adult Education Department located in the Central Rotunda not only directs readers and acts as interpreter to the use of the Library, but also aids the individual reader in book selection.

For the "Reading With a Purpose" courses nearly 100 people register every month, selecting one of the sixty subjects treated by experts, ranging from

Good English to Practice of Politics, from French Revolution in Fiction to Flower Gardening, from Advertising to Stars.

Information on classes given by the evening schools for adults is furnished at the Reader's Adviser's Desk, with a wide variety of subjects listed, including commercial and industrial subjects, handicrafts, photography, language study and citizenship. The Library acts as a clearing-house for such opportunity classes.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

THROUGH PUBLIC LECTURES

Free lectures are held five nights a week during the season of October to June in the Central Library Lecture Room.

The specialized Library Departments sponsor and arrange programs on their subjects and invite distinguished speakers from local universities and colleges,

leading craftsmen, musicians, artists, and men and women prominent in civic activities to contribute to these programs. The public is invited to attend the various series on current books, economics, popular science, parent-education, foreign literature, travel, drama and the arts, and to follow up the subjects in recommended books. Reading lists are provided by Central Library Departments.

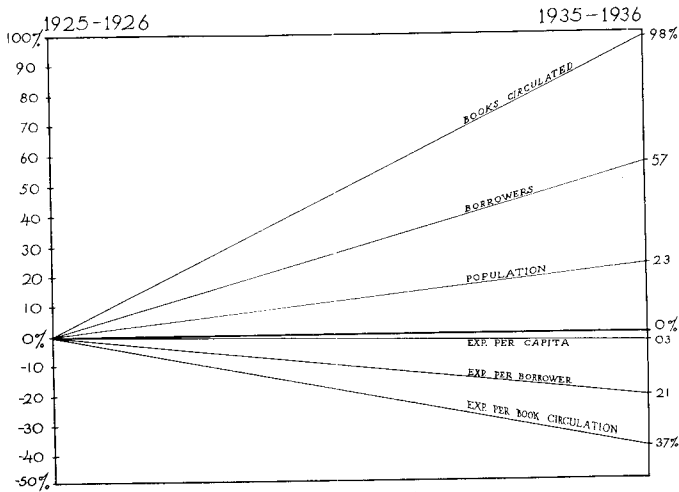
VITAL STATISTICS

1935-1936

Books owned by the library	1,497,134
The year's book circulation	10,960,541
Number registered borrowers	364,005

A TEN YEAR VIEW

July, 1936, marked the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the Central Library Building. Expansion of services as well as more intensive development was made possible through this building. In spite of a severe set-back during the depression years which reduced the library budget by 23 percent, the ten-year period when taken as a whole shows substantial gain in book circulation and the number of borrowers. Necessary economy of administration is evident in the reduced expenditures for units of population, books circulated and registered borrowers.



Reduction in Expenditures.
Ten Year Gain in Book Use.

THE NEXT TEN YEARS

In the next decade the Public Library will be called upon to provide new channels for adult study and development of children's interests, and new tools for industry and civic research.

Extension and improvement of branch library service are necessary—permanent buildings for the nine branches now in rented quarters, enlarging of older buildings, and new branches in growing communities.

The next ten years may see the development of branch libraries on wheels—the Bookmobile; the wider use of radio for broadcasting news of books; the preserving of rare items through the motion picture film.