

Directory

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Buildings Manager
Business Manager
Chief of Branches and Community Services
Chief of Central Public Services
Chief of Library Services to Children
Personnel Officer and Administrative Assistant
to the Director

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Henry F. Ferrante
Michael Melikian
Mrs. Margaret M. Deignan
Charles W. Crosby
Cynthia W. Neal
Frank L. Hannaway

AGENCIES

Central Library	150 Empire Street	521 - 7722
BRANCH LIBRARIES		
Fox Point	511 Wickenden Street	421 - 1436
Mount Pleasant	315 Academy Avenue	861 - 1962
Olneyville	12 Olneyville Square	861 - 1909
Rochambeau	708 Hope Street	421 - 1499
Smith Hill	31 Candace Street	421 - 6974
So. Providence	441 Prairie Avenue	941 - 2660
Wanskuck	233 Veazie Street	331 - 4887
Washington Park	1916 Broad Street	461 - 7348
Bookmobile	150 Empire Street	521 - 7722
AFFILIATE		
Knight Memorial Library	275 Elmwood Avenue	461 - 1165

551



Providence Public Library
150 Empire Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

IN CITY COUNCIL
OCT 1 9 1974

READ:
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.
Univis Coopers
CLERK

97th Annual Report
JULY 1, 1973 - JUNE 30, 1974

Can a busy library's spirit be

captured in one page?

One way to convey the energy, excitement, imagination, challenge, satisfaction, and, yes, the hard work that characterize the life of a library is to use the words of those involved. This year, then, we tell our story through excerpts from reports and other written statements of those who work in, are associated with, or use the Library -- first-hand descriptions of and reactions to PPL 1974.

Materials

The Board of Trustees has adopted a new staff-designed Materials Selection Policy, which sets forth principles for the selection of all types of library materials and reflects contemporary policies resulting from the Library's response to change in the character and needs of its community... PPL has been designated a repository for a Foundation Center regional collection of information on philanthropic institutions, serving as a resource for persons interested in applying for funds to grant-making foundations. A microfiche reader-printer has been purchased so that patrons can copy information from various aperture cards sent regularly to us by the Center... We are continuing to select audio-visual materials as our budget allows... Now children can borrow picture sets in glowing colors on a wide variety of subjects including animals, reptiles, people, and foreign countries... In reflecting on the past year in the Periodical-Microfilm Department, it appears to be a strenuous yet delicate balancing act between functioning as a popular periodical library and serving as a segment of the Principal Public Library, with the consequent necessity of providing and maintaining materials for both current and future use... The Microfilm Reading Room is busy and full and outgrowing its allotted space... A corrected edition of the print-out of the Library's serial holdings was published and distributed to academic and regional libraries... Most of our Take Home Art borrowers are repeaters... Children are reading the paper-back originals of the old favorites... Because magazines form an important part of the Business, Industry, Science collection, the department has instituted several new procedures for expediting their use... BIS has the largest number of company annual reports since beginning the collection... We receive approximately 2,000 patents per week... To meet the reading preparedness needs of the children in South Providence, where there are more preschoolers than in any other part of the city, the branch is building a strong collection of picture books, filmstrips, records, and educational toys. The selection of these materials is based on a thoughtful analysis of the children's responses in story-telling sessions and is closely coordinated with neighborhood agencies.

Services

Almost all of the staff-compiled adult and children's reading lists were developed in response to specific programs or activities, often those sponsored by other agencies (YWCA, Children's Concerts, R. I. Conference on Children's Rights, Junior League project with the schools)... Among our groups were classes from Brown University's College Incentive Program for ninth and tenth graders from Brooklyn, New York; students from School One, and the Executive Board of the Telephone Pioneers... Teachers and pupils from the Kenyon Special Education Center look forward to the library each week -- one of our school year highlights... All of these services (book deposits, films, booktalks) have helped to make Hamilton House an enjoyable drop-in center for Senior Citizens... The preschoolers had a good time this year in Storyhour with a varied program of stories, arts and crafts, singing and rhymes, and films and games -- a very important program in the community, because for most of the children it is the only experience they have with other children and an adult other than a parent... Service to the homebound is still in great demand, and the need is steadily increasing, as is the need for additional staff... The Mail bookmobile stop continues to grow and is a Wednesday lunch hour habit... A Women's Index has been started to provide access to information for, about, and of interest to women... The Alternate Learning Project, Head Start, Rhode Island Hospital, and Progress for Providence use our film-banking service regularly... Among outstanding exhibits was one mounted by John Bello commemorating Enrico Caruso. The costumes, Caruso-drawn caricatures, and other memorabilia were from those who had known Caruso as well as from Mr. Bello's own collection. Notable, too, was the Pottery and Porcelain Club's Josiah Wedgwood and His Contemporaries... CONTACT, the new monthly newsletter for the staff of the PPL and librarians within the city, is designed as a communications channel for information about services, programs, personnel, and libraries in the Providence Interrelated System... The well-attended Principal Public Library Open House involved staff participation in the exploration of service areas in the Library to Rhode Island librarians new since 1971... Translations of papers and documents and referrals to community agencies by the bilingual staff of Fox Point and Project Persona play an important part in the everyday life of the newly-arrived immigrant.

Programs

As a basic part of our statewide library service we will continue to sponsor open community meetings on topics of wide concern, such as our day-long forum on No-Fault Insurance... The 1974 Urban Film Competition, co-sponsored with the R. I. Department of Community Affairs, offered prizes to film-makers in five age or experience divisions... A staff-initiated idea sparked RIAEIA (R. I. Art Librarians Investigate Art Information sources), at which panel participants demonstrated the resources of their individual art organizations... INTERFACE, the pedestrian city plan for Providence, was presented by R. I. School of Design Professor Gerald Howes and four of his students... Those attending the tamarum workshops at Rochambeau expressed interest in future ones, and a series of two lecture-demonstrations on the Principles and Practices of Ancient Chinese Medicine was extended with a core group of faithful attendants. We reached people who had not used our library, gained new registrations, and circulated books... Families are one of our target areas -- the Greater Providence Adlerian Family Counselling workshops and the Family Day Care Mothers' training sessions have been offered by several branches... Approximately 225 adults and children attended an open house at the Knight Memorial Library held to introduce members of the Latin American community to a new Family Education Program, part of Project Penona, the bilingual, bicultural education program for the Spanish-speaking, funded by Progress for Providence and the United Way... The Wanskuck Senior Citizens met monthly, and our Handicraft group is very active... Many of the adults involved in the operation of the Child Learning Center are Smith Hill residents -- certainly an asset... Open House introduced the library and other Smith Hill organizations to many people... Kwanza, an African holiday of joy and thanksgiving, was celebrated at the South Providence Branch... It was a year of workshops for children -- an explosion of activity! The 74 workshops sponsored by the Child Learning Center and the R. I. State Council on the Arts, the unique and beautiful Fantasy World of Children with the R. I. School of Design, the gay and enchanting performances by the skilled puppeteers and magicians are all part of our overall goal to encourage more children to read for enjoyment and information by giving them new ways to express themselves and to enhance their self-images.

Statistics *

MATERIALS	
Volumes added	20,684
New titles	6,567
Volumes withdrawn	19,784
Total collection	681,010
Circulation:	
General materials	709,932
**Records	16,813
**Pictures	12,354
Take Home Art	560
R. I. Collection pictures	128
Films from R. I. Library Film Cooperative	903
** Included in general figure	
INFORMATION	
Reference	144,293
Photocopies, microprints	78,442
Microfilm reels used	24,643
Parents	2,001
In-house patron use of adult AV hardware and software	178
INTERLIBRARY LOAN	
Teletype requests	18,743
Filled from PPL	8,190
Filled from other sources	8,038
Materials loaned	13,158
Mail requests	443
Materials loaned	267
PROGRAMS, SPECIAL SERVICES	
Children's programs in libraries: No. 3,243 Attendance	56,656
Children's programs in the community: No. 653 Attendance	14,985
Adult programs in libraries: No. 177 Attendance	4,468
Adult programs in the community: No. 62 Attendance	2,187
Home Service visits	1,089
Home Study Survival English classes Project PERSONA	
Participants	99
Language Tape Center activities Project PERSONA	
Participants	155

* Includes Knight Memorial Library

Finances

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1974	Budget Fiscal 1975
RECEIPTS		
Grant from City of Providence	\$ 670,575	\$ 695,600
Grant from Providence Model Cities Agency	28,171	13,700
United Way - Special Allocations Committee	--	16,000
Grants from State of Rhode Island	291,026	276,026
Federally funded special grants	53,543	--
Income from endowment	363,824	348,917
Income from trusts and rent	7,971	7,200
Overdue charges and other income	50,696	68,000
Contributions from friends of the library	30,276	12,000
Special grants	6,000	10,000
	<u>\$1,502,082</u>	<u>\$1,447,443</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Salaries and related expenses	\$1,203,526	\$1,328,800
Books and other library materials	146,355	153,500
Buildings and grounds	97,568	104,500
Supplies, furniture and equipment	50,366	58,800
Other operating expenses	113,027	24,394
	<u>\$1,610,842</u>	<u>\$1,669,994</u>
Surplus - (Deficit) - (To be financed by withdrawal from Library's invested capital funds)	<u>(\$108,760)</u>	<u>(\$222,551)</u>
Building Development and Repair Fund		
	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1973	
Balance July 1, 1973	\$ 24,047	
Total Receipts	\$ 865	
Total Disbursements	\$ 8,476	
Balance June 30, 1974	<u>\$ 16,436</u>	