

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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THE COMMERCIAL LENDING LIBRARY IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Will C. Conaway
Public Library of Marion County

Miss Ethel Green
Clarksburg Public Library

What do I think of a commercial lending library in a public library? Well, I had never heard of one in a public library and when I was approached by the agent of McNaughton's Lending Libraries, I was pretty well horrified. Just why, I couldn't have said, except my ideas of such a library were formed by the ones I had seen in drug stores, railway stations and some stores. But after talking with Mr. White, I found myself willing to give it a trial, and from our experience we have discovered it to be most worth while.

In the first place we, as do all small libraries, operate on a very limited budget, not permitting the purchase of many books and rarely ever more than one copy. It always hurt to spend money for light entertaining novels or for ones of limited circulation, when our funds were needed for more worth-while books.

We stipulated at once, that we did not want books of the type usually found on lending shelves, and we were promised that no such books would be sent, that the privilege of selection would be ours, and that any books sent of which we did not approve would not be placed on our shelves. In fairness to the lending library, I would like to say that few such books have been sent.

We have found the advantages to be many: new patrons, and an increased income. Many new borrowers have been secured--business men and women who had never been in the li-

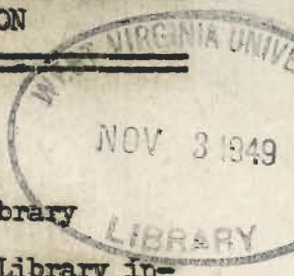
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The Clarksburg Public Library inaugurated a rental shelf twelve years ago. In the fall of 1936, the library had no money for books, and the circulation was decreasing. The Book Committee thought new books would rent and provide funds to build up the library's book stock and attract more readers. The Woman's Club gave a silver tea at the home of Mrs. J. Carl Vance and raised \$130 to finance the project. Mrs. J. Ransel Romine secured an additional check for \$50 from the One Hundred Club.

Miss Bailey bought thirty-five popular novels in December; the books went out and the dimes and pennies began to accumulate. The rental fee has been from the beginning, and still is, ten cents for three days and three cents a day thereafter. Each year the receipts from the rental books have exceeded the original stake; last year we collected \$629, and in the eleven months of the current year we have already taken in \$720.

There are about 150 books in the rental collection which is shelved in a prominent place near the circulation desk. Each book remains on rental as long as there is an active demand for it. When they are put in the general two-week shelves, they are still popular and usually circulate promptly and frequently. Since we do not buy duplicate copies of the new books for the free shelves, people who prefer not to pay, watch and wait until the books they want are available in the general collection.

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NEWER TRENDS IN LIBRARY EDUCATION

Florence K. Reese, Head

Department of Library Science, West Virginia University

Within recent years, heads of library schools began to realize that drastic action should be taken, that courses of study should be revamped to keep pace with newer trends in every field. They realized that persons entering the field should have a broader background of training, that candidates should be more carefully selected, that there should be less emphasis on technical detail. The reorganization of library schools began in earnest in 1947; the eastern group met at Columbia, the western group at Berkeley, Calif., and another group met at the University of Illinois. It was the consensus among librarians that the courses of study should be broadened, giving attention to humanities, science, literature, social studies, the principles of psychology, a study of the literatures of the various subject fields. Developments in special fields, such as adult education, needs of the teenage groups, hospital service, research and extension work, including the use of the bookmobile to rural areas, all came in for consideration. They stressed the need for a study of public relations, a more definite line of demarcation between clerical and professional duties, making it possible for persons with special talents and special training to give their service where it would be most effective.

The Board of Education for Librarianship of the American Library Association approved the courses of study as recommended, and the following schools adopted the new program: Denver was first to adopt its program in May 1947, followed by Columbia, Illinois, Carnegie, Emory, Western Reserve, University of Florida, Drexel, Simmons and Syracuse. A number of schools have not adopted the program, which is experimental and will continue in this state for perhaps a

year or more, until they evolve a fully satisfactory course of studies. The basic change in the program was the recognition of the fifth year's work as of graduate level.

Out of this reorganization developed two schools of thought: one, represented by Illinois and Denver, recognized the need for training at the undergraduate level; hence, a minor in library science is given with the bachelor's degree. They base their philosophy on the theory that school libraries and many phases of public library work, as well as extension work through state agencies and through the use of bookmobile units, do not require as extensive language background, or special training necessary in a large reference or research library. If, after some experience, the librarian wishes to continue training it is not a difficult step to a master's or even a doctor's degree. These schools give graduate work, and Illinois offers a doctorate in library science. Emory University and the University of Florida vary their degrees according to the amount of work done and preparation or non-preparation of a thesis. This allows leeway for different types of positions. Some schools give no undergraduate work. A number of the schools which have not accepted the program have not been satisfied with its content and will very likely wait to see how successful it is and what changes should be made to make the program really satisfactory.

Reorganization was needed, but questions keep coming in demanding if it is a complete revision of the kind of library training so many persons now in service knew or is it rather a change in nomenclature, without too much change in content? What will be the status of the librarian who re-

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PROPOSED LIBRARY BUILDING AT WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE
Mrs. Leonead P. Drain, Librarian

No definite date has been set for the beginning of the construction of the library building at West Virginia State College, Institute, but the library staff, the faculty and students of the college are eagerly awaiting the announcement. Funds have been appropriated but a previous bid for the construction was deemed too high.

For several years the plans of the building have been studied and discussed by President John W. Davis, the library staff, the Library Committee and the architectural firm of Tucker and Silling of Charleston, W. Va. An attempt has been made to combine usefulness, simplicity, and beauty in the structure.

The exterior of the building, as now planned, corresponds to the general exterior of the other buildings on the campus in its modern Tudor design. The material to be used in the construction will be brick and stone. The ultimate or anticipated cost of the building and equipment has been approximated at \$800,000.

The interior floors will be of asphalt tile, and the lighting will be by means of fluorescent two-lamp fixtures. The building will have its own heating unit, with radiators in the reading rooms to allow for more heat than will be in the stack area. Extra consideration has been given to the heating of the stack area for the preservation of books and materials.

The first floor is on ground level at the front. Because of the slope of the ground there will be a ground floor, as well as a second floor. There will be four stack levels, and a mezzanine between the first and second floors.

Some of the facilities of the ground floor will be a receiving room, offices for the staff, staff study nook, lounge and kitchenette, vault, heating plant, classrooms, a

seminar room, provisions for audio-visual aids and means of converting three rooms into one large room that will seat not less than eighty-five persons during the showing of films, a service elevator, a record room with acoustic tile walls and ceiling, a microfilm and photostat room, a vertical file room, telephone booth, etc.

On the first floor there will be a West Virginia room for books and materials pertinent to West Virginia, exhibit room, general reading and reference room, technical processes room, reserve room, the main circulation desk, the catalogs, a coat room, and stack carrells on the mezzanine.

A browsing room, a periodical and map room, stack carrells (a total of thirty-two on mezzanine and second floor) and seven study rooms, will be located on the second floor.

Future expansion can be accomplished by the addition of top stories over the reading and reserve rooms and over the stack area.

And so, when the building has been completed, West Virginia State College will be able to point with pride to its center of knowledge, for it is felt that a much more efficient service can be rendered to the faculty, to the students, and to the citizens of the state.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to a change in postal regulations, an issue of West Virginia Libraries can now be mailed for 1¢ only if it contains no more than seven pages. As a result, this issue has had to be cut, and many items of interest omitted. Also, it was felt that, in order to include as much material as possible, the front and back covers should be omitted.

