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HISTORY OF INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES IN IOWA

by

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STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

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## HISTORY OF INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES IN IOWA

### INTRODUCTION

In compiling a history of the institutional (correctional and custodial) libraries in Iowa, I have consulted mainly primary sources and extracted pertinent information in some detail. Most helpful were the articles in the Iowa State Board of Control's Bulletin and the statistics in its Biennial Report. Also consulted were the Iowa Library Quarterly and for more recent years, the publications of the institutions themselves. The first three sources provided much information on the early years.

Iowa was a pioneer in this field of endeavor; so it follows that many articles were written and reports made during those early years. From these sources I have quoted freely, to give a picture of the situation which is as accurate as possible and because the story is best told by those who experienced it.

From around 1935 to the present time little information was found. I surmise that after Iowa's pioneering steps, interest in the project begun so optimistically, declined, and neither money nor personnel was supplied to keep the program in operation.

At present the outlook is brighter because of the recent appointment of an Institutional Library Consultant to the State Traveling Library. Hopefully the materials and services of the institutional libraries will soon be upgraded so that they will again be a credit to the State of Iowa.

## INSTITUTIONS

The institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board of Control have varied somewhat over the years. This can be observed from some of the earlier tables of statistics; for instance, the School for the Blind at Vinton is no longer administered by the Board while the Women's Reformatory has been added.

The following is a list of institutions currently under the Board of Control, arranged by type and in order of founding:

### Correctional - Adult

State Penitentiary - Fort Madison, 1839  
(First offenders over 30 and all recidivists)

Men's Reformatory - Anamosa, 1873  
(First offenders under 31)

Women's Reformatory - Rockwell City, 1819  
(Over 18 or married, sentences over 30 days)

### Correctional - Juvenile

Training School for Girls - Mitchellville, 1868

Training School for Boys - Eldora, 1868

### Custodial

Mount Pleasant Mental Health Institute, 1864  
Independence Mental Health Institute, 1873  
Clarinda Mental Health Institute, 1888  
Cherokee Mental Health Institute, 1902

Glenwood State Hospital-School, 1876  
Woodward State Hospital-School, 1917

### Homes

Annie Wittenmyer Home, Davenport, 1876 (formerly Soldiers'  
Iowa Soldiers' Home, Marshalltown, 1887 Orphans' Home)  
State Juvenile Home, Toledo, 1920

## EARLY ACTIVITIES

The earliest stirrings over the provision of libraries for Iowa's institutions began even before the turn of the century. In its early history one of Iowa's institutions can boast of a rather famous benefactor. The first books presented to the Mental Health Institute at Mount Pleasant were "fifty hymnals given by Dorothea Dix when she and Julia Ward Howe were here to approve the building site in the late 1850's."<sup>1</sup>

In 1898 the Iowa Board of Control was created by an act of the legislature to supervise the care of the state's institutions. It is safe to conjecture that the Board of Control's early interest in libraries was partly due to the fact that two of the three members of the board were also trustees of the state library.

Shortly after his appointment, one of the board members wrote: "We seek to provide each institution with a good working library suited to the needs of its inmates. It is the policy for the Board to expend as far as the finances admit, any amount of money necessary or proper for the development of the libraries in all the state institutions."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>"Two Libraries at the M H Institute," The Mount Pleasant News (April 17, 1964).

<sup>2</sup>Florence Rising Curtis, The Libraries of the American State and National Institutions for Defectives, Dependents, and Delinquents, University of Minnesota, Studies in Social Sciences, No. 13 (Minneapolis, 1918), p. 31.

In the Board of Control's First Biennial Report in 1899, the provision of library materials was mentioned several times. The Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home asked for an appropriation of \$800 for its library. (p. 38). The Iowa School for the Deaf asked for \$200 for materials because of the "incalculable benefit to our deaf pupils of additional reading matter."<sup>3</sup> The Iowa Training School for Girls asked for more money saying, "The appropriation of the last general assembly has been judiciously expended, and we now have 326 volumes of good literature...nothing takes the place of an abundance of choice reading matter during the long winter evenings."<sup>4</sup>

The chaplain at Fort Madison reported that their library contained 6,000 to 7,000 volumes. "About 550 books have been purchased to replace those already worn, besides 325 copies of the Gospel Hymns,...Good books are excellent companions to a poor prisoner, and have lifted many out of the slough of despondency, and have become the means of saving himself from himself, and strengthening his will in a new effort to regain his manhood."<sup>5</sup>

The librarian at Anamosa was also the chaplain. Their library was destroyed by fire in 1896 and 4,500 books were purchased to replace the loss.

Unfortunately, in the same biennial report, this statement was made in describing physical improvements needed at the institutions:

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<sup>3</sup>Iowa. State Board of Control, Biennial Report, I (1899), 596.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 703.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 889.

"One thousand five hundred dollars of library fund might be transferred to the repair and contingent fund."<sup>6</sup>

In the second Biennial Report of the Board in 1901, Anamosa had some important statistics to reveal:

"As an indication of the use made of the library, it is necessary to state that during the year from June 1, 1899, to June 1, 1900, there have been 29,246 books circulated among the prisoners, almost as many as circulated at the Cedar Rapids public library, which circulated 33,939 for the same period of time, in a city of 25,000 inhabitants."<sup>7</sup> (Inmate population was in 1901, 442.)

And in 1903, the Soldiers' Orphans' Home in Davenport justified their request for more money thusly:

"It is very seldom that the legislature fails to make appropriations of a few hundred dollars at each session for library purposes. The last assembly, however, either overlooked, or for some good reason probably, omitted this provision. We venture therefore to ask for a larger amount this time, and feel that we can make good use of one thousand dollars invested in books."<sup>8</sup>

#### FIRST INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY SUPERVISOR IS APPOINTED

When the Board of Control and the superintendents of the institutions met for their quarterly conference in June, 1905, Mr. Johnson Brigham, the state librarian and president of the Iowa Library Commission, read his detailed paper: "Libraries in the State Institutions." In Part I of this paper he discussed institutional libraries in other states. In Part II the attention was turned to

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<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 38.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 697.

<sup>8</sup>Board of Control, Bi. Rep., III (1903), 587.

institutional libraries in Iowa and Brigham quoted L. G. Kinne, a member of the Board of Control:

"Until the act of the legislature 2 years ago there was no money provided for the purchase of books at any institution except as we obtained special appropriation therefor. These were usually in small amounts. That legislature passed an act setting apart, under the control of the Board, a certain portion of the money received for admissions to the penitentiaries for use in procuring libraries for other state institutions. Under this act very large additions have been made to the libraries at Cherokee and at Independence, - and like provision made for the Boys' Industrial School at Eldora. There is no particular policy regarding libraries for any of our institutions or class of institutions."<sup>9</sup>

Mr. Brigham then cited the following statistics and made an important recommendation which would indeed be put into action before long:

Institutional Library Report for 1903-1905 Biennium<sup>10</sup>

	Aver. Books Popu. in lib.	Bks. Add. in bien.	Money spent in biennium	Books per cap.	Money per cap.	
Anamosa	385	9,000	1,293	\$1,579.39	23	\$4.10
Cherokee	732	956	956	928.66	1	1.26
Clarinda	934	1,529	214	197.65	2	.21
Council Bluffs	240	2,200			9	
Davenport	492	4,000			8	
Eldora	458	2,635	885	899.34	6	1.96
Fort Madison	567	8,000	507	592.85	14	1.04
Glenwood	1,009	800	23	39.11	1	.04
Independence	1,050	1,200	738	616.55	1	.60
Marshalltown	786	1,745			2	
Mitchellville	206	1,000	266	215.98	5	1.04
Mount Pleasant	1,051	2,800	152	147.56	3	.14
Vinton	151	6,044			40	
Total	8,061	41,909	5,034	\$5,217.09	8.85	1.04

<sup>9</sup>Iowa. State Board of Control, Bulletin, VII (1905), 334-335.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., p. 336.



"This large aggregate of population - over 8,000 - committed to your care by the State, with the already large and growing aggregation of books committed to your keeping by the Board, must force upon you a serious consideration of the whole subject of library policy. The tentative and therefore temporary policies which have been pursued in most of the institutions represented there must of necessity be soon or late supplanted by a clearly defined policy adequate for present needs and, of infinitely more importance, sufficient for the greater needs of the future."<sup>11</sup>

Mr. Brigham went on to make further recommendations. In Part III, entitled the "Iowa Plan" he says:

"It would seem to me desirable that every institution should have its central library and reading room and that the books in that library should be accessible to all comers. I am aware that in the penitentiary there must be severity of discipline which would limit this free use of the library, that the physical and mental conditions in the hospitals would of themselves seriously limit the use of the general library....but the fact remains, that in every institution a general library accessible to all who can avail themselves of its benefits, should be utilized as an incentive to the inmates' well-doing and, in turn, as contributory to, his well-being...."<sup>12</sup>

I urge you to push to the outside limit of discretion the permission to have direct, personal access to books."<sup>13</sup>

Mr. Brigham also calls for worthwhile character-shaping fiction which he says "are to the moral nature what the gymnasium and athletic sports are to the physical nature."<sup>14</sup> "In many cases books do minister to the mind diseased."<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., p. 337.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., p. 338.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., p. 341.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., p. 342.

For support, Mr. Brigham cites the opinions of a prison chaplain who has charge of the library: "It is one of the best things about the prison, helpful to the discipline and an encouragement to the men to look hopefully to an improved future."

"The library as an adjunct to the prison cannot be too highly spoken of in relation to discipline and its direct effect on the prisoner. The lot of the prisoner would be doubly hopeless and his reformation much less a possibility without the aid and companionship of books."<sup>16</sup>

In conclusion, Mr. Brigham states,

"See to it, then, that the library - that epitome of the world's knowledge, philosophy and progress - is given the treatment it deserves in all your educational and ethical plans and that the several libraries you create in your respective institutions shall be so many monuments to your judgment and to your enlightened and enlightening benevolence."<sup>17</sup>

A few months later, in October of 1905, Miss Alice S. Tyler, Secretary of the Iowa Library Commission which was created in 1900, gave her suggestions for the solution of the problem in her paper, "A Working Library Versus a Collection of Books". She stated that a consistent policy of administration for the institutional libraries was necessary for their adequate functioning. To this end she recommended the appointment of a trained supervising librarian to visit all the institutions, help with book selection, train assistants, prepare systems of loans and acquisitions, and help with classification.

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<sup>16</sup>Ibid., p. 347.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., p. 349.

To support her suggestions, Miss Tyler states:

"In certain institutions I can conceive of it being of great value to the physician or Superintendent to know just what books certain patients most enjoy and which books are most popular with certain classes; certain books could be prescribed with almost as much assurance as medicine."<sup>18</sup>

In concluding her report, she says:

"I know of no state having tried this, and I understand from a member of this board that no state has actively utilized the libraries in their work. Why should not Iowa lead in this matter as she has done in so many others?"<sup>19</sup>

The efforts of these two speakers were seemingly influential, as the 5th Biennial Report of the Board of Control states:

"On the 10th day of January, A.D., 1906, Miss Miriam E. Carey was appointed Librarian of State Institutions under our control at a salary of \$100 per month and traveling expenses, and entered upon the discharge of her duties on the first day of the following March."<sup>20</sup>

#### CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF THE APPOINTMENT

A good summary of the situation of the institutional libraries prior to Miss Carey's appointment is given by the chairman of the Board of Control, G. S. Robinson, who also explains how the new post was created and financed.

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<sup>18</sup>Ibid., p. 451.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., p. 453.

<sup>20</sup>Board of Control, Bi. Rep., V (1906), 3.

"Even as early as 1906 the purchase and use of books and periodicals by the fourteen state institutions under the Board of Control of State Institutions of Iowa had become a serious problem. At that time the institutions contained 8,000 inmates in charge of 1,400 officers and employees, and included four hospitals for the insane, one hospital for inebriates, an institution for feeble-minded children, a soldiers' home, a soldiers' orphans' home, school for the deaf, college for the blind, two penitentiaries, and industrial school for boys and one for girls.

The penitentiaries, having liberal library funds, had acquired large collections of books, one of the hospitals for the insane had a considerable number of high-class publications in fine bindings, many of them imported, but adapted to the use of advanced students and scholars rather than the ordinary reader or the insane. These books were in cases on the wards, but were seldom read. Other institutions also had books, and appropriations had been secured to make further additions to the libraries, but the board was not satisfied with the work done or results obtained, and felt the need of trained helpers in selecting reading matter and causing it to be circulated and read. State library officials gave valuable aid in selecting books, but lacked the intimate knowledge of the various classes of readers which was necessary to the most intelligent selections. Some of the institutions had officers capable of making desirable book lists, but none of them had anyone trained in library work, capable of classifying and cataloging books, keeping proper records, and stimulating interest in the libraries.

The needs of the institutions varied according to their different classes of inmates and the differing needs of inmates of the same institution. Few of the institutions had anyone in service who possessed adequate knowledge of literature and also of the peculiar needs of the population to be served. The chaplains of the prisons had charge of the prison libraries and rendered valuable service as librarians, but they were not trained in the work and could give to it but little time. In none of the other institutions was there anyone who gave systematic attention to the libraries. Most of the libraries contained worthless books and some which were objectionable because bad. What time had been given to the libraries was of an irregular, spasmodic character, but little cataloging was done, few records were kept, books desired were not easily found, and many were lost.

Attempts had been made to improve the service, but there were no funds to employ trained librarians to give all their time to the work, and recourse was had to detailing employees charged with other regular duties to give a part of their time to the libraries. But none of them had library training, few had much knowledge of books, their terms of service in the institutions were usually short, and the work was not carried on in a systematic and effective manner, and was of little value. Finally the board became satisfied that a new system should be adopted to secure the best obtainable results, and conferred with state librarians and others as to different plans. It finally adopted the system of employing a trained, experienced, and competent librarian to take charge in a supervisory way of all the institution libraries. As there was no state fund available for the payment of the salary and expenses of such an officer, the board could not appoint, but it was arranged that each institution should assume its proper share of the cost of the service based on the time the librarian should give to its library. Pursuant to this plan, a trained librarian was selected who entered on the performance of her duties March 1, 1906."<sup>21</sup>

The Iowa Library Quarterly made note of this event with an editorial in January of 1906:

"Supervision of Libraries in Iowa State Institutions"

"For more than 7 years the state institutions of Iowa, outside the educational institutions, have been under the management of a Board of Control of State Institutions. There are fourteen of these under the supervision of this Board. Libraries have existed in a more or less unorganized condition in most of these institutions, but heretofore no systematic efforts have been made to place them on a modern basis. The Library Commission of Iowa has been greatly interested in some plan for developing these libraries and both the President and Secretary of the Library Commission have presented papers on the subject recently at quarterly meetings held by the Board of Control which are attended by the superintendents or heads of all these state institutions. At the October meeting after a plan was outlined by the

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<sup>21</sup>G.S. Robinson, "Institution Libraries of Iowa," The Modern Hospital, VI (Feb. 1916), 131.

Secretary of the Commission for a systematic supervision of these libraries it was unanimously voted to employ a supervising librarian who should have the general management of the institution libraries in all matters of organization and service, the selection of books, etc.

The Board of Control have selected for this important position Miss Miriam E. Carey, librarian of the Burlington public library for the past six years. Miss Carey received her library training at the University of Illinois Library School and previous to that time had had experience in teaching. By education and natural tastes as well as by travel and broad reading Miss Carey is well fitted for this work to which she also brings the altruistic spirit.

No other state has heretofore undertaken the systematic development of (sic) libraries in state institutions under a skilled librarian, and it is hoped that Iowa, as a pioneer in this work, may offer a suggestive object lesson in this new and important line of library development."<sup>22</sup>

Another slant on the appointment is this one by Florence Curtis:

"By a unanimous vote it was decided to create the office of Supervising Librarian of the State Institutions. The duties of this supervisor, as discussed at the meeting, were: to pay regular visits to the libraries; to introduce a uniform system of classification, establish permanent records, and provide statistics of accession and of circulation; and to stimulate reading through the selection of books in each institution. In naming the first and the last duties of the supervising librarian they initiated a new form of library service to the institutions. It would have been possible to devote a sum of money to the classification of the libraries and the installation of permanent records; by the requirement of regular visits and expert selection of the books for each type of readers, they provided for a continuous and intelligent development of the libraries.

It was the desire of the president of the board, Judge G. S. Robinson, that the office of supervising librarian should be created by a special act, but it was considered undesirable at the time to urge such an action. The method finally decided upon, was the appointment of a librarian who should be paid by each institution on the basis of the time actually spent in its service. Miss Miriam E. Carey, librarian of the public library of Burlington, Iowa, was appointed supervising librarian, beginning her duties in March, 1906."<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup>Iowa State Traveling Library, Iowa Library Quarterly, V (Jan. 1906), 79-80.

<sup>23</sup>Curtis, p. 32.

## MISS CAREY'S WORK

Reactions to the appointment of Miss Carey and its results were not long in coming. The creation of this somewhat unusual post and the employment of a woman to fill it (some 14 years before women's suffrage was universal in the U.S.) did not go unrecognized.

G. S. Robinson comments on Miss Carey's work and the progress made by the libraries following the appointment:

"She (Miss Carey) proved to have unusual qualifications for the work, and entered on it with great enthusiasm. Her duties included the supervision of the libraries of the various institutions under the control of the board, the selection of books and periodicals in cooperation with the institution officers and the board, the classifying and cataloguing, the preparing of forms for records and reports, the instruction and training of local librarians, the stimulating of interest in employees and inmates in good literature, or rather in literature best suited to their needs, and the doing of whatever should be proper to increase the efficiency and usefulness of the libraries.

A system of monthly reports by the local librarians was instituted, the libraries were examined, objectionable books were withdrawn, books not adapted to the use of the institution where found were transferred to other institutions, damaged books were catalogued, finding lists were made, and so far as possible suitable rooms for the libraries and for reading were secured and furnished. New book lists were made out, and much attention was given to the needs of employees as well as inmates. Especial effort was made to stimulate interest in the libraries, and the circulation of books and magazines was greatly increased.

No means exist for comparing accurately the circulation before with that after the supervising librarian took charge, but it is known that the circulation was greatly increased during the first biennial period of her service. In the statistics made under her supervision no account is taken of newspapers taken and read by employees and inmates, nor of magazines and books circulated and read, but not issued by the librarian, nor of the different readers of books and magazines issued to a ward or cottage and read by more than one person before their return. As many employees and inmates have their own papers, books, and magazines, and many books and magazines are placed in wards and other places where they are read by many before they go back to the library, the number of readers and the quantities of literature read are much greater than the records show.

The first available statistics cover the eighteen months which ended June 30, 1908. They show that at the end of that period there were 50,640 volumes in the fourteen institution libraries; that the average monthly number of officers, employees, and inmates during the period was 9,580; that the average monthly number of readers was 2,776, the total circulation 200,151, and that 38 per cent of the circulation was of periodicals. Of the books circulated approximately 2 per cent related to art, 2 per cent to biography, 3 per cent to essays and poetry, 3 1/2 per cent to history, 3/4 of 1 per cent to science, 3 1/2 per cent to travel, 8 1/2 per cent was of a miscellaneous character, and 75 per cent was fiction.

In considering the circulation of books and the kinds read, the character of the inmate population should be considered. Of the total number of inmates at the end of the period - 7,989 - 1,083 were in the institution for feebleminded children, which furnishes the smallest percentage of readers, 4,069 were in the hospitals for the insane, and a considerable number in the soldiers' orphans' home, too young to read."<sup>24</sup>

Another statement declares: "The work was so thoroughly organized and so successfully administered under her supervision, that it was placed upon a permanent basis, and endured for a period when there was no one in charge of the library."<sup>25</sup>

In an article entitled "Iowa's Advanced Step" in the Iowa Library Quarterly of December, 1906, commendation is bestowed:

"The following reference to the work Miss Carey is doing in the libraries of the Iowa State Institutions under the Board of Control is taken from the address of the President of the New York State Library Association, Miss Mary W. Plummer, at the Meeting of that Association October 1:

'The libraries of the public institutions of the state (New York), penal, reformatory, etc., have never, so far as I know, attracted the interest of the association, immense and important as is the field they offer for investigation.'

Iowa has taken the most advanced step in regard to these libraries by placing them all in charge of a state visitor--a trained experienced woman librarian, who is to be responsible for the quality and fitness for their respective institutions of all these book collections, influential over the lives of the criminal and delinquent classes."

<sup>24</sup>Robinson, p. 131-132.

<sup>25</sup>Curtis, p. 33.



A progress report is given in the Board of Control's

Biennial Report:

"In our last report we announced the appointment of Miss Miriam E. Carey as supervising librarian of the state institutions under our control. Her duties include the supervision of the various institution libraries, the classifying of books, assisting in the selection of books and periodicals, the instruction and training of local librarians, the stimulating of interest in the employes (sic) and inmates in good literature, and the doing of whatever seems to be proper to increase the efficiency and usefulness of the libraries within her jurisdiction.

In most institutions, before the appointment of Miss Carey, but little attention had been given to the classification and use of books, and no systematic attempt was made to bring them to the attention of those for whom they were designed. Many of the books had been selected with little regard for the capacity and needs of the greater number of prospective readers were not well adapted to their use and were seldom read.

Under the management of the supervising librarian the books in most of the libraries have been properly classified, and catalogues and finding lists have been prepared which enable readers to know what the libraries contain and make intelligent selections. Where practicable rooms have been set aside for the libraries and local librarians have been given charge of them to care for the books and periodicals and to keep records of their distribution. The peculiarities and needs of the inmates of each institution have been studied and books have been selected with special reference to them. Books found to be unsuited to the population of one institution or which had ceased to be useful there or which were duplicates have been sent to institutions which could use them to advantage. What has been done has resulted in better selected and arranged libraries, and much greater use of them.

The total number of volumes in the fourteen state libraries in existence at the end of the last biennial period was 49,841, of which 2,748 were government publications and state documents, 1,185 were in the medical departments, leaving 45,908 volumes in the several collections. The formation of a library in the Sanatorium for the Treatment of Tuberculosis at Oakdale has been commenced since the close of the period and it is not included in this report. The number of books purchased during the period was 7,214. The average monthly number of inmates in the fourteen institutions during the eighteen months ending June 30, 1908, was 8,525, the monthly average number of readers was 2,760, and the total number of books and periodicals issued was 200,151.

The largest percentage of readers was in the Industrial School for Boys at Eldora, and was 82. The smallest was 9 per cent found in the Institution for Feeble-Minded Children at Glenwood. The average percentage for all the institutions was 32.

This statement does not include readers of newspapers, and with the exception of the inmates of the School for the Deaf does not include any readers of periodicals not issued from the institution libraries. Many inmates of the different institutions receive newspapers and periodicals for which they subscribe and pay.

The librarian received as compensation for her services during the period \$2005.84, and her personal expenses in discharging her duties were \$180.27, making a total cost for the services rendered of \$2,186.11 for the period.

Although much has been accomplished during the period, some of the libraries are yet lacking in important respects. Better quarters are needed for some. Rooms conveniently located which can be used as reading rooms as well as for the libraries are desirable in several of the institutions not yet supplied. In the opinion of the librarian large purchases of books will not be needed in the future, but there should be purchases of small numbers of the most desirable books as they are issued from time to time, and these must be carefully selected and classified. Magazines must be collected and bound for future use. Local librarians are changed frequently and their successors must be instructed and trained."<sup>26</sup>

Finally, Miss Carey herself describes the highlights of her work in a paper in the Bulletin of the Board of Control: "Libraries in State Institutions--The Book as a Tool" by Miriam E. Carey, Librarian of State Institutions for Iowa.

"...for a girl's reformatory school, books of outdoor life and adventure should predominate with as little as possible of the emotional."

"It is the Iowa idea that among the insane the book can be used as a direct remedial agent, prescribed by the physician according to the needs of each patient."

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<sup>26</sup>Board of Control, Bi. Rep., VI (1908), 45-46.

"Another Iowa idea with regard to the insane is, that some books should be placed on every ward of the hospital."

"Another phase of this question is the right of the attendants and other employees to have books and periodicals and a room in which to enjoy them. Undoubtedly the personnel of a hospital would improve in a ratio to make good extra expense, if special reading facilities were provided."

"At the girls' industrial school the official librarian is the institution matron, but each cottage has one of the girls for its special librarian while still another has charge of the center library and makes out the monthly statistics."

"In institutions it is seldom practicable for the readers to go in person to the library."

Statistics for the use of books and periodicals at Anamosa during March, 1907:

Number of inmates .....	389
Number of readers .....	311
Fiction .....	1420
Non-fiction .....	691
Unbound periodicals .....	3355
	<hr/>
Total	5466

"...in Iowa the library movement of the state as a whole was antedated by activity in state institutions.

The traveling library system was inaugurated by the state library board, two members of which were afterwards two of the three men appointed as the first Board of Control of the State Institutions."

"It is to the initiative of this group of bookish men, for the third member was in sympathy with the others, that Iowa owes its present advanced policy in this direction."

"By an act of the legislature in 1903, the money received from visitors to the penitentiaries was set aside as the library, or book fund of the institutions, a fund which, so far appears sufficient to keep the collections fresh and attractive."

"The superintendents of the Iowa institutions at their quarterly conference with the Board of Control in the fall of 1905, voted to create the office of supervising librarian, whose business it should be to pay regular visits to each library, establish records, introduce a uniform system of classification, provide statistics by means of charging systems as well as records, and stimulate reading by the selection of books suitable to each institution. This is the first instance in the history of the library movement, of the creation of such an office by a state. No precedents exist, therefore, to guide as to methods and standards."

"Work was begun the first of March, 1906, and is being steadily pushed by methods indicated in this paper, in which also an attempt has been made to outline the aims and policy for the immediate future. The right to change his mind is one always reserved by the wise and we of Iowa desire to claim that privilege. From every standpoint this new departure in library work seems worthwhile. As a business venture it is most reasonable, for accurate records of books as property are seldom kept by the untrained.

"The book is omnipresent. It is also democratic. No lines are drawn around it. Rich and poor, high and low, the free and the 'detailed' may gather, if they choose, around the same library tables and enjoy the same books."

"The democracy of the book is a beneficent influence to unite the masses and classes and soften to the unfortunate the bitterness of their segregation."

"May not the book in state institutions be the tool to weld together warring elements and restore them to society reconciled?"<sup>27</sup>

For most purposes, the new venture in organizing institution libraries seemed to be a success. The superintendents reported that the librarian was a great help and that there was less waste in purchasing and better selection being done.

In 1908, Miss Carey made some remarks about the institution libraries:

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<sup>27</sup>Board of Control, Bull., IX (1907), 188-198.

"The total number of volumes in the Iowa libraries, exclusive of government documents and medical books, is 45,908. Large purchases of books will not be necessary hereafter, though there should be a regular buying of suitable books.

The book fund in Iowa is made up from visitor's fees at the penitentiary and the reformatory. Institutions also obtain special appropriations for this purpose.

The largest collections in Iowa are at the penitentiaries. In fixing the limit of book buying for a prison the claims of the long-time men should make the policy liberal.

The amount of money expended for books during the biennial period just closing was \$6,718.79. The number of books purchased was 7,214, which includes 1,082 volumes for an entirely new library installed at the State Hospital for Inebriates."<sup>28</sup>

In 1909, she gave some statistics:

"In Iowa, out of an institution population of 9,580, 2,776 used the libraries. The insane and feeble-minded, who constituted nearly half this number, read less in proportion than the others, their per cent being 12. Taking out these classes, the percentage of readers to population was 57. In the prison, men's reformatory and the reform schools the percentages were 67, 78, 79 and 61 respectively. Forty nine per cent of the blind and 68 per cent of the deaf used the library."<sup>29</sup>

#### MISS CAREY RESIGNS HER POST

Unfortunately, the newly created post was soon empty as the Iowa Library Quarterly reports:

"For more than two years the work of organizing and supervising the libraries in the 14 Iowa State Institutions under the Board of Control, has been carried on in a most capable manner by Miss Miriam E. Carey. Much has been accomplished, Iowa being the first state to provide such supervision. It is therefore with deep regret that her resignation is announced."<sup>30</sup>

<sup>28</sup>Board of Control, Bull., X (1908), 289-290.

<sup>29</sup>Miriam Carey, "Report of the Committee on Commission Work in State Institutions," ALA Bulletin, III (Sept. 1909), 339-342.

<sup>30</sup>Traveling Library, ILQ, V (Dec. 1908), 244.

At this point the Board of Control made a suggestion: "We earnestly recommend that an annual appropriation of \$1,500 be made to pay the salary and necessary traveling expenses of a librarian for this work."<sup>31</sup>

Miss Carey, in January, 1909, went to the Minnesota Library Commission as library organizer. She later became chairman of the first American Library Association institution library commission.

In Minnesota, Miss Carey visited the institutions, organized several of the collections, and edited a column of institution library notes. Then in September of 1913, the Minnesota Board of Control created the position of Supervisor of Institution Libraries and appointed her to the office. Thus she had the responsibility of organizing the work in the first two states to place it under a special officer.

The plans of the two states are contrasted in this paragraph:

"The Minnesota plan differs in some respects from that of Iowa, where the supervising librarian, who had no central headquarters, spent her time between the several institutions. In Minnesota the work was centralized, first in the office of the library commission, and later in that of the board of control, and instead of payments for services being made directly by each institution, a monthly salary was named; this was, under a later plan, charged back, pro rata, at the end of the year. There was also provided a central office, where attention might be given to lines of work for the benefit of the institutions as a whole. Iowa had a considerable advantage over Minnesota, far outweighing that of the central headquarters, in the fact that it was, from the first, a settled policy, both of the Board of Control and of the superintendents, that a sufficient book fund should be appropriated yearly for each of the institutions."<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup>Board of Control, Bi. Rep., VII (1910), 42.

<sup>32</sup>Curtis, p. 33.

From her new post in Minnesota, Miss Carey comments on Iowa in 1911:

"As an outcome of the Iowa movement other states seem to be looking more and more closely into their institution libraries.

The personality of the local librarian is a great factor in book circulation in institutions. The work of young Mr. Crumbaker and Miss Rowe in two of the Iowa hospitals...I have never seen or heard of anything to surpass what they have done for the insane in the way of getting them to read. I like to recall young Crumbaker's enthusiasm for the library and his way of going on the wards and almost insisting that people should get books. They all had implicit confidence in him and would read whatever he put into their hands or sent to them.

The importance of the selection of the local librarian is second only to the selection of the books themselves. Technical training is not the most important qualification for this first-hand work with the people. A desire to be of service, adaptability to persons and places, patience, sympathy, helpfulness--these are essential qualities."<sup>33</sup>

In a quarterly conference of the Board of Control, Miss Tyler remarked:

"I confess that I share with Miss Sessions a pardonable pride in the fact that Iowa was the first state to undertake this systematic work. I confess that I almost hung my head in mortification when this work lapsed temporarily and Minnesota carried Miss Carey away to develop similar work in that state. I have hoped all along that it is only a temporary lapse and I again renewed my faith when I heard that there is a bill before the legislature to create the position on a permanent basis."<sup>34</sup>

#### A NEW LIBRARIAN TAKES OVER

After Miss Carey left Iowa, either a replacement could not be found or one was not sought. At any rate, the post remained vacant for two years until 1911:

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<sup>33</sup>Board of Control, Bull., XIII (1911), 80-84.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid., p. 129.

"The State Board of Control has secured Miss Julia A. Robinson for the position of Supervisor librarian of Iowa institutions, made vacant two years ago by Miss Carey's resignation, and Miss Robinson assumes her duties January 1st. Miss Robinson resigns her position as assistant secretary of the Kentucky Library Commission to take up this work. Her experience as acting secretary of the North Dakota Library Commission and later in Kentucky, after her graduation from the Wisconsin Library School, gives Miss Robinson (sic) a broad outlook for the work. Her home is in Dubuque."<sup>35</sup>

When Miss Robinson assumed her new post there were fourteen state institutions under the Board of Control with a total population of about 9,000. The School for the Blind at Vinton, formerly under this Board, had been transferred to the Board of Education leaving four mental hospitals, two penitentiaries, two industrial schools, the hospital for inebriates, the Institution for Feeble Minded Children, the School for the Deaf, the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, the Soldiers' Home, and the tuberculosis sanatorium.

In a paper in 1912<sup>36</sup>, Miss Robinson comments on the conditions under which she began her work and the progress made:

"I need not speak of Iowa's creditable record in being the first state to undertake the careful supervision of books and reading in her state institutions, or, of Miss Carey's appointment in 1906, to the supervision of these libraries, or of her work in them. Suffice it to say that under her direction the libraries were organized and classified, modern library methods installed, necessary records and supplies provided, the librarians instructed and the work generally stimulated. Unfortunately the position became vacant by Miss Carey's resignation at the end of 1908, and the institutions were left to struggle as best they could with this problem. In some cases no purchases were made and no binding done between 1908 and 1912, while the wear of the

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<sup>35</sup>Traveling Library, ILQ, VI (Sept. 1911), 189.

<sup>36</sup>Traveling Library, ILQ, VI (Sept, 1912), 252-256.



books continued. In some institutions the librarians instructed by Miss Carey left and there was no instructor for their successors, and the libraries became badly demoralized. In all, the work suffered from lack of direction, despite the heroic efforts made by faithful librarians to carry on the work and keep the libraries in good condition.

The first work of the present librarian has naturally been the reorganization of the libraries, where necessary, the weeding out of worn and unsuitable books which have crept in, the sending of others for rebinding, the selection of new books for purchase and the encouragement and instruction of the librarians.

Miss Carey's last report gave a total of about 51,000 volumes in all the institutions, varying from 500 at Oakdale to 10,000 at Anamosa. The number, of course, has been decreased by the loss during the years, and the wear and tear of use. About 1400 volumes have been added at the four institutions receiving new books so far, and the total increase for the year will probably amount to 4,500 volumes. Some institutions have an appropriation to be used for the purchase of books. All may draw upon the fund raised in the penitentiaries by the visitor's fees."

Miss Robinson felt that good selection was the answer for the institutions with normal or near-normal people but that the real problem in book selection lay in providing suitable reading for the inmates of the insane hospital and the penal and reformatory institutions. She quotes a superintendent of one of the mental hospitals:

"Dr. Witte, superintendent of the Clarinda Hospital for Insane, believes that books play a more important part of the work with insane than that of amusement or pastime, and that in time they will rise to the dignity of remedial agents, with a librarian acting under the direction of a physician and occupying a very important position in the treatment of the insane.

She stresses the importance of books for the mentally ill being of a recreational nature only:

"...the books must consist principally of fiction, picture books, travel, biography, light science and out of door books. They must be wholesome, not dealing with suicide or insanity, nor gruesome in detail. Most of all, books which might suggest a morbid train of thought should be excluded. While at one of the insane hospitals during the summer, I was told of a patient who had recently died, who had been a constant reader of books about negroes until he had become very much excited on the subject. Whether his death was hastened by his reading I do not know, but such seemed to be the opinion of the attendant. The possibility of such being the case serves to emphasize the care which must be exercised in the selection of books for the insane, and in the adaption of the book to the individual reader.

Miss Robinson felt that choosing books for the correctional institutions was the most difficult since "here the book must perform its threefold mission of recreation, instruction and inspiration and withal attracting and holding the attention."

She included in this category the industrial schools since she felt that not all books suitable for young peoples' reading elsewhere can be included in these collections. To support her feelings, she cites an incident:

"During the summer one of the boys paroled from the industrial school entered a small store one evening and when time of closing he was asked to leave, he drew a knife and stabbed the woman in charge, inflicting wounds at first thought to be fatal. The brother of the boy is firm in his belief that this was an attempt to emulate an incident described in a book found in the boy's room. This book was Flynt's "Tramping with Tramps", which would not be excluded from a public library, though not perhaps included in the children's room.

There are other books which I might name which are not good reading for boys in the industrial school, as they describe too attractively and too much in detail incidents whose repetition is not desirable. For the girls' school books of an emotional type are to be avoided and books of a more vigorous character substituted. Fortunately the

superintendents of these institutions appreciate the value of books in the formation of character and are emphatic in their desire that the libraries shall contain no books that are harmless only--they must be positively helpful."

Miss Robinson then describes the needs and limitations of book selection for adult prisoners:

"While there are men in the penitentiary and reformatory who are unfortunate and those who are weak, there are also the vicious in varying degrees; anything which excuses law-breaking, arraigns the law or the courts of justice, or condones their own actions should be excluded. Though abuses do exist and reform may be desirable, a prison is not the place for agitation on these subjects. Take for example the series of articles appearing not long ago in one of the magazines on the prison systems of the different states. While these articles may be illuminating and valuable for those outside, they are not good reading for men who can already point out more defects in their own surroundings than exist in all the states combined.

I am not pleading for books of ethics and religion. There are already enough of these in the libraries of our state institutions to have long ago brought about that for which we labor.

What is needed are clean, manly stories with incident and action which, while they interest and entertain, shall also leave the reader with a higher appreciation of the value of human life, a keener relish for wholesome pleasure, a deeper sympathy with suffering, a saner outlook upon life, a greater love for state and country, and a deeper desire to play well his part therein. We want the interesting narrative of travel and adventure, the entertaining biography which encourages and inspires, and the informing but popular presentation of the questions of the day.

And books should be printed in clear type on good paper, for the light in which the reading must be done is not always the best. They should also be attractive to handle, for I am a firm believer in the gospel of good clothes for books. I do not mean expensive editions, but new and clean and attractive ones, not the old, musty, dingy books which have served their day and generation, but which so often find their way to these places.

The wear and tear of the books in all the institutions is heavy both from the character of the inmates and because the property of the state is held at little value. This makes frequent replacements and rebinding necessary, but it is better that they should wear out from use than grow dusty on the shelves."

She describes her hopes for the facilities of the library as a reading room:

"A separate library room is provided in most of the institutions. In many this is a large pleasant room with adequate shelving and reading tables with magazines attractively displayed. In some institutions limited space prevents a separate room being given up for this purpose and the shelving is not sufficient for even present needs. As soon as possible it is hoped that these conditions will be changed.

Where space permits, the library is used as a reading room for officers and employees, but in only a few places is this privilege extended to inmates, for various reasons which seem difficult now to overcome. It is one of the dreams of the supervising librarian that someday at least part of the inmates may be given this privilege, under proper restrictions and supervision. The atmosphere of a book lined room with opportunity to handle, browse and read, and make selections, if only for future reading can but have its cultural and stimulating effect."

Miss Robinson describes the importance of the local institutional librarian and gives some examples of the way the post is being filled:

"But it is work which can be better done by those who know the readers and are in constant touch with them than by the supervising librarian who spends but a short time in each institution and cannot know the inmates intimately. The position of local or institutional librarian therefore becomes a responsible one.

With the supervising librarian to direct and oversee, library training is not as essential as a fair knowledge of books, or at least of books in her own library and an acquaintance with those for whom the books are intended, and interest in the work, and an appreciation of its value. I am glad to say that we have many such librarians in our institutions, but unfortunately a further requirement, sufficient time to give to this work, is lacking, for the librarian is frequently a busy officer who assumes this work in addition to her other duties and cannot give the time to it which it should have to make it effective.

In two institutions the wife of the superintendent has undertaken the library work and this is a great advantage, for she possesses in a large degree all the requirements which I have named, and also the authority which enables her

to better protect the property of the state. In one institution a patient has had charge of the library and while she is admirably qualified and much interested in the work in addition to the possibility of her leaving without opportunity to instruct a successor, she is so frail physically that she is not able to give sufficient time to it and her zeal is in danger of retarding her recovery.

Another institution had had as a patient a library school graduate and her disability has not been such as to interfere with her doing this library work. But however fortunate for her, unfortunately for the institution her stay there will not be long.

This makes evident one objection to placing an inmate in charge of the library, the constant shifting of the population which is likely to bring too frequent changes and not only make the tasks of instructing a librarian too frequent, but also interfere with the usefulness of the library.

But no objections exist to employing inmates to act as assistants to the librarian if care be used in the selection, and constant oversight be given. The work then becomes a distinct help to those thus associated with the books. The interest aroused in the inmates assigned to help me is always noticeable and the work is always finished with regret on their part.

At one place I have twice had as a helper a small black boy. It was his second term and just before my visit in March he had twice tried to run away. At that time, consequently he had won no merits or lost all he had won. When I returned in July he had won 2,000. He was not a talkative youngster, but before I left, he confided to me his desire to be a librarian, and promised me that he would earn his merits as rapidly as possible, and get out as soon as he could and go to a school which he had previously refused to do. I talked to him of Tuskegee, and he is now working with that in mind."

She concludes that to some inmates reading has meant purely recreation. But,

"To others there has come the opportunity to repair omissions in education or supplement that already gained and to make of themselves more intelligent men and citizens.

If, in others, ambition has been aroused, purpose strengthened, effort inspired, courage given to persevere and strength to win in the fight for a better manhood and a more useful life, something higher has been accomplished for the individual and the state. This is what we are trying to do through the libraries in our state institutions, and thus they may become a means for civic betterment.

## MISS ROBINSON'S SECOND REPORT

Again in 1913, Miss Robinson had some comments to make since her work in Iowa had started:

"For seventeen months your supervising librarian has traveled up and down the state, visiting during that time each institution at least twice and some three times, taking from, adding to and otherwise endeavoring to make your libraries a real force in your institutions for recreation, for instruction, for healing and for uplift."<sup>37</sup>

She divided the problem of institution library supervision into four parts: (1) books, (2) their housing and shelving, (3) machinery for their care and distribution and (4) some one to keep the machinery in motion.

Miss Robinson stated that good selection must be maintained and that one should not be afraid to discard. She felt that a reading room for inmates is very useful especially for relaxation and browsing. She also stated that a librarian is needed in each institution.

In that same volume of the Board of Control's Bulletin two other papers appeared. One was by Florence R. Curtis and was entitled "The Selection of Books for Prison Libraries." This article discussed and condemned books which present a false view of life, those which contain untrue, undesirable, biased or outdated information, books which are depressing, and those which teach prejudice and hatred.

She states:

"The men and women confined in our prisons are reading from three to five times as many books as are the people in any community where libraries are easily accessible. It is worth our while to consider how these books are influencing the prisoners, both for good and for evil."<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>37</sup>Board of Control, Bull., XV (1913), 161.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid., p. 168.

The third article was written by Miriam E. Carey and concerned "The Book and the Nurse". She describes the importance of selecting books to fit the needs of patients and states:

"Experience in the hospitals at Cherokee, Independence and others has proved conclusively that books are a valuable aid in the care of the chronic insane."<sup>39</sup>

#### NEW LIBRARIANS

The position of institutional librarian was open for a newcomer again in the fall of 1913 as:

"Miss Eliza E. Townsend, Superintendent of Branches of the Public Library of Spokane, Wash., has been appointed Supervising Librarian of the libraries of the State Institutions, and began her work December 1st. Miss Townsend is a graduate of Western Reserve Univ., and was at one time associated with library work in Iowa."<sup>40</sup>

Then in 1917, another new librarian took over:

"Miss Grace Shellenberger, children's librarian in the public library (Des Moines) for the past four years, has been selected as Supervising Librarian of State Institutions under the Board of Control to succeed Miss Eliza Townsend, who recently resigned. Miss Shellenberger's experience and training render her especially adapted for this phase of library work. She will begin her work about April 1."<sup>41</sup>

Miss Shellenberger's years in the office of institutional librarian numbered only two as in 1919:

"Miss Grace Shellenberger who has so acceptably filled the position of Supervising Librarian of the State Institutions of Iowa has resigned to become librarian of the Kewanee, Ill., Public Library. No successor has been appointed."<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>39</sup>Ibid., p. 176.

<sup>40</sup>Traveling Library, ILQ, VII (Dec. 1913), 62.

<sup>41</sup>Traveling Library, ILQ, VIII (Jan. 1917), 12.

<sup>42</sup>Traveling Library, ILQ, VIII (Jan. 1919), 144.

## SUMMARIES AND EVALUATIONS

Even with the changes of the librarians being made so rapidly, much successful work was going on.

A summary of the progress up to 1914 is given in this "Modern Hospital" article:

"In 1909 the supervising librarian retired to enter service elsewhere, and the vacancy was not filled for a considerable time. The second librarian rendered most effective and satisfactory service, but after a time she also resigned to accept a more tempting position, and the third librarian was appointed. The breaks in the continuity of work made by these changes were very prejudicial to the service. Nevertheless the impetus given to the work was so great that much was accomplished despite the changes. The last available report covers the biennial period which ended on June 30, 1914, and shows the following for the period:

The number of volumes in the libraries at the end of the period was 40,255, the average monthly population of officers, employees, and inmates was 10,816, the average monthly number of readers was 3,668, and the total circulation was 520,651, of which 48 per cent was periodicals. Of the remainder there was a small increase in the percentage of biography, science, travel, and fiction, and a decrease in the percentage of essays, poetry, and miscellany. As compared with the period of eighteen months which ended June 30, 1908, there had been an increase of 13 per cent in the average monthly population and an increase of 95 per cent, making due allowance for the difference in length of periods, in circulation.

The increase of the percentage of readers in the hospitals for insane is notable. In the period of eighteen months which ended June 30, 1908, the average monthly percentage of readers was less than 12, while during the biennial period which ended June 30, 1914, it was almost 25.

The use of books and magazines in hospitals for the insane not only furnishes entertainment, but is remedial. It 'diverts the attention of the morbid mind from itself to something else.' Many patients unable to read are interested in the pictures of the illustrated magazines and thus receive benefit. The superintendents of the hospitals are especially emphatic in their approval of the new library system. One of them who has had many years' experience as superintendent of hospitals for the insane in different states recently stated that never in his experience in hospital work had he seen anything like the progress in library development which was made in the institutions under the care of the supervising librarians. Miss Carey, the first of these librarians in



this or any other state, in one of her excellent papers asks, 'Where is a book always a tool?' and answers, 'In state institutions.' At another time she states that books are 'tools to be used with intelligent expectation of getting results.' Such use of books has been kept steadily in view in selections made under the new plan. The purpose has not been to accumulate a large number of books, but rather those most useful. During the six years which ended June 30, 1914, the yearly average of accessions was 2,450 volumes, but the number worn out, destroyed, and otherwise withdrawn exceeded that number, and the total number in all the libraries had fallen during the six years from 50,640 to 40,255."<sup>43</sup>

Another evaluation of the statistics and the work up to this time is given in Florence Curtis' book on institutional libraries:

"As Iowa is the only state which has carried out, for a number of years, the policy of annual appropriations for the purchase of books for each institution, it will be interesting to note the size of these collections.

#### Iowa State Institutions

	Added in Biennium	Withdrawn	Total Vol.
1905 .....	5,034'	.....	41,909
1908 .....	10,825	1,008	50,640
1910 .....	3,206	630	48,532
1912 .....	3,712	5,914	42,135
1914 .....	5,334	5,376	40,255
1916 .....	not yet published	....	

It is evident that the large number of books discarded each year has prevented any perceptible increase in the size of Iowa libraries. This is accounted for by two facts: first, the older libraries are more apt to contain many books which should be withdrawn, both because, in the early years, they accepted whatever was sent them as donations, and because there was no consistent policy for book selection and purchasing; secondly, because some of the institutions, particularly the orphans' homes, and schools for delinquents, and the reformatory and the prison, give the books hard service and necessitate wholesale renewals. Of the 11,290 volumes withdrawn in 1910-12, and in 1912-14, over half were from the reformatory and prison libraries. It is to be expected that the number of books discarded annually will soon decrease, and a point be reached at which the accessions will exceed the annual withdrawals.

<sup>43</sup>Robinson, p. 132.

The type of institution determines whether the library for the officers and employees is included in that for the inmates. The hospitals for the insane have reference libraries for the medical staff, comprising works on general medicine and those in the special fields of psychiatry and allied subjects, as well as journals, transactions, and reports; it has not been the custom to include the volumes in this collection in the figures for the general libraries of the hospitals. A liberal supply of good reading matter can not fail to be appreciated in any institution. The problems of securing intelligent and reliable employees is one which all are facing, hence any means of furnishing desirable recreation and adding to the good spirit of the institution is cordially welcomed by the management. The official staff, as well, finds institution life confining and the community interests limited. Lectures, music, and theatres are in the cities, often beyond their reach, but books are a privilege which can be shared by all alike.

The two chief needs of the institution libraries are adequate financial support and adequate supervision. A regular annual appropriation for books is essential to proper growth and service; the libraries which have such a fund are those which can show an extensive use of the books. Here again the figures for the Iowa institutions may be quoted, since they cover a term of years.

#### Iowa State Institutions

	Collections	Circulation	Average Pop.	Empl.	Readers
1905	41,909		8,061		
1908	50,640	200,151	9,580		2,776
1910	48,532	429,652	8,725	1,404	3,089
1912	42,135	377,482	9,001	1,411	3,183
1914	10,255	520,651	9,309	1,507	3,668

#### Circulation

1914, average circulation, 141.9 volumes per reader	
Magazines .....	47.8 per cent
Fiction .....	39.9 per cent
Non-fiction .....	12.2 per cent

There are five ways in which the institutions at the present time can secure a supply of books for their readers. The first, and the only really satisfactory method, is the building up of a permanent collection through an annual expenditure, with possible additions of some donations which are found suitable for the purpose. The sum is not necessarily a large one, even that of fifty or seventy-five dollars, wisely expended will show results, and such results are the basis for future increase. That such a justification exists in the minds of the superintendents of Iowa is shown by the following replies to an inquiry, made in March, 1917:

1912-1914	Annual Book and Magazine Fund	Should Be	Average Pop.
Cherokee	\$250	\$.50 - .60 per cap.	1,012
Clarinda	250	\$300 - \$400	1,162
Independence	200	\$.20 per cap	1,171
Mt. Pleasant	250	\$500	1,093
Glenwood			1,350
Eldora	150	\$1 per cap.	395
Mitchellville	250	\$2 per cap.	148
Anamosa	450	\$1 per cap.	675
Fort Madison		\$1 per cap.- a minimum	529
Hosp. for Inebr.	150		174
Sanatorium			106
Soldier's Home		\$500	732
Orphans' Home			533
Council Bluffs	250	\$2. per cap.	215

Footnote 44

#### THE SUPERINTENDENTS SPEAK

When the institutions had had ten years' trial of organized libraries under state supervision, a questionnaire was sent to the superintendents in March, 1917. Several of these staff members had noteworthy comments:

Dr. George Donohue, superintendent of Cherokee State Hospital:

"Would say that reading rooms are quite necessary in order to get the patients to read as much as they should. About three rooms in a hospital of this size (1,100 beds) would be sufficient. A better plan, I think, would be to have the library and reading rooms in a Recreation Building... Possible general reading helps the insane, but feel as though it did not do any more than any other diversion. The life of the chronic insane is of course much happier on account of library books and periodicals."<sup>45</sup>

Dr. Max E. Witte, superintendent of Clarinda State Hospital:

"The library is one of the first means to interest the patient after the actively disturbed period of the disorder has passed, and the intensity of the trouble has subsided,

<sup>44</sup>Curtis, p. 35.

<sup>45</sup>Ibid., p. 9.

and he remains in an exhausted and listless mental condition; wherein if left to himself, he would further deteriorate mentally. It is then our aim to waken interest in various ways, reading, music, entertainments, and occupations of various kinds, anything of a helpful nature to attract and hold the attention of the patient, so that his mental activities may be stimulated and encouraged.

The suitable and well-directed library is certainly a help and benefit. Just how much, it is difficult to estimate. There is some demand for books other than fiction, by a small number of patients whose reading habits have been formed prior to admission here, and now and then an individual may be found who has time, and will become interested in reading other than fiction. In the matter of reeducation, the library plays an important role."<sup>46</sup>

Dr. W. P. Crumbaker, superintendent of Independence State Hospital reports:

"Results of libraries in these institutions: Reeducation of demented patients. Prevention of dementia in patients that might otherwise dement. Retardation of dementia in those who do dement. Exerts a moral as well as a curative effect on the patients, improving their deportment. Increases the scientific knowledge of the personnel."<sup>47</sup>

Dr. Witte again comments:

"I think that a library occupies a very important role, much more important than simply that of amusement or a pastime, and I am convinced that it will eventually rise to the dignity of a remedial agent...If we should be permitted to come back in one hundred years no doubt we should find the librarian acting under the direction of a physician and occupying a very important position in the treatment of the insane, more particularly in the earlier forms of insanity, such as dementia praecox and the like. The library will occupy a more important role in that direction than is credited to it today."<sup>48</sup>

Dr. H. V. Scarborough, superintendent of the state sanatorium says:

"No special appropriation was asked for this year, since it was ruled by the board at my suggestion, that the buying of books was a matter of treatment at this institution and should come out of our support fund. Previously we had

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<sup>46</sup>Ibid.

<sup>47</sup>Ibid.

<sup>48</sup>Ibid., p. 15.

allowed about \$260 for each biennial period. I think this sum should be increased by 50 per cent, which would make it more clearly sufficient for an institution of this size and kind."<sup>49</sup>

Warden McClaughry of Anamosa:

"When I first went to Anamosa, almost one of the first things I discovered was a lot of vicious books in our library. I promptly tore up all I could get my hands on and have a collection of about thirty or forty now locked up as evidence of somebody's carelessness in admitting to the library at Anamosa in former years books positively destructive."<sup>50</sup>

H. M. Stiles, Superintendent of Education, Anamosa:

"The library with its librarian and eight thousand well chosen volumes in fiction, history, and science and current periodicals contributes both to information and enjoyment."<sup>51</sup>

The warden at Fort Madison states that one of his needs is a reading room where a hundred men might attend at night.

And still two more comments are made:

"Dr. Crumbaker of the Independence, Iowa, hospital, says: It has been a matter of surprise with me to see the interest that has developed. With us, I think they read more history and biography than the average town or city library gives out. Of course, historical novels are largely read.

The prisoner has been taken from his home and his community, to be released, in most cases, after a short term of imprisonment. He is more apt to be weak, untrained, and uncontrolled, than deliberately wicked, and the main purpose of his incarceration should be to give him every chance for improvement. Says Warden Jones, formerly of the Iowa state prison: to those who declare the object of criminal punishment to be the protection of society from the criminal, we say the transformation of the criminal into a serviceable member of society is the only effective protection of society against him."<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>49</sup>Ibid., p. 29.

<sup>50</sup>Board of Control, Bull., XVI (1914), 335.

<sup>51</sup>Board of Control, Bull., XXV (1923), 47.

<sup>52</sup>Curtis, p. 41.

Several of the superintendents voiced their appreciation of the value of the supervising librarian to their institutions:

"Perhaps the best endorsement of the work of the supervising librarian lies in the action taken by the superintendent of the Iowa institutions, asking that such an officer be again appointed, after the work had lapsed for three years. Some two years after the organization of the work in Iowa, the Board of Control wrote to the superintendents, requesting their opinions in regard to its value.

The head of one institution thought that such work was not necessary, that he was capable of doing the work, but if there was to be a state librarian, Miss Carey was the one for the place. The other fourteen were warm in their praise for the work, several letters from the hospitals for the insane spoke of the remedial effects of the work of the library on the patients. All these institutions regarded the work very highly.

At the conference shortly before the work was resumed, several of the superintendents voiced their appreciation of the value of the supervising librarian to their institutions:

There is not anything about our institutions that can be made more valuable than our libraries, yet without some one technically and intellectually fitted to look after that department of the institution it will not receive the encouragement it should have, and will not be used as it should be, and will not be a factor in doing good that it should do...It was particularly noticeable that some of the boys increased very much in their progress in study, after the idea of reading was encouraged and brought out as it was when we expected Miss Carey to come regularly, who knew how to talk to us, and how to advise us in the matter of the best books to read, and the way to read them.

I have never in my experience in hospital work seen anything like the progress in library development which was made in our institution and other institutions of the state, during the time we had a general librarian, and I suspect that the other superintendents will agree with me in saying, that the last two years without this supervising head we have made little or no progress. We have done well if we have kept up to the standard that was evolved during the time that we had a librarian and I think it behooves each and every one of us to restore that condition if we can."<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>53</sup>Curtis, p. 45.

## ANOTHER NEW LIBRARIAN

The last appointment to the position of institutional librarian that could be found by this researcher came in 1923 as:

"The appointment of Miss Julia C. Stockett as Supervising Librarian of the State Institutions is a matter of much satisfaction to all library people in Iowa. The position had been vacant for four years and the libraries in the various institutions had become badly disorganized, few new books had been added and the selections where additions had been made were questionable.

The selection of Miss Stockett is also very satisfactory as she comes to the position well qualified for the work, being a graduate of the Wisconsin Library School and having served as librarian on the Mexican border during the war and in the army hospitals since that time. The institutions at Rockwell City, Cherokee, Woodward and Mitchellville have already had visits and help from her."<sup>54</sup>

Miss Stockett discusses her work in a paper in 1925:

"Iowa is a state well-known for the quality and range of its library work and it may claim individual distinction in one of these branches; namely, the institution library. Iowa was the first state to employ an institution librarian. Whenever such work is being contemplated, Iowa looms large and is given laurels both for its courage as a pioneer and the constructive work it has since done."<sup>55</sup>

For prison libraries, she recommends an adequate budget, a trained librarian, and direct access to the shelves and reading room by "honor prisoners."

More of Miss Stockett's comments follow:

"Before the war, three outstanding attempts in hospital libraries had been made--all in 1904: first the MacLean Hospital of Waverly, Massachusetts for mental cases, second the Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, which was 'the first general hospital to institute regular book service to bed patients', through its book cart, and third the Board of Control of State Institutions in Iowa, which started the idea of a state institution librarian."<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>54</sup>Traveling Library, ILQ, IX (October 1923), 186.

<sup>55</sup>Board of Control, Bull., XXVII (1925), 52.

<sup>56</sup>Ibid.

"Perhaps even more Utopian is the idea which has been advocated of a comfortable, well lighted reading room. In Iowa, there are such rooms in the Womens' Reformatory, the Training School for Boys, and the Training School for Girls, but the inmates are not allowed access though, from time to time, there has been discussion about the matter."<sup>57</sup>

"I think the position of supervising librarian should be continued. Unless there is a trained librarian to oversee the institution libraries, they are not kept up to mark; this was evident from their condition after a five year period with no supervision.

In regard to the amount of reading done, the prisons rank first; the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, second; and the Training School for Boys, third."<sup>58</sup>

#### WORK IN SPECIFIC LIBRARIES

During the period of the 1920's several articles and reports were published which gave notice to and description of libraries in specific hospitals and in one case, a jail.

An article in 1925 lists several towns and their progress in hospital library service:

Cedar Rapids - This library serves two hospitals each week. A visit is made by a member of the library staff and books are distributed to nurses and patients in wards and rooms. A case of books is also kept at the hospital. A book wagon made after the Sioux City plan is used. Books may be returned to the nurses between visits of the librarian. The library thinks the service worthwhile and nurses and doctors approve though it is the most expensive part of library service because of the loss of books.

Davenport - Service is maintained in two hospitals. One afternoon each week is given to each. All the rooms and wards are visited and all the patients seen who are able to have calls.

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<sup>57</sup>Ibid., p. 58.

<sup>58</sup>Ibid., p. 30.



Des Moines - The library serves four hospitals, three once a week and one twice. Service in Mercy Hospital was organized three years ago but it now has its own library. Broadlawns Hospital is collecting books and has received help from the library. Des Moines General Hospital is very crowded and wants service but has not yet received it.

Dubuque - Maintains library service in one hospital. A member of the staff is on duty two afternoons a week for one hour. The patients are visited with a book wagon.

Fort Dodge - There is library service in the one hospital in Fort Dodge at the present time, and will be given the other hospital as soon as it is ready for operation. The basis is two books to a bed, 150 in all, and an afternoon each week is given to the work.

Marshalltown - Has just installed hospital service, which is given in two hospitals by a member of the staff who visits each once a week. In addition a permanent collection of sixty books is kept at the hospitals.

Mason City - Service is given at Story Hospital with books and at Park Hospital with books and a library worker to distribute them, 3 times a week.

Ottumwa - Keeps a collection of books in two hospitals. A nurse in charge checks them in and out. Visits are made monthly by a library assistant for reports, delivery of fresh books and removal of those needing mending. With their increased income a much larger service will be maintained."<sup>59</sup>

Sioux City had an especially notable program for its libraries as an article in the "Library Journal" here describes:

"Since its establishment in 1919 by the Sioux City Public Library, the library service to general hospitals has grown to a full sized Department in the library system. At its inception the service was to hospitals only, but gradually requests from other institutions in the city brought about a broadening, until now it has been expanded to all institutions, having for its clientele a public in all walks of life from the derelict to the affluent. Included in this hospital service are two orphanages, two homes for unmarried mothers, a home for rehabilitation of young girls, and the jail."<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>59</sup>Traveling Library, ILQ, X (Jan. 1925), 9.

<sup>60</sup>Rose A. O'Connor, "Library Hospital Services in Sioux City," Library Journal, LIV (1929), 978-980.

A description of the three correctional institutions was given in 1929:

Anamosa - "There is a fairly good library of 6,400 volumes with a weekly circulation of 1,000. It is conveniently located in the rotunda gallery. The magazines subscribed for are 37 in number. Ten copies of several are taken and 100 copies of one."<sup>61</sup>

Fort Madison - "There is a fairly good library of 8,500 books in charge of the chaplain. The weekly circulation is 600. There is no regular appropriation for new books but they are purchased from visitor's fees. An unusually large number of current magazines, 181 copies of 37 magazines is subscribed for. The cost of these is \$600 to \$700 a year."<sup>62</sup>

Rockwell City - "The library is located in the industrial building. There are 1,500 books, mostly fiction, in charge of the domestic science teacher. No regular appropriation is made but new books are bought from the Support Fund of the institution."<sup>63</sup>

Harriet Myers given an account of her work in the jail in Ottumwa:

"Although the Library Jail Service was started with no special thought of Adult Education in mind, results to some extent tend in that direction. The ample leisure time of the prisoners provides opportunity for constructive work, if they are at all inclined to read.

The jail branch was opened March, 1924 and 2,029 books have been circulated during the thirteen months of operation. The circulation shows the percentage of fiction to be largest. Books of Grey, Wright, Kyme, and Curwood always find favor with the men.

All are not fiction readers however. One man has read four different books on prohibition and said, "If I'd read these books before I'd never have been in jail." Another man with the aid of library books was able to continue his studies begun while imprisoned and pass a civil service examination.

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<sup>61</sup>Paul Garrett and Austin H. MacCormick, Handbook of American Prisons and Reformatories, National Society of Penal Information, New York, 1929.

<sup>62</sup>Ibid., p. 335.

<sup>63</sup>Ibid., p. 343.

A prisoner asked for a book on the constitution and remarked, 'You know when you get in jail, you kind-a wish you'd know more about the laws.' Requests are made for books on engineering, automobiles, music, etiquette, birds, etc.

The jail is visited once a week by a member of the library staff, with a bag of books. The turnkey accompanies her through the jail, carries the books, explains the service to new inmates and suggests books to others. The iron support serves as an improvised library shelf, the bars are wide enough to permit the exchange of books between them. Requests are noted, and if urgent, the books are sent over immediately. The date and full name is the only data recorded, each man must return books in his possession before he is released. Much of the success of the jail service is due to the sheriff and turnkey, who co-operate in every possible way.

Patrons of the jail branch are a most appreciative group of readers. Not one book has been mutilated or lost.

The prisoners often find their way to the library after their release, take out cards and become regular borrowers. Having been made more serious by their prison experience they often want books which will be helpful to them in the line of work they are pursuing.

The results of this extension work far out measure the time and effort invested in it."<sup>64</sup>

Ottumwa also had a creditable record in hospital library service:

"This year (1927) will mark the twentieth anniversary of the inauguration of the hospital service of Ottumwa Public Library. The library has the distinction of being the first library to establish a regular hospital service.

The popularity of the service is evidenced by the fact that a library cart has been purchased only recently and installed at Ottumwa Hospital. The latter is constructed to hold books, magazines and newspapers, and can be wheeled into the rooms of the patients."<sup>65</sup>

#### SUMMARY COMMENTS

Around the early thirties the lapse in information about Iowa's institutional libraries is abrupt and nearly complete. This dearth

<sup>64</sup>Traveling Library, ILQ, X (April 1925), 27-28.

<sup>65</sup>Traveling Library, ILQ, X (April 1927), 152-153.

of reports and articles continued for this researcher until quite recent history.

The following is a concluding statement on Iowa's pioneering work:

"Iowa was the pioneer in the work described, but the experiment is fully justified by the results achieved. It is heartily approved by the officers in charge of the institutions affected by it. No doubt it can be improved. The experience of the state, however, warrants the following conclusions:

1. Well-selected libraries can be made most potent factors in accomplishing the special work for which the institutions are established.

2. Such libraries cannot be carried on successfully by untrained librarians without expert supervision and assistance.

3. It is desirable that each library be in charge of a well-trained and competent librarian of experience, who shall give so much time as is possible to the library and be paid from the institution funds.

4. The institution librarians should be supervised, and, when not experts, should be trained, and in all cases assisted by a state librarian of superior training, experience, and qualification for the work.

5. The supervising librarian should be paid by the state. The system of pro-rata payments by the institutions served involves the keeping of complicated accounts, and is very unsatisfactory.

6. Each institution should have one or more rooms for the accommodation of the library and conveniently located, well-lighted reading rooms, open at all the proper times, for the use of employees and so many of the inmates as may be in condition to use them."<sup>66</sup>

Here are two comments by Miriam Carey, the first institutional librarian:

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<sup>66</sup>Robinson, p. 132.

"Not only was Iowa in advance of the time in this step, but in deciding on a system of centralized management for its libraries, it chose one of the methods which have since been so widely advocated under the caption of 'economy and efficiency'."<sup>67</sup>

"What after all is the real justification for an interest in the institution libraries on the part of both the officials, and the public which supports the institutions? Miss Carey who has done more than anyone else to arouse this interest, has stated it thus:

'It is not that books may be bought from time to time or that they may be taken care of according to the latest methods; it is not that accurate statistics may be had at a moments notice, or that the library may make as good a showing as other departments, but it is that the use of books may increase, and not only that more people may read, but that they may read better books individually; it is that the reading habit may be incorporated into the life of each resident in an institution; that no person set apart from society may be denied any privilege connected with books or derived from them, which the freest, richest, happiest, or best citizen enjoys elsewhere. Books are perhaps the only things of which this may be possible in institutions. Food clothing, shelter, these may be, and are, good and adequate, but they can not be the best in existence, from the very nature of the case. But of books, the very best are as easily provided in a hospital as in a palace, in a school for feebleminded as in a university, for the merit of a book does not lie in the costliness of its binding or in any outward sign of excellence.'<sup>68</sup>

#### CONTEMPORARY FACILITIES

Current information about the institutional libraries is found for the most part in their own newspapers. Following are some notes in chronological order.

State Juvenile Home:

"A real need exists for an increase in library books and a special fund or allotment should be assigned for the purchase of new volumes."<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>67</sup>Board of Control, Bull., XIX (1917), 46.

<sup>68</sup>Curtis, p. 53.

<sup>69</sup>Board of Control, Bi. Rep. XXXIII (1962), 28.

Women's Reformatory - Rockwell City:

"The institution has a library containing approximately 2200 volumes, and the women read an average of 120 books and 115 magazines each week. Once a week, an inmate is permitted to visit the library and withdraw books. The library carries the latest and most suitable magazines. The librarian conducts study clubs for book reviews, world news, travelogues, etc."<sup>70</sup>

From the Mount Pleasant mental health institute's May, 1963, issue of "Pleasant Pages";

"The non-professional library is located on the west side of the ground floor in the Main Building. There our librarian presides over a collection of 1260 books which have been purchased by the state, as well as numerous others received as gifts. In addition, there are 21 different current magazines and 3 newspapers... The books are catalogued as in all standard libraries... Patients and staff members may check out these materials as in any public library.

The reading room is a bright, pleasant place with comfortable chairs and davenports attractively arranged about the room. Regular library tables and chairs occupy the center of the space."

From the Eldora boys' training school's September, 1966, "Echo":

"Miss Bernice Landon, I.T.S. teacher-librarian, is in the process of setting up a boys' advisory committee. The committee will be made up of boys who will consider what type of books the boys want and who will have the gumption to say "no" to any of Miss Landon's proposals or ideas with which they don't agree. The purpose of the committee is to make suggestions and to give the boys a voice in the selection of library books.

The school library is now open for an hour each evening from 7 to 8 o'clock. As part of the recreation program, this extra hour gives the detail boys, who usually do not have the time to during the daytime, an opportunity to obtain reading material. It may also serve as a study or research period for the schoolboy who finds himself confronted with a nonstudious climate in the cottage.

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<sup>70</sup>Ibid., p. 57.

Miss Landon has completed for the Academic and Vocational departments a list of all the library books that will be available until December. At the present time, the library has approximately 1,000 books to lend and is purchasing about 200 more."

The prison at Fort Madison says in its "Presidio" of October, 1966:

"Though handicapped by the manufacturer's failure to include assembly instructions, members of the Machinists Local ISP found enough library past to erect new shelves for those books stacked on the library floor all summer.

Book service to the cell houses will resume as soon as new catalogs of fiction and non-fiction can be completed and delivered to all cells. The new catalogs will have several hundred additions, including nearly 100 recent purchases from the "Best Sellers" list."

The October, 1966, "Tattler" of the Mitchellville girls' training school says:

"An additional number of books have been loaned to us from the Polk County Superintendent's Office for our library. They will be available for approximately a month. Then they are to be returned and replaced by 70 more books.

The girls may check out books every Thursday and keep them for two weeks. These books should be handled as though they were your own. This is a privilege of which advantage should not be taken."

In 1967 Miss Ernestine Grafton, director of the Iowa State Traveling Library, demonstrated that interest in the institutional libraries of the state was not dead by the appointment of Mr. Morris Lotte to the post of Library Consultant for institutional libraries. The appointment is documented in the Spring, 1967 issue of "Instinews" a periodical published by the State Board of Control:

"Mr. Morris Lotte, recently appointed Library Consultant is waiting for the delivery of shelving and equipment so he can proceed with the library. Mr. Lotte has already visited some of the institutions and has more visits on his agenda."

Iowa is beginning to take notice of her institutional libraries again.

APPENDIX I .  
STATE BOARD OF CONTROL  
BIENNIAL REPORTS



State Board of Control. Biennial Report. Vol. 7, 1910

Table No. 19 P. 109

Accessions and Withdrawals of Books and Collections  
for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1910

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1910
		Donat.				
Soldiers Home - Marshalltown		143		143	100	2,614
Soldiers Orphans Home - Davenport	120			120	57	3,003
College for Blind - Vinton	125	41		166	59	2,983
School for Deaf - Council Bluffs	53	48		101	41	5,138
Feeble-Minded - Glenwood						1,300
Sanatorium - Oakdale		269		269		269
Boys Training School - Eldora	149	4		153	24	3,140
Girls Training School - Mitchellville	400			400		1,782
Mental Health - Mt. Pleasant	57			57	59	2,397
Mental Health - Independence	191	211		402	14	2,360
Mental Health - Clarinda	253	8		254	102	1,970
Mental Health - Cherokee	403	205		608	27	1,999
Inebriates - Knoxville	73	4		77	11	1,295
Penitentiary - Fort Madison	16	4		20	11	7,394
Reformatory - Anamosa	399	30		429	125	10,888
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,239</b>	<b>967</b>		<b>3,206</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>48,532</b>

State Board of Control. Biennial Report. Vol. 7, 1910

Table No. 20 P. 111

Circulation of Books - July 1, 1908-June 30, 1910

Institution	Total Circulation	Pop.	Average Monthly		Per Cent Readers
			Empl.	Readers	
Marshalltown	11,931	819	126	201	.2126
Davenport	18,627	530	76	295	.4868
Vinton	1,952	145	41	73	.3904
Council Bluffs	18,551	238	62	194	.6445
Glenwood	4,968	1,152	185	68	.0506
Oakdale	2,501	76	34	55	.4955
Eldora	32,549	386	51	308	.7048
Mitchellville	13,545	196	30	200	.8811
Mount Pleasant	13,391	1,049	160	256	.2114
Independence	8,867	1,152	185	117	.0875
Clarinda	16,611	1,062	149	343	.2832
Cherokee	4,527	875	134	211	.2091
Knoxville	26,249	121	35	124	.4477
Fort Madison	88,617	487	70	278	.4991
Anamosa	154,766	437	66	366	.7276
Totals	429,652	8,725	1,404	3,089	.9792

(i.e., .4221)

State Board of Control. Biennial Report. Vol. 8, 1912

Table No. 20 P. 111  
 Accessions and Withdrawals of Books and Collections  
 for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1912

Institution	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1912
	Purch.	Donat.			
Marshalltown		60	60		2,554
Davenport	28	49	77	377	2,703
Vinton		26	705		5,843
Council Bluffs	679		2	62	1,240
Glenwood	2		197	12	454
Oakdale	48	149	321	410	3,051
Eldora	303	18	484	608	2,335
Mitchellville	484			90	2,543
Mt. Pleasant	209	24	233	193	2,324
Independence	226	14	240	319	1,612
Clarinda	328	136	464	31	2,432
Cherokee	48	149	197	12	454
Knoxville	152		152	269	6,653
Fort Madison	506	74	580	3,531	7,937
Anamosa					
Totals	3,013	699	3,712	5,914	42,135

Table No. 21 P. 113

Circulation of Books July 1, 1910-June 30, 1912

Institution	Total Circulation	Per Cent of Readers
Marshalltown	14,435	18.4
Davenport	16,730	4.3
Vinton		
Council Bluffs	27,802	76.57
Glenwood	2,598	2.18
Oakdale	2,548	46.9
Eldora	25,088	89.39
Mitchellville	2,335	80.04
Mount Pleasant	9,815	20.43
Independence	5,137	5.86
Clarinda	18,470	25.6
Cherokee	19,451	24.14
Knoxville	11,436	92.77
Fort Madison	86,310	55.05
Anamosa	135,327	69.23
Totals	377,482	30.5

Accessions and Withdrawals of Books and Collections  
for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1914

Institution	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1914
	Purch.	Donat.			
Marshalltown	303		303	664	1,412
Davenport	704		704	398	3,009
Council Bluffs	255	19	274		6,117
Glenwood	172		172	196	886
Oakdale	291	122	413	223	644
Eldora	6	11	17	62	3,006
Mitchellville	258		258	174	1,712
Mount Pleasant	290	5	295	214	2,734
Independence	190		190	171	1,666
Clarinda	141	5	146	933	825
Cherokee	217		217	50	2,599
Knoxville	341		341	51	1,291
Fort Madison	1,591		1,591	2,202	6,042
Anamosa	392	21	413	38	8,312
Totals	5,151	183	5,334	5,376	40,255

Circulation for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1914

Institution	Total Circulation	Average Monthly Population	Readers
Marshalltown	14,772	732	151
Davenport	20,523	533	285
Council Bluffs	32,638	215	166
Glenwood	2,677	1,350	37
Oakdale	14,763	106	123.7
Eldora	21,205	395	331
Mitchellville	8,889	148	145
Mount Pleasant	58,494	1,093	342
Independence	15,015	1,171	351
Clarinda	20,766	1,162	333
Cherokee	12,090	1,012	233
Knoxville	11,016	174	207
Fort Madison	142,346	529	396.7
Anamosa	145,457	675	567
Totals	5,020,651 (i.e., 520,651)	9,309	3,668.4

Accessions and Withdrawals of Books and Collections  
for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1916

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1916
		Donat.	Donat.			
Marshalltown	123	169		292	214	1,490
Davenport	355	39		384	138	3,255
Council Bluffs	209			209		6,326
Glenwood	260	3		263	232	1,072
Oakdale	258	89		347	51	881
Eldora	461	28		489	146	3,349
Mitchellville	128	13		141	41	1,842
Mount Pleasant	210	14		224	35	2,747
Independence	501	1		502	48	2,120
Clarinda	406	9		415	66	1,198
Cherokee	90			90	50	2,325
Knoxville	292	18		310	56	1,472
Fort Madison	468			468	21	6,489
Anamosa	409			409	162	8,312
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,170</b>	<b>373</b>		<b>4,543</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>42,878</b>

Circulation for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1916

Institution	Total Circulation	Average Monthly Population	Readers
Marshalltown	13,588	750	160
Davenport	24,726	567	669
Council Bluffs	28,420	213	2,267
Glenwood	1,068	1,444	45
Oakdale	22,042	148	88,041 (??)
Eldora	25,049	436	
Mitchellville	28,274	167	138
Mount Pleasant	60,299	1,161	301
Independence	21,780	1,185	385
Clarinda	21,870	1,205	316
Cherokee	8,525	1,109	217
Knoxville	10,016	186	219
Fort Madison	183,443	640	464.3
Anamosa	163,214	715	570
Totals	612,314	9,926	93,792 (??)



State Board of Control. Biennial Report. Vol. 11, 1918

Table No. 19. P. 72

Accessions and Withdrawals of Books and Collections  
for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1918

Institution	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1918
	Purch.	Donat.			
Marshalltown		85	85	72	1,503
Davenport		48	48	189	3,114
Glenwood				83	977
Oakdale		14	14	38	857
Eldora		21	148	152	3,345
Mitchellville	127	11	88	64	1,866
Mount Pleasant	77		60	202	2,565
Independence	54	6	8		2,128
Clarinda	6	2	155	141	1,212
Cherokee	146	9	85	42	2,368
Woodward	76	9	92	2	90
Knoxville	83	9	72	96	1,448
Fort Madison	72		325	135	6,678
Anamosa	325				8,312
Totals	966	214	1,180	1,216	36,463

Table 21 P. 74

Circulation for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1918

Institution	Total Circulation	Average Monthly	
		Population	Readers
Marshalltown	12,569	837	147
Davenport	34,283	432	
Council Bluffs	27,433	196	1,886
Glenwood	8,423	1,483	150
Oakdale	41,513	191	112
Eldora	26,286	458	
Mitchellville	69,577	185	220
Mount Pleasant	48,592	1,128	352
Independence	22,487	1,149	268
Clarinda	19,117	1,201	449
Cherokee	11,147	1,110	226
Woodward		75	
Knoxville	8,342	109	142
Fort Madison	221,684	578	436
Anamosa	192,405	658	529
Totals	743,858	9,790	4,917

Table No. 15 P. 55

Accessions and Withdrawals of Books and Collections  
for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1920

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1920
		Donat.	Donat.			
Marshalltown		283		283	175	1,611
Davenport	5	7		12	336	2,792
Glenwood		25		25	50	902
Oakdale		129		129	44	942
Eldora						3,345
Mitchellville	85			85	425	1,526
Mount Pleasant	16	34		50		2,615
Independence		50		50	117	1,936
Clarinda		15		15	209	1,018
Cherokee	45	7		52	51	2,369
Woodward	92	18		110		200
Knoxville						
Fort Madison	317			317	108	6,887
Anamosa						8,312
Rockwell City						
Totals	560	568		1,128	1,515	34,455

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Table No. 13 P. 64

Library Report for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1922

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1922
		Donat.	Donat.			
Marshalltown	105	80	185	85	1,711	
Davenport	310	8	318	542	2,568	
Toledo	1,081	387	1,468		1,468	
Glenwood				102	800	
Oakdale				300	2,603	
Eldora	130	1,287	1,287		3,345	
Mitchellville			130	57	1,809	
Mount Pleasant	8		8	187	2,436	
Independence					1,936	
Clarinda					1,018	
Cherokee					2,369	
Woodward		1,100	1,100		1,300	
Fort Madison	29	70	99	130	6,561	
Anamosa	237	51	288		7,211	
Rockwell City	10	4	14		719	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>4,897</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>37,854</b>	

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P. 60

Library Report for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1924

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1924
		Donat.	Donat.			
Marshalltown	256	19		275	132	1,854
Davenport	267			267	685	2,150
Toledo	648			648		2,116
Glenwood	136	35		171	239	732
Oakdale	155	303		458	266	2,795
Eldora	103	49		152	370	3,051
Mitchellville	395	57		452	226	1,902
Mount Pleasant	2	10		12	71	2,377
Independence	100			100		2,036
Clarinda						1,018
Cherokee	190			190	546	2,473
Woodward	38	12		50	245	1,300
Fort Madison	330	238		568	1,453	6,425
Anamosa	179			179	250	7,868
Rockwell City						639
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,799</b>	<b>723</b>		<b>3,522</b>	<b>4,483</b>	<b>38,736</b>

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P. 60

Library Report for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1926

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Totals	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1926
		Donat.	64			
Marshalltown	58	6	64	410	1,508	
Davenport	106	92	198	61	2,287	
Toledo	1,432		1,432	15	3,548	
Glenwood	226	64	290	79	1,007	
Oakdale	247	279	526	106	3,242	
Eldora	180		180	80	3,125	
Mitchellville	125	20	20	128	1,842	
Mount Pleasant					2,374	
Independence					4,548	
Clarinda					722	
Cherokee	140		140	286	2,314	
Woodward					1,341	
Fort Madison	178	88	266	230	6,441	
Anamosa	69		69	233	7,901	
Rockwell City					640	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,761</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>3,310</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>42,840</b>	

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Table No. 12 P. 86

Library Report for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1928

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1928
		Donat.	Donat.			
Marshalltown	182	3		185		1,693
Davenport	329	384		713	205	2,795
Toledo	815			815		4,363
Glenwood	8	34		42		1,049
Oakdale	87	373		460	230	3,184
Eldora					175	2,537
Mitchellville	149			149		1,991
Mount Pleasant		4		4		2,370
Independence	12	8		20	50	4,518
Clarinda		25		25		747
Cherokee	3				140	2,143
Woodward		80		80		1,421
Fort Madison		69		69	35	6,820
Anamosa	599	48		647		5,160
Rockwell City	5			5	412	813
Totals	2,189	1,028		3,217	1,247	41,604

Library Report for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1930

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1930
		Donat.	Donat.			
Marshalltown		59		59	54	2,146
Davenport	518	102		620	380	3,305
Toledo	328	869		1,197	93	1,240
Glenwood		3		3	17	1,029
Oakdale	96	227		323	247	3,291
Eldora					375	1,972
Mitchellville	110			110	18	2,083
Mount Pleasant		10		10		2,322
Independence	56			56	35	4,574
Clarinda		23		23		770
Cherokee	258			258	27	2,424
Woodward		52		52		1,473
Fort Madison					4	6,816
Anamosa	726	40		766	370	5,486
Rockwell City	100	257		357		1,170
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>1,642</b>		<b>3,834</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>39,831</b>



Library Report for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1932

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1932
		Donat.	Donat.			
Marshalltown		50		50	328	1,868
Davenport	465	91		556	286	3,305
Toledo	266			266	45	1,461
Glenwood	113	54		167	19	1,157
Oakdale		258		258	39	3,062
Eldora	300			300	441	2,360
Mitchellville	50			50		2,133
Mount Pleasant		402		402		1,303
Independence	293	3		293	20	2,720
Clarinda						770
Cherokee	178			178		2,603
Woodward	65	15		80		1,250
Fort Madison	138			138	170	6,636
Anamosa	549	252		801	516	5,791
Rockwell City	101			101	20	1,251
Totals	2,515	1,125		3,640	1,884	37,670

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Table No. 12 P. 55

Library Report for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1934

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1934
		Donat.				
Marshalltown					20	1,848
Davenport		14		14	224	3,095
Toledo	303	206		509	288	1,682
Glenwood		23		23	24	1,156
Oakdale		112		112	11	2,924
Eldora	317	64		381	327	3,527
Mitchellville	99			99		2,271
Mount Pleasant	182			182		1,485
Independence	253			253		2,973
Clarinda		50		50		820
Cherokee	77			77		2,684
Woodward	210	35		245		1,430
Fort Madison	604	1,002		1,606	300	7,942
Anamosa	412	59		471	343	7,034
Rockwell City	83			83	21	1,313
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,540</b>	<b>1,565</b>		<b>4,105</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>42,184</b>

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Table No. 12 P. 43

Library Report for Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1936

Institution	Purch.	Accessions		Total	Books Withdrawn	Collection June 30, 1936
		Donat.	Donat.			
Marshalltown		300		300	100	2,048
Davenport					140	2,955
Toledo	245	625		870	39	2,048
Glenwood	118	34		152	47	1,261
Oakdale	22	577		599	25	3,555
Eldora	11			11	54	3,472
Mitchellville	50			50	734	1,587
Mount Pleasant		135		135	33	1,587
Independence	238	6		244	50	3,167
Clarinda						820
Cherokee	129	2		131	5	2,855
Woodward	63	40		103		1,709
Fort Madison	204	21		225	288	9,673
Anamosa	827	28		855	2,243	4,453
Rockwell City	196			196	17	1,492
Totals	2,103	1,768		3,871	3,775	42,682

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