

Annual report time again and it's a pleasure to report that this has been a good year. Every effort has been made to maintain the high level of service that the Greenville Library has been known for in the past. Traditional library services have been augmented by exhibits and programs and so have increased the library's role in the community.

As reflected in the circulation figures, library use has been on the increase. Total circulation for the year was 60,225. This is 8,483 more than last year. A sizeable increase, actually the largest we've ever had. Our highest month this year was April, with a total circulation of 6152. This is 1334 higher than last year's highest month and is an all-time monthly high for the library.

Comparative figures:

7/1/74 - 6/30/75		7/1/73 - 6/30/74	
Adult	35,368	Adult	33,319
Juvenile	21,019	Juvenile	18,423
Non-Book	<u>3,838</u>		<u>          </u>
Total	60,225	Total	51,742

Book circulation is not the only gauge by which library increases are measured. The number of registered borrowers has increased by 134, from 4869 to 5003. We have also added 1,892 titles to our book collection bringing it up to 23, 343.

Although the primary function of the library is circulation of books, periodicals and non-print materials, other services which we offered included:

1. Assisting patrons in locating reference materials for completion of school projects, local history research, consumer information or just personal interest.
2. Publicity has been submitted weekly to the Observer and Providence Journal-Bulletin to acquaint the community with services, special events and other items of interest.
3. A monthly Newsletter which details the coming events for Greenville and East Smithfield libraries has been published.

4. Inter-library loan continues to be a necessary library service. Our demands are high in all categories. Of the 1001 requests made this year 869 of them were filled.

5. Films continue to be available to local groups through the R. I. Library Film Co-operative. 122 films have been provided this year for religious groups, nursing homes and other organizations.

Library services provided outside the library include service to Waterman Heights and Elmbrook Nursing Homes. A book review was given by the librarian at the Cranford Club in April when their annual memorial book was presented to the library.

One of the most attractive features within the library is the hall exhibit case. Exhibits this year have included: Dolls in Foreign Costume; Ecology; Antique Kitchen-ware; Book Printing and Binding; Scandinavia; Madonnas; Once Upon a Quilt; American Indian Crafts; The Genius of Michaelangelo; Rhode Island Philharmonic Children's Concerts; Rhode Island Wild Flowers, and a 19th Century Wedding Ensemble.

Children's Services included story hours for pre-schoolers, Head-Start children and school age children. In addition, a summer reading program, two puppet shows, a "Tell the Tale" contest, a Mothers' Aide Course and monthly Film Programs were included.

Greenville Public Library has won praise for its adult programs and they have continued to be deserving. The Library Forum, held from October through May has included programs on Flower Arranging, Holiday Breads, Quilting, Cake Decorating, Sewing, Slide Show on Hawaii and Growing and Using Herbs.

A series that was enjoyed by people from all over the State was the "Sunday Afternoon Travels 75" Our travels this year took us to Rome with Professor John Rowe Workman, to Switzerland with Mr. and Mrs. Willard VanHouten and to New Zealand with Mr. Jack Dawson. A special program was presented by Author-Illustrator David Macaulay, as he gave a slide/lecture on his book "City".

In addition to the exhibits mentioned above, the library has had two Art Shows.

In November the works of Florence Green and Dr. Ellis A. Rosenthal were exhibited and in March the Smithfield High School students presented an exhibit entitled "Start With Art".

State, local and regional meetings have been attended by librarians and trustees. These include the R.I.L.A. Winter and Spring meetings, Film previews, Book Reviews, Workshops and other co-operative ventures.

Improvements in service and facilities over the past year have included the following: Address stencil machine purchased, new motion picture screen, hallway renovated and transformed into an attractive office for the Librarian, projection stand bought, new Periodical Room completed and new metal shelving installed, new stands for holding paintings purchased, new coat rack installed, new sections added to main card catalog and a new fifteen drawer catalog acquired for the Reference Room.

The Reference Collection has been strengthened by the addition of the new Encyclopaedia Britannica, the New Catholic Encyclopedia and the Encyclopedia of Discovery and Exploration.

The Children's Magazine Imagine was published co-operatively with the libraries of Johnston, North Providence and East Smithfield under at DSLS incentive grant. The four libraries also conducted a Special Education Project financed by incentive money from DSLS.

The Board of Trustees continues to be active, working hard to improve service, and keep the library as attractive as it is. There have been some changes in the staff. Mrs. Spilka has left and been replaced by Mr. Higgins, but the cordiality and interaction between staff members continues to create the pleasant environment for good library service.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Higgins  
Librarian