

Nebraska Public Library Commission

Lincoln, 6 My. 1903.

To librarians of our traveling libraries:--

In order to improve the management and in-

crease the usefulness of our traveling libraries, I desire to obtain some information from those who have had charge of the libraries.

What is your opinion as to the length of time a traveling library can profitably remain in a community? Is three months long enough? If not, what would you advise?

Can you suggest any improvement in the rules governing the circulation of the books? Any additional rules for borrowers? Are your borrowers, as a rule, reasonably careful of the books? Do you give borrowers any instructions concerning the use of the books, in addition to the instructions sent from this office?

Is the selection of books satisfactory? Have you found any objectionable or otherwise unsuitable books in the libraries sent you? Is the proportion of fiction about right? Would you regard it as any particular advantage to the patrons if we should break up our fixed sets of books, and make up, as needed, sets of books from the stock on hand with special reference to the needs of particular places? Any suggestions that you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

We are anxious to increase the number of our permanent traveling library stations. We have eight of these already and hope to have many times that number in the next few months. It has been found that the permanent succession of traveling libraries is a fair substitute for a permanent library, and a good beginning for a public library.

There is still room for improvement in the care of the books by some of the librarians, although most of you have been careful to follow instructions exactly. The books must be carefully wrapped before packing, and the box must be properly labelled with the name of the shipper. I have had much trouble with boxes that gave no sign as to where they came from. Read the instructions and follow them carefully. Notify this office at once of the reception or shipment of a library.

You will be interested to know that the largest circulation any of our libraries has had, was that of library no. 21, at Imperial, Chase county. In three months 46 books were loaned 404 times--at least 60 more times than our next highest circulation.

Sincerely,

Edna D. Bullock, Sec'y.