

J. I. WYER, JR., PRESIDENT  
E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS,  
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
J. L. McBRIEN,  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
H. C. LINDSAY, STATE LIBRARIAN  
F. L. HALLER, OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
EDNA D. BULLOCK, SECRETARY

LINCOLN

15 Feb. 1905.

Dear Sir:-

The accompanying number of "Public libraries" is devoted to the subject of library commission work and library extension. Your attention is called to the creditable record made by our Commission in comparison with other library commissions, especially those of the middle west. An analysis of the traveling library statistics shows the circulation of our traveling libraries, considering the number of volumes we have, to be greater than the circulation of the Iowa, and equal to that of the Minnesota traveling libraries.

	Volumes	Trips	Circulation ( for last year)
Iowa	13,200	542	28,708
Nebraska	4,460	143	16,573
Minnesota	12,000		42,965

This is an average of about 3 1/2 times per volume for Nebraska and Minnesota, and 2 times per volume for Iowa. This splendid circulation for Nebraska, taken in connection with the fact that all but three volumes lost or unduly damaged by borrowers have been replaced by them, speaks well for the people of our state, and we are proud to go before the library world with such a record.

Further comparison will show that we are doing our work with less money than the library commissions of Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania, while Idaho and New Jersey have each the same sum as the Nebraska commission has had from the last appropriation. Comparisons with the New England states, the South and Michigan cannot be made, as their library commissions do not undertake the work undertaken by the library commissions of the middle west.

The Legislatures of Texas, Alabama, Missouri and California have now under consideration the establishment of library commissions.

Much that our Commission ought to undertake requires more money -- while the increase in the use of the traveling libraries requires more books and labor. Just at present, we have more calls for libraries than we can supply -- a number of places being on the waiting list. This demand will not decrease as time goes on, and we have asked for \$2000 more than our last appropriation in order to be able to meet the demands of the people on the farms and in the villages of the state.

We invite your consideration of the work done, and that in prospect for the ensuing biennium. We are temporarily located in the office of the State superintendent, and will gladly give further information concerning our work to any member of the Legislature.

Respectfully,

Sec'y.