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W. F. Kumlien

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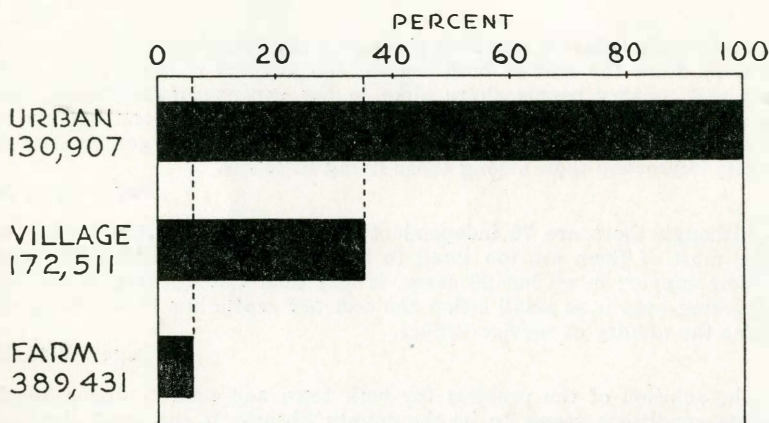
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# Public Library Service in South Dakota

By

W. F. Kumlien



The Percentage of Population Groups in South Dakota With and Without Public Library Service

Department of Rural Sociology  
Agricultural Experiment Station  
South Dakota State College of Agriculture  
and Mechanic Arts  
Brookings, South Dakota

## *Digest*

Along with the church and the school the public library is becoming one of our most useful institutions.

Page 3

South Dakota has a total of 74 free public libraries, most of them located in and supported by cities, towns, and villages.

Page 3

The majority of rural people in the state are without local public library service. In 62 out of 66 counties the only public libraries are those supported independently by the towns and villages. In these same 62 counties 92.2 per cent of the borrowers are town people, while 7.8 per cent are farmers. The former spend 43.1 cents per capita for library service, and the latter 4.8 cents.

Pages 6 to 8

An entirely different situation prevails in the four counties with county libraries. Here the unit of both service and support is the county. Both town and country people share alike in the expense, management, and the service. Under these conditions the farm people respond quickly to library opportunity, there being in the four counties a larger number of country borrowers than among those living in towns.

Pages 22 to 26

Although there are 70 independent town and village libraries in the state, most of them are too small to be efficient library units. The unit of their support in all but 26 cases, is less than 1,500 people. When the supporting area is so small either the cost per capita has to be excessive, or else the quality of service suffers.

Pages 13 to 22

The solution of the problem for both town and country under South Dakota conditions seems to be the county library. It can meet the test for an efficient library unit, as agreed on by library authorities, and yet the costs per capita are not high.

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There are probably 40 counties in the state where a county library system would serve both the town and country districts better than they are now being served and at not to exceed an average cost of from 50 cents to \$1.00 per capita per year.

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# Public Library Service in South Dakota

W. F. Kumlien<sup>1</sup>

The free public library is now accepted as an integral and essential part of American life. Along with the school and the church it is becoming one of our most useful community institutions.

The type of public library in this country is peculiarly a product of democracy. It is the invention of a democratic people seeking both expression and improvement. It is one form of a community continuation school.

As a public institution supported through taxation, the public library is of relatively recent origin. As recent as 1876 there were only about 300 in the entire United States while at present, 1935, there are 6235 libraries.<sup>2</sup>

Owing to their newness, public libraries are not yet distributed as uniformly throughout the entire United States as are public schools and churches. (Fig. 1).<sup>3</sup> As might be expected, the more compact, thickly populated and incorporated areas were first to adopt the public library. The city, town, or village has been and still is the most common unit of library service and support. However, the rural sections are now beginning to demand equality with the town in library opportunity.

What are the actual library conditions in South Dakota? What library agencies already exist? What library policy is now in operation, and what modification, if any, does it need to be reasonably effective? To attempt to throw some light on these and other related questions has been the purpose of this study.

## Method of Study

In view of the fact that the total number of free public libraries<sup>4</sup> of all types in South Dakota is only 74,<sup>5</sup> it was thought best to include the whole state in the area to be studied.

Quite uniform and fairly comprehensive statistical records of the work done by the various public libraries have been collected and printed biennially by the State Free Library Commission covering a period of 22 years. As this and other statistical materials were readily obtainable through reports and correspondence, it was decided to make the field work more of a qualitative study of the kind of service rendered by the

Source: <sup>1</sup> This study was originally made in cooperation with Dr. C. J. Galpin, in charge of the section of Rural Life Studies, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A.

<sup>2</sup> A.L.A. Library Extension Bulletins for 1926 and 1935.

<sup>3</sup> Reproduced by permission from J. W. Merrill's "Contrasts in Library Service"—a special reprint from the bulletin of the American Library Association, May, 1935.

<sup>4</sup> Bostwick, Dr. A. E., *The American Public Library*, Appleton, 1923, p. 20, says "In general, a 'public' library in the United States is either owned or controlled by the public, or freely accessible to the public; or it has two of these features or all three of them."

<sup>5</sup> Eleventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission (1934) p. 10.

library units, and the response of borrowers and the general public to library service.<sup>6</sup>

In the study of these libraries, the main aspects considered were "the five essential unit requirements for an efficient library service unit" as suggested by Kolb<sup>7</sup> and discussed in their various aspects in library publications of the American Library Association.

Briefly, the unit requirements suggested by Kolb are:

1. A full time and trained librarian.
2. An active circulating book collection together with an appropriate supply of needed bulletins, magazines and periodicals, based on the actual needs of the supporting area.
3. An annual budget large enough to adequately care for the service which in general would approximate \$1.00 per capita in the area of support.

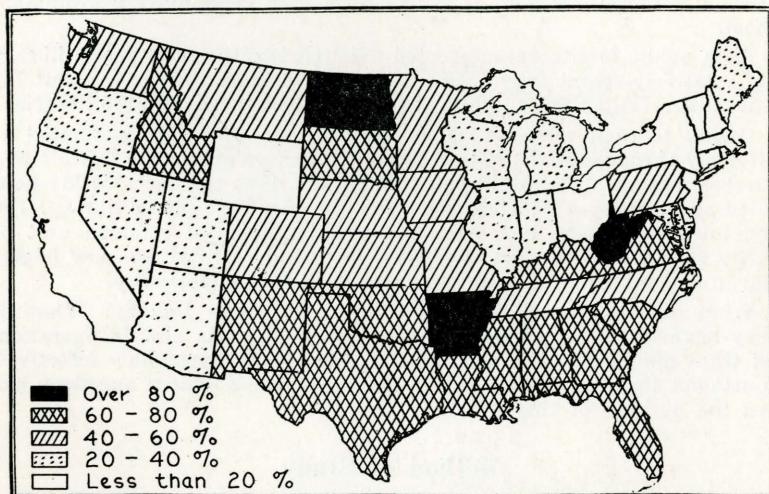


Fig. 1.—Per Cent of Total Population Without Library Service  
(By States)

4. A modern library, building or space, centrally located to adequately house the books and other reading material and provide suitable reading rooms.<sup>8</sup>
5. There should be a group of active and enthusiastic borrowers back of each library unit.

In discussing the library situation in South Dakota, the writer has had three general phases of the question in mind, namely: what has been

Source: <sup>6</sup> In the original study some 14 different libraries and groups of their respective borrowers were personally visited during the summer and fall months of 1926 and 1927, in order to get a fair statistical sample of the different types of free library service rendered in the state.

<sup>7</sup> Kolb, Dr. J. H., Service Institutions for Town and Country, Research Bulletin No. 66, Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Wisconsin, p. 34-36.

<sup>8</sup> Where an area such as a county is served, branch stations should be provided within proper reach of anyone in the state.



called, Library Conditions, Library Agencies, and Library Policies. These will each be discussed in turn.

Under each phase, there inevitably enters in a comparison between town and country. As stated before, the incorporated towns have been the first to adopt the public library as a community institution while the country districts have lagged behind. What is true in this respect of the nation as a whole is equally true of South Dakota.

## Library Conditions in South Dakota

In order to properly appraise the status of the library movement in the state, attention is first called to certain historical, physical and population factors which have unquestionably affected its background.

South Dakota became a state only 47 years ago (1889) and is therefore one of the 10 youngest states in the union. Its interests have always been predominantly agricultural and at present 56 per cent of the state's population live on farms. (Fig. 2)<sup>9</sup>

Of the remaining population, most of them live in small towns and villages. There are 16 towns over 2,500 population, 201 of between 250 and 2,500, and approximately 600 small villages of 250 and less. A peculiarity of South Dakota towns and villages is, that of the 217 with a population of 250 or over, all but 27 are incorporated. Even 84 of the group below 250 are incorporated. (Table 1). This tendency for towns and villages to incorporate so freely has had the effect of retarding cooperative tax supported projects between town and country districts.

TABLE 1.—Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas in South Dakota  
(Their Number, Population, and Per Cent Distribution)

	Number of Towns	Population	Per Cent Of Total
<b>Incorporated Places</b>			
2501 and over -----	16	130,907	18.9
1000 to 2500 -----	41	56,947	8.2
Places under 1000 -----	242	87,978	12.7
<b>Unincorporated Territory</b>			
Rural Non-Farm (unincorporated villages) -----	--	27,586	4.0
Rural Farm -----	--	389,431	56.2
		692,849	100.0

South Dakota, although sparsely populated, in size is the fourteenth state in the Union. It is 380 miles long from east to west and 248 miles from north to south. There is an average density of only 8.9 people per square mile.

The total assessed valuation of taxable property in 1933 was slightly over one billion dollars,<sup>10</sup> and the taxes payable in 1934 were nearly 19 million. This amounted to about \$27 per capita.

In the early history of the state (1890) slightly under 28 per cent of the population was foreign born, but by 1930 this figure had been reduced to 9.48 per cent. (Table 2) Slightly more than half the popula-

Source: <sup>9</sup> Federal Census, 1930.

<sup>10</sup> Annual Report of the Division of Taxation for the Fiscal Year 1933-1934. The exact figures for the total assessed property valuation was \$1,059,887,747 for 1934, while the total levied was \$18,897,175.11.

tion, 56.5 per cent, are native born South Dakotans, while 33.7 per cent have moved in from other states.<sup>11</sup>

Slightly more than 50 per cent of the state's population are native born of native parentage, 10.7 per cent are native born of German parentage, 5.4 per cent of Russian, 8 per cent of Norwegian, 3.4 per cent of Swedish, 2.6 per cent of Danish, and 3.9 of British.<sup>12</sup>

In literacy South Dakota ranks high. There is only .77 of one per cent of the white population above nine years of age unable to read and write.<sup>13</sup> If we consider only the white population above 18 years of age, 69.0 per cent have stopped school somewhere in the grades, 19.3 per cent have attended high school, and 10.9 per cent have either attended or graduated from higher institutions of collegiate rank.<sup>14</sup>

TABLE 2.—Decrease in Percentage of Foreign Born Population of South Dakota (1880-1930)\*

Date	Percentage
1880	38.3†
1890	27.6
1900	22.0
1910	17.5
1920	12.9
1930	9.5

Source: \* Federal Census (1880-1930)

† Dakota Territory

### Distribution of Library Service

One of the first questions that arises in a study of library conditions is to find out who and where the people are, with and without library service. There are 1,002 counties out of 3,072 in the United States which

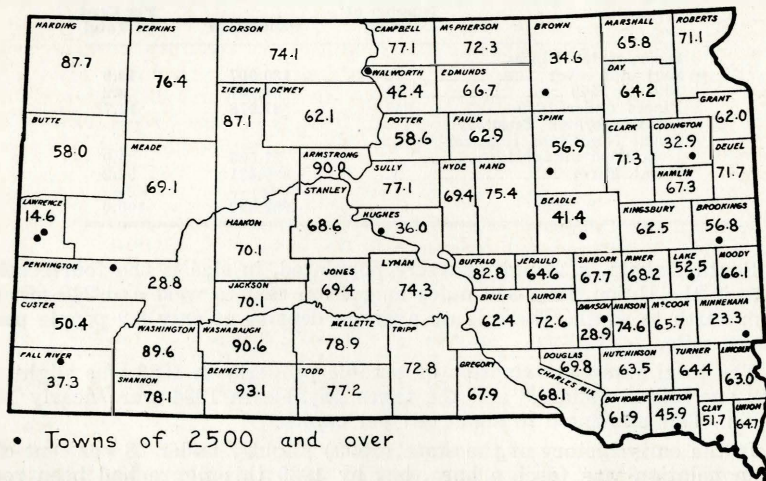


Fig. 2.—Percentage of South Dakota Population Living on Farms, by Counties (Based on the Fifteenth Census of the United States—Vol. III)

Source: <sup>11</sup> Federal Census, 1930.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> State Census of 1935.

have no free public libraries of any kind within their boundaries. These facts, however, tell only part of the story. With the exception of 231 county libraries, and some 475 more libraries which have township support, the rural districts are practically without library service of their own.

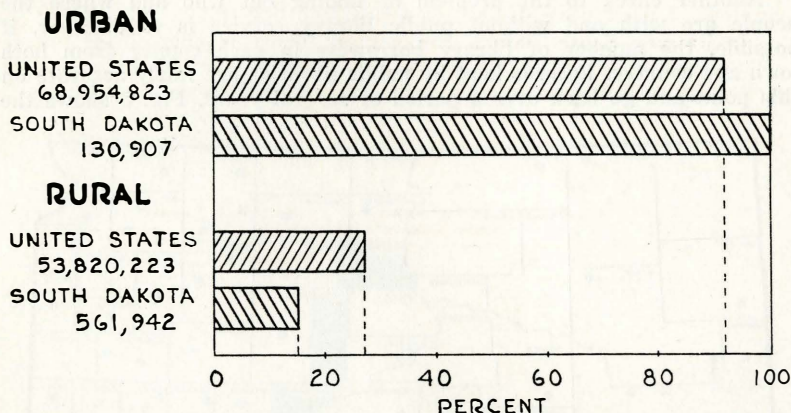


Fig. 3.—Percentage Comparison of the Rural and Urban Population With and Without Public Library Service in the United States and in South Dakota

Narrowing the story down to conditions within South Dakota, we find a comparable situation.<sup>15</sup> For a percentage comparison of the rural and urban population with and without public library service in the United States and in South Dakota, see Fig. 3. There are 19 counties out of 66 which have no free public libraries within their boundaries. There is a total of 70 city, town, and village public libraries, all in incorporated places, but only four counties with county libraries which are supported by and serve both town and country on equal basis. (Fig. 4) In the remaining 62 counties of the state, the rural districts are limited to such service as they can obtain from the State Free Library Commission, or such service as the town libraries, supported by town people, may choose to render.

TABLE 3.—Comparison of South Dakota Public Library Expenditures, Number Volumes and Circulation With That of the U. S. A. (1934)

	Expenditures		Volumes In Public Library		Circulation of Volumes	
	Total	Av. Per Capita	Total	Av. Per Capita	Total	Av. Per Capita
U. S. A.	45,855,400.00	\$ .37	100,470,215	\$ .82	449,998,845	\$3.67
South Dakota	126,801.23	\$ .18	409,675	\$ .59	1,860,412	\$2.69

In further comparing South Dakota library statistics with those of the United States as a whole, we find that the state ranks 27th in the average number of Public Library volumes per capita. In terms of actual figures, South Dakota has approximately .6 of a book per capita in her public libraries, and circulates the equivalent of 2.50 books per person

Source: <sup>15</sup> Eleventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission (1934).



per year. In contrast to this, the public libraries of the whole United States own .82 of a book per capita and circulate 3.67 books per person.<sup>16</sup> (Table 3).

### Number of Library Borrowers

Another check to the problem of finding out who and where the people are with and without public library service is to discover, if possible, the number of library borrowers in each county from both town and country. Records kept by public libraries are fairly accurate on this point and go back over a period of several years. Fig. 5 shows the

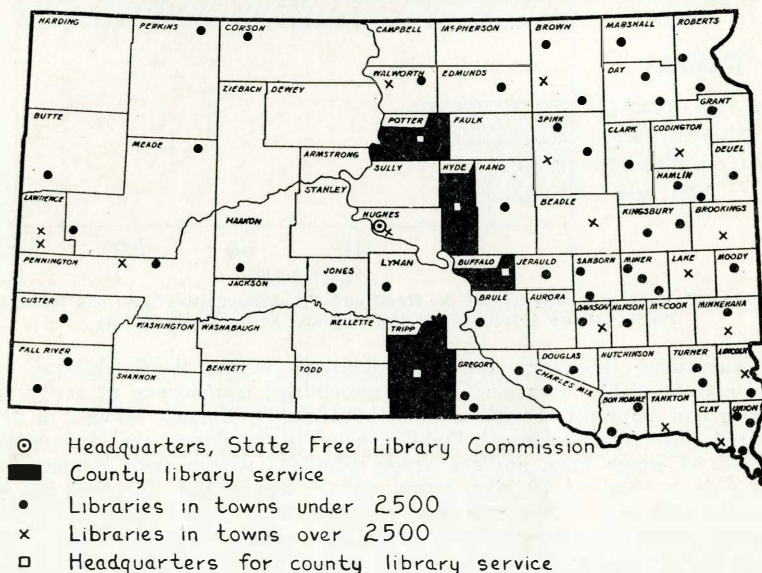


Fig. 4.—Public Library Agencies in South Dakota, 1926

number of public library borrowers for 1933-1934 for both town and country computed in terms of percentages based on the 1930 population. Fig. 6 shows the number of library volumes and circulation per capita by unit of support.

If we include the four counties of Tripp, Potter, Hyde and Buffalo where county libraries are maintained, we find the total number of town borrowers amounts to 88,399, while the country borrowers total only 7,495. Stating these figures in terms of percentages, we find that the town people form 92.2 per cent of the public library borrowers, while the country people form only 7.8 per cent.<sup>17</sup>

### Type of Reading Matter in Farm Homes

In the way of quantitative data on this point for South Dakota there are two studies made by the writer which confirm the disparity in reading matter between town and country where no county library exists. The

Source: <sup>16</sup> Bulletin of the American Association, May, 1935.

<sup>17</sup> See Table in Appendix B.





whereas the Lake county study was made in a period of comparative prosperity. In 1934 a larger percentage of families represented in the Brookings sample subscribed to weekly papers and children's magazines, than did the families represented in the Lake county sample of 1927. It may not be safe to assume that these groups are strictly comparable. For a detailed comparison of these two studies, see Table 4.

TABLE 4.—Percentage Comparison of Reading Matter in 150 Farm Homes in Lake County and 722 Farm Homes in Brookings County

Type of Reading Matter	Average Per Family Subscribing		Per Cent of Homes In Area Subscribing	
	Lake	Brookings	Lake	Brookings
Dailies -----	1.3	1.09	84.0	67.0
Farm Journals -----	3.4	2.54	83.0	80.7
Weeklies -----	1.15	1.49	65.0	83.6
Women's Magazines -----	2.06	1.34	61.0	29.9
Children's Magazines -----	2.0	1.0	1.3	5.3
Books -----	---	---	38.0	---

### Money Spent for Library Service

Comparing South Dakota with the United States as a whole with reference to the amount of money spent for library service, we find that the state ranks twenty-ninth in expenditures per capita.<sup>20</sup> (Table 5) There is a total of \$126,801.23 spent in connection with the 74 libraries, or an average of 18 cents per capita.

If we examine the public library expenditures for the state and apportion them on the basis of amounts spent in town and country, the same disparity exists as was shown in the number of library borrowers. In Table 5 the cost of the Free State Library Commission is added. In both this cost and that of the county libraries, the total is apportioned

TABLE 5.—Library Expenditures in South Dakota for Town and Country Population, 1934\*

	Total Expenditures	Town <sup>1</sup>	Country <sup>1</sup>
State Library Commission	\$ 9,897.65	\$ 3,939.26	\$ 5,958.39
County Libraries	6,818.43	2,147.81	4,670.62
City and Town Libraries	119,982.80	119,982.80	
Total	\$136,698.88	\$126,069.87	\$10,629.01

Source: \* Based on Eleventh Biennial Report of South Dakota Free Library Commission, p. 12 (1934).

(1) The term "Town" includes all incorporated places in the state while "country" includes all unincorporated areas.

to town and country districts on the basis of the per cent that each group is of the total.

Thus the city, town and village population of 275,832 spent \$126,069.87 on public library service during 1934 or 45.7 cents per capita. The country population of 417,017 spent \$10,629.01 or 2.5 cents per capita.<sup>21</sup>

### Public Library Agencies

The statutes of South Dakota in force at this time provide for the organization and maintenance of several different kinds of public library service. The type of service rendered and area served naturally determine the political unit of support.

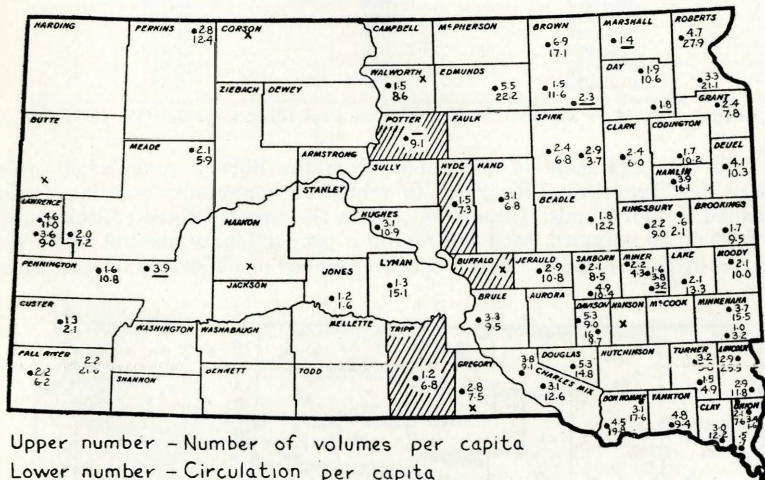
Source: <sup>20</sup> Eleventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission, and May, 1935, Bulletin of the American Library Association.

<sup>21</sup> Eleventh Biennial Report of South Dakota Free Library Commission, p. 10.

Among the forms of free public library service provided for by law are the State Library Commission, county libraries, city, town and township libraries. In addition to these, provision is made for a state reference library<sup>22</sup> in connection with the State Department of History, and for public school libraries.<sup>23</sup>

**State Library Commission**

This is the library extension agency of the state rendering a state wide library service. It has broad but definite duties specified in the laws. Broadly speaking, it is designed to lead the way in a program of library development for the state. It gives general library service directly to communities, groups and to individuals until such time as a more complete service can be established. When that time comes, if desired, it aids and counsels in the establishing of local or county library



**Fig. 6.—Number of Library Volumes and Circulation per Capita by Units of Support**

units. In many cases it supplements the collections of local, county or school libraries already established. Its headquarters are at the state capitol.

The work of the South Dakota Free Library Commission has made a substantial growth in state wide service since its inception in 1913.

Source: <sup>22</sup> The State Library as organized by law is primarily for reference purposes. It consists of the books, papers and documents in the custody of and collected by the South Dakota Historical Society, or as it is now called, "The State Department of History." Its chief function is not library extension to the general public, but rather as a reference library for the various legislative, judicial and administrative officials of the state, and to any other citizens who may care to make use of its materials. Periodic reports are issued regularly as volumes in a series called the "South Dakota Historical Collections."

<sup>23</sup> While properly speaking, the public school libraries would not be included under the classification of free public libraries, they are described in this section owing to their being publicly supported and intimately related to the county library system, where the latter form of library service is established.



For a brief statistical record of two of its principal lines of work covering the past eight years, see Table 6 and Fig. 7.

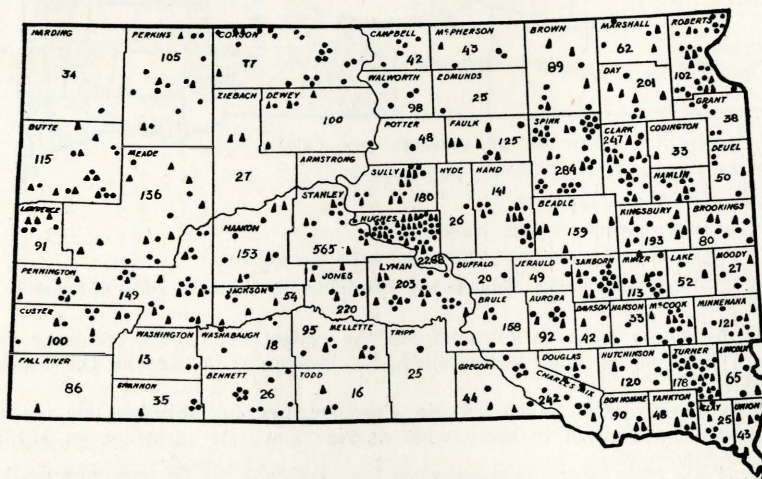
Another important phase of the commission's program has been the work for the establishment of more public libraries in the state, and the betterment of the facilities for service of those already established. Much of the steady growth in units of libraries in the state is unquestionably due to the continuous and efficient help of the field librarian of the Commission. (Table 7)

**TABLE 6.—Two Important Phases of Statewide Service Rendered by State Free Library Commission (1919-1934)\***

	Traveling Libraries Loaned	Number of Reference Books Loaned
1933-1934	3013	36,254
1931-1933	2257	26,802
1929-1931	1844	19,180
1927-1928	1384	17,594
1925-1926	751	14,041
1923-1924	672	13,893
1921-1922	534	13,974
1919-1920	592	8,537

Source: \* Based on Biennial Reports of State Free Library Commission (1919-1934)

Prior to 1924 most of the books from the library commission were loaned as "Traveling Libraries" to school or community stations to be reloaned to individuals. These went out in the form of fixed collections of from 25 to 50 volumes, each containing a proportionate amount of fiction and non-fiction for adults and a certain number of children's books. When



## ▲ TRAVELING LIBRARY SERVICE TO COMMUNITY CENTERS

• " " " " SCHOOL STATIONS

NUMBERS REFER TO PACKAGES AND BOXES OF BOOKS MAILED TO COUNTIES

Fig. 7.—Statewide Library Service Rendered by South Dakota Free Library Commission, 1933-1934

these collections were returned to headquarters, the books were then checked and replaced in their respective boxes to be sent on to other stations.

At the present time, the idea of "fixed collections" has been abandoned and requests from either communities or individuals are now filled from the shelves directly. The commission library now includes approximately 13,200 volumes of non-fiction material together with a file of magazines and pamphlets from which loans of material especially needed are made to individuals, to clubs and to schools.

"Borrowers of this material include the club woman who needs material upon the subject assigner for a club paper, the student taking an extension course from one of the colleges in the state, the county agent who is interested in reading up on co-operative marketing, the coach of

TABLE 7.—Growth of Public Libraries in South Dakota\*

	Tax-Supported (Municipal)	Tax Supported (County)	Privately Supported	Total
1933-1934	52	4	18	74
1931-1932	51	4	14	69
1929-1930	55	4	14	73
1927-1928	53	4	16	73
1925-1926	50	4	22	72
1923-1924	42	3	17	62
1921-1922	39	2	13	54
1919-1920	39	1	12	52

\* Source: Based on Biennial Reports of State Free Library Commission (1919-1934)

a debating team, the rural teacher who wants to put on a play in her school, and many hundred other people living in all corners of public libraries must depend upon the state department for books."<sup>24</sup>

It is noteworthy that the number of those borrowing books from the State Library Commission has greatly increased during the depression period, (1930-1936). During the fiscal year ending July 1, 1934, the commission loaned 40,140 books as compared with 22,792 loaned during the fiscal year ending July 1, 1929. This represents an increase of 76 per cent during the depression period.<sup>25</sup>

### City, Town and Village Libraries

The small town library is by far the most common form of public library unit in South Dakota (Fig. 4). There are now 70 such town libraries in the state, 16 being located in the 16 towns with a population above 2,500, a total of 29 in towns between 1,000 and 2,500, and 26 in towns below 1000. (Table 8).

It is interesting to note that all but one town in the state with a population of 1,400 or above maintains a public library, and 16 out of the 25 towns between 1,000 and 1,400 also have public libraries. Out of this total number of 70 town libraries in the state, 52 are supported by taxation, and 18 are privately supported (see table in Appendix B).

Applying the criteria for "an efficient library unit" as a measuring stick as suggested on page —, how effective are the town libraries?

In order to get the facts clearly before us, a long table has been placed in order to the size of town.<sup>26</sup> The columns are numbered in order of the "five efficiency factors" considered.

Source: <sup>24</sup> Quoted from the Seventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission (1926), p. 5.

<sup>25</sup> Eleventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission (1934), p. 6.

<sup>26</sup> Based on data taken from the Eleventh Biennial Report of the Free Library Commission, (1934), p. 10.



### Librarians

A glance at Appendix B reveals the fact that relatively few of the town librarians of the state are employed on a full-time basis, or have had special training for their work. Only 26 of the librarians serving the 74 free public libraries of South Dakota are employed on a full-time basis. The remainder are employed on a part-time basis ranging from part of a day per week to full time. Out of 74 libraries in the state only 14 are open six days per week and from six and a half to eleven hours per day. The 48 libraries which do not employ full-time librarians are open from one to four days per week and from six and a half to eleven hours a day. Only 14 of the 26 full-time librarians have had any professional training for their work. It is worthy of note, in this connection, that the three librarians receiving the highest salaries, ranging from \$1,600 to \$2,200 per year, have had academic training, plus one or more years of professional training and not less than five years of professional experience. A second group of eight town librarians have had some academic training and at least a six weeks' summer course, plus a reasonable amount of library experience. Their salaries range from \$795 to \$1,600 per year.

There are some notable exceptions among the remaining town libraries that are employing particularly capable librarians. Because of long service under good librarians they have acquired more than the equivalent of a six-weeks' summer course in training. These, however, are exceptions and do not change the general principle that a library which cannot employ a full-time and properly trained librarian cannot as a usual thing offer the most efficient service to the public.

**Buildings and Amount of Time Open to the Public.**—On the whole, the town public library building facilities of the state are thought to be somewhat above the level of the other factors considered in an efficient library unit. At least 25 of the libraries have separate library buildings well located, with plenty of space, well lighted and heated rooms. (Fig. 8.) The remaining libraries have temporary quarters, some fairly adequate and others quite inadequate.

In point of hours open to the public there are only five who fully meet the 52 hour-per-week standard,<sup>27</sup> but some 22 are open every week day for at least five hours a day.

**Library Borrowers.**—It is difficult to say just what proportion of the inhabitants served in a library unit should be borrowers in order to have adequate support. Dr. J. H. Kolb says that in order to have the needed budget of \$4,000, and not exceed the A. L. A., the standard of \$1 per year per capita, there should be a supporting area of not less than 4,000 people. Since all of the tax supported town libraries in South Dakota have as their unit of support, the incorporated town, it is rather easy to see which towns can qualify. There are only 10 towns with a population of over 4,000, and only 16 towns of over 2,500. It is obvious then that one of two things is happening in all the libraries but 10 in the state. Either a tax charge of more than \$1 per capita is levied for library purposes, or else the budget is reduced to where there must be a cut in the efficiency of the service. In 10 tax supported libraries of the state, the cost amounts to more than \$1 per capita, although in only two of the cases is the total budget raised ample to maintain an efficient unit on the basis of the standards referred to.<sup>28</sup>

Source: <sup>27</sup> Kolb, Dr. J. H., *Service Institutions for Town and Country*, Research Bulletin 66, Wisconsin Experiment Station, p. 36.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*—pp. 34-36.

TABLE 8.—Comparison of "Efficiency Factors" in Libraries of Different Sized Towns in South Dakota, 1934\*

Size of Towns	Total Number Towns Involved	1 Librarians		2 Volumes In Library	3 Budget		4 Building Open		5 Borrowers		6 Circulation
		Full Time + Or —	Special Training Experience + Or —		Receipts	Expenditures	Days	Hours	Town	County	
2501 or over	16	+	+	15417.2	7018.54	5316.06	.6	8.2	3930.6	139.1	73306.7
1000 to 2500	29	—	—	3586.9	938.09	775.98	3.2	4.6	672.9	145.9	14087.8
Below 1000	26	—	—	1469.6	263.41	215.53	1.8	3.3	230.6	164.0	4342.5

Source: \* Based on data from the Eleventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission.

TABLE 9.—Comparison of "Efficiency Factors" in County Libraries of South Dakota 1934\*

		1		2	3		4		5		6	
		Librarian			Budget		Building Open		Borrowers			
	Population	Full Time + Or —	Special Training Experience + Or —	Volumes In Library	Receipts	Expenditures	Days	Hours	Town	County	Circulation	
Hyde	2563	1127	+	+	5476	\$2,041.57	\$1,337.05	6	6	699	1442	26,837
Poter	3376	1386	+	+	-----	3,750.00	3,071.44	6	6½	1294	1697	52,292
Tripp	9248	3464	+	+	15297	2,439.87	2,409.94	6	10	1485	4970	86,924

Source: \* Based on the Eleventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission



Increased book circulation of public libraries during the last five year period indicates that the depression has caused people to read more books due to enforced leisure. During the fiscal year ending July 1, 1934, a total of 1,890,412 books was circulated by the public libraries of South Dakota, as against 1,126,107 books in 1929. This is an increase of 67 per cent. Increased circulation effected in the face of decreased ap-

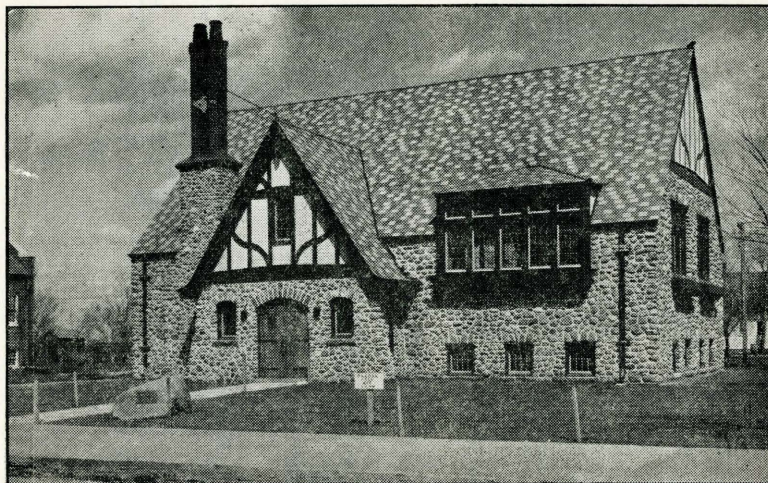


Fig. 8.—Free Public Library at Ipswich. The generous gift of a local citizen.

proportions averaging 13.9 per cent has brought a tragic situation in South Dakota public libraries, because with fewer replacements and inadequate funds for mending and repairing, book stocks have become seriously depleted. Attention is again called to the relatively small number of country borrowers, which form but 7.8 per cent of the total borrowers. It is evident, with certain exceptions, that the town library is not meeting the reading needs of rural people.

**Number of Volumes and Circulation.**—A good library service should have an active book collection of about 5,000 or 6,000 volumes and a circulation of five books per capita per year in the average area of support. There should be added annually about 500 new volumes, distributed well over the departments. In addition to this there should be a seasonable supply of bulletins, magazines and periodicals for reference and reading rooms based on the needs of the local community.<sup>29</sup>

Applying this criteria to South Dakota town libraries, we find that there are 25 towns which have 5,000 volumes or above and only 15 which have a circulation of 30,000 volumes per year. (See Appendix B)

Most of the larger libraries are surprisingly well stocked with books considering the resources of the state. It is in the smaller town libraries and most of the public school libraries where the book collections are inadequate and poorly selected.

There seems to be an unnecessary duplication of certain book titles within the various libraries in each county. This condition has probably

Source: <sup>29</sup> Ibid.—p. 35.



arisen out of the poorly defined objectives of the various types of libraries and from lack of coordination from some central directing agency. Most of the libraries in the state, both public and school libraries, are considerably behind in the mending, repairing and binding of worn books. This has probably been due to the impossibility of securing additional help because of restricted funds.

**Budget.**—The American Library Association has set up \$1 per capita per year as the minimum standard of support for a library if efficient service is desired. Considering all necessary items in the budget it should total about \$4,000, itemized as follows:<sup>30</sup>

Books	\$ 750.00
Periodicals	80.00
Building	130.00
Service:	
Librarian's Salary	1400.00
Ass't. Salary (half time)	600.00
Extra Short Time Help	50.00
Operation and Maintenance:	
Janitor	360.00
Heat and Light	410.00
Telephone, Supplies, Transportation	120.00
Repairs and Incidentals	100.00

Applying this as a "budget measuring stick" to South Dakota, we find there are only nine town libraries that have annual receipts amounting to \$4,000, five more that have \$3,000 to \$4,000, and only two more that have a budget of from \$2,000 to \$3,000. In other words, even if we reduce the minimum for an efficient library unit under South Dakota conditions to \$2,000, only 16 out of the 70 could qualify.

While there are only 10 cities in South Dakota that have a population of 4,000, all but nine of the 66 counties have 4,000 or more population. Thus, it is readily apparent that in South Dakota the county is a more satisfactory unit of support than most of the villages and towns.

Inasmuch as most of the larger county-seat libraries are adequately housed and equipped to serve the entire county it is evident that if they were converted into county libraries the additional moneys appropriated for them could be spent for books. In other words, without increasing the overhead any additional moneys could go immediately into working capital, namely books which are the unit of service as far as the book borrower is concerned.

### County Libraries

South Dakota has an excellent law which makes possible the organization of county libraries.<sup>31</sup> This form of library organization is designed to equalize the library opportunities within the county for both urban and rural people. In order to aid in the distribution of books among those who do not live within easy distance of the county headquarters, branch libraries are maintained at different points within the county.

In the county library system, emphasis is not placed on an expensive library building, but on the library service in distributing books and other material about the county.

Source: <sup>30</sup> Ibid.—p. 35.

<sup>31</sup> See text of County Library Law in the Appendix A.

There are now three counties in the state which maintain an active county library system (Fig. 4). A fourth county, Buffalo, has a modified form with limited funds serving principally the rural schools.

Applying the "efficiency score card"<sup>32</sup> to the county libraries of the state, we find that they are enabled to meet the test much more successfully for South Dakota conditions than most of the town libraries located in towns under 4,000 inhabitants. While there are serious spatial difficulties to overcome in the county unit, they are more than compensated for by the larger number of people served and the more ample support.

Only one of the three main county library areas does not have 4,000 or more people. Thus, in only one case is it necessary to tax more than the \$1 per capita, in order to produce a budget of \$4,000. (Table 9).

The librarians in these three libraries have all had at least some professional training in addition to academic work. In every case they are employed on a full time basis and are enabled to have some extra help.

None of the libraries had any nucleus of books to begin with, so an immense lot of mechanical work of cataloging and preparation has fallen on the librarians, retarding somewhat the collecting of books. Hyde county began its work in 1920, Tripp in 1921, and Potter in 1925. However, by 1934 all three libraries had over 5,000 volumes.

In no case has the county built a separate building, but in Tripp and Potter they have made use of the court house (Fig. 9). In Hyde county suitable quarters are rented. All three libraries are open six days per week.

The most significant feature of the county library situation is the more or less equal distribution of town and country library borrowers. In the three counties there are 8,119 country borrowers as against 3,478 from the towns. This shows quite conclusively that country people read books when they have an opportunity in which they feel free to participate. (Table 9).

### School Libraries

The statutes of the state concerning school libraries apply only to the public elementary schools. A library board is provided for in each county, consisting of the county superintendent, county auditor, states attorney, superintendent of schools in independent districts and principals of schools employing more than one teacher. This board meets annually at the call of the county superintendent and expends the money, which is provided for out of the library fund, in the purchase of books selected from a list prepared by the state superintendent of public instruction.<sup>33</sup>

The school library fund provided for amounts to 10 cents per capita for each person of school age. It is withheld and created into a separate fund by the county treasurer from the apportionment received from the interest and income fund, or other income for the schools of his county.

There are some 5,283 such public schools in the State of South Dakota including 4,665 rural district schools, 95 consolidated schools and 523 independent districts. In 1931 there was a total of 715,336 volumes in all the rural school libraries of the state and a total enrollment of

Source: <sup>32</sup> Kolb, Dr. J. H., op. cit.

<sup>33</sup> Library Law of South Dakota in force July 1, 1924.



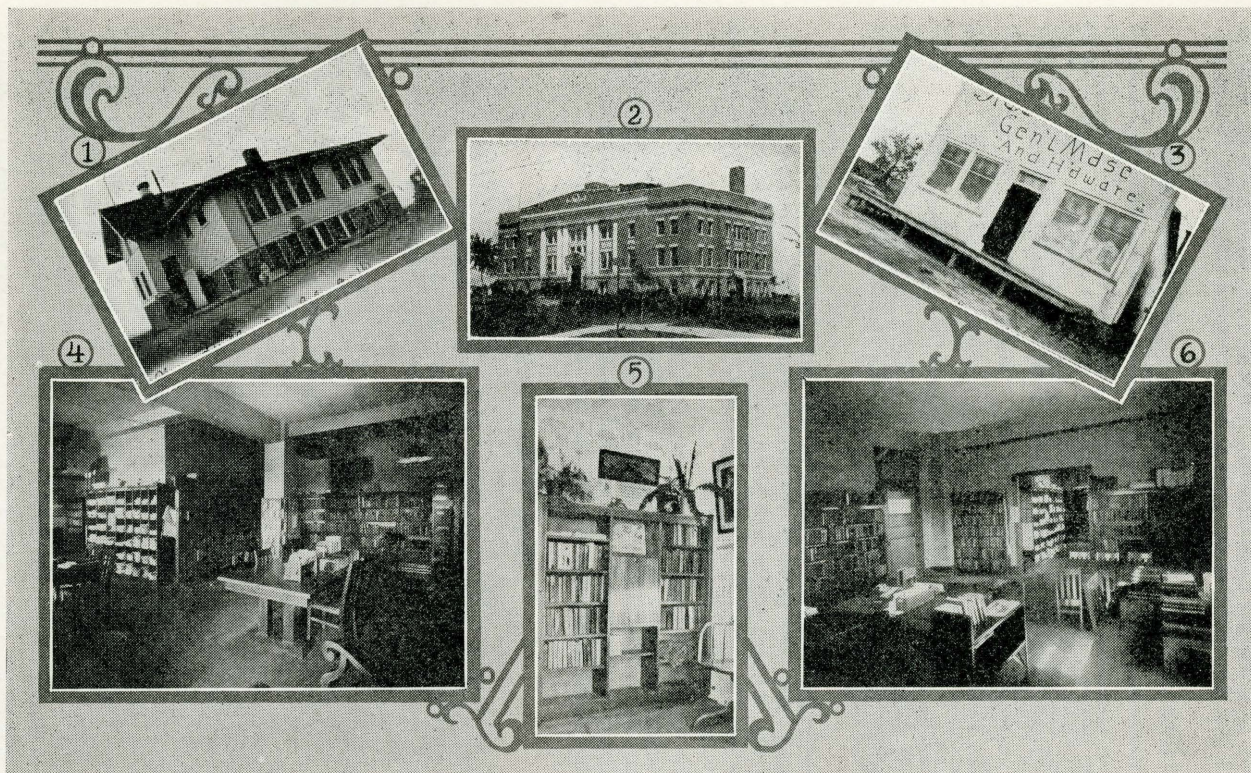


Fig. 9.—Headquarters and typical branch stations of the Tripp county, (S. D.) library system. (1) Pleasant Valley consolidated school, branch library. (2) County court house, library headquarters. (3) Keyapaha branch library. (4) Interior view of adult section, headquarters library. (5) Millboro branch library, interior. (6) Office, juvenile department, headquarters library.



73,023 pupils below high school age. This makes an average of approximately 10 books per pupil enrolled, which is quite inadequate for efficient school use. About the same average has prevailed since 1920. (Table 10).

TABLE 10.—Library Statistics for Rural Elementary Schools in South Dakota  
By Two Year Intervals 1921-1931

	1931	1929	1927	1925	1923	1921
Number Schools	4,676	4,723	4,749	4,693	4,763	4,693
Number Pupils Enrolled	73,023	75,212	76,871	78,318	78,957	76,577
Av. No. Vols. Per Pupil	9+	9+	8+	8	7+	7+
Total Number Volumes	715,336	696,355	653,755	626,809	586,614	561,961
Number Volumes Worn Out Or Destroyed	24,504	25,885	24,959	21,904	13,133	15,391
Number Replaced Thru Library Fund	17,490	17,825	18,008	20,256	17,577	40,472
Volumes Added Thru Other Sources	25,418	26,789	23,085	26,877	23,577	16,921
Total Number Added During Year	42,908	44,614	41,093	47,133	41,154	57,393

Source: \* Based on data from Biennial Reports of the South Dakota State Superintendent of Public Instruction (1920-1934)

Particular attention is called to the fact that the number of volumes replaced each year through the library fund is just about enough to replace the volumes which are worn out and destroyed. This means that books must be added from other sources or else the library stands still as far as improvement is concerned.

The Young Citizens League has adopted as one of its projects the improvement of and the adding of to the libraries of their respective schools. As worthy and commendable as this project is, the method is too haphazard and uncertain for a great educational system involving over 100,000 school children in the elementary schools of the state.

### High School Libraries

In 1934 there were 311 four-year accredited high schools in South Dakota, 17 three-year accredited, 33 two-year accredited and six one-year accredited. The remaining 76 high schools in South Dakota include four, three, two and one-year approved and four, three, two and one-year non-accredited.<sup>34</sup>

As may be noted from Table 11, the 311 libraries available to four-year accredited high schools in South Dakota during the 1934-35 term had an average of 1,205 volumes and subscribed to 12 current periodicals. Of the libraries available, 51.8 per cent were accessible to the high schools, 44 per cent were traveling libraries and 3.9 per cent were not accessible to the high schools. Table 11 reveals that the 76 high schools below the four-year accredited high school level had much poorer library facilities available.

The old standard for high school libraries established by the Department of Public Instruction required four-year accredited high schools to have libraries of not less than 500 volumes; three-year accredited high schools were required to have libraries of at least 300 volumes; libraries of not less than 200 were necessary for accredited two-year high schools and one-year accredited high schools were required to have at

Source <sup>34</sup> Unpublished data secured from Kraushaar, R. W., High School Supervisor, Department of Public Instruction.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

TABLE 11.—Library Service Available to High Schools of South Dakota. (1934-1935)\*

Type of High School	Number of High Schools	Average Number Of Volumes Added Since Last Report	Average Amount Expended for such Additions	Average Number Of Volumes per High School	Average Estimated Value of High School Volumes	Average Number Of Current Periodicals	Is a Public Library Accessible to High School			Is H. S. Library Properly Catalogued		Is H. S. Library Adequately Housed	
							% Yes	% tr.†	% No	% Yes	% No	% Yes	% No
4-year accredited	311	60	\$799.66	1205	\$1372.82	12	51.8	44.0	3.9	96.8	3.2	98.4	1.6
3-year accredited	17	33	38.46	389	1494.88	6	41.2	58.8	--	82.4	17.6	100.0	--
2-year accredited	33	13	17.72	262	337.40	5	51.5	42.4	6.1	81.8	18.2	93.9	6.1
1-year accredited	6	11	18.70	276	233.34	3	50.0	50.0	--	16.7	82.3	33.3	66.7
4-year approved	11	35	45.53	511	494.45	5	45.5	36.4	18.2	90.9	9.1	100.0	--
3-year approved	7	4	4.89	273	292.86	4	42.9	28.6	28.6	100.0	--	100.0	--
2-year approved	4	13	10.94	40	67.44	3	25.0	75.0	--	25.0	75.0	75.0	25.0
1-year approved	32	4	6.82	52	49.58	2	65.6	31.3	3.1	46.9	53.1	56.3	43.7
4-year non-accredited	6	24	10.18	255	203.33	4	33.3	66.7	--	83.3	16.7	66.7	33.3
3-year non-accredited	6	17	22.37	246	270.00	3	66.7	33.3	--	100.0	--	100.0	--
2-year non-accredited	3	--	----	255	41.66	2	66.7	--	33.3	33.3	66.7	66.7	33.3
1-year non-accredited	7	14	25.29	69	11.14	2	85.7	14.3	--	42.9	57.1	57.1	42.9
Total	443	47	61.47	914	1078.05	9	52.4	43.1	4.5	88.3	11.7	92.8	7.2

Source: \* Unpublished data secured from R. W. Kraushaar, High School Supervisor, Department of Public Instruction.

† Traveling libraries of the Free State Library Commission available for high school use.



least 100 library books. The defect of this standard was that there was a natural tendency for high schools to build their libraries to the required minimum and then cease to increase the number of volumes. This tendency has resulted in a widespread condition of antiquated libraries.

The present standard adopted by the Department of Public Instruction calls for the expenditure of a minimum of \$1 per pupil per year for library facilities. A study of the contents of high school libraries in South Dakota reveals that 80 per cent of the books in the smaller libraries consists of English fiction. The supply of up-to-date reference and social study books in the average small high school library is woefully inadequate.

## Library Policy

As evidenced by the foregoing brief survey of library conditions and agencies in South Dakota, there are four general observations which one would seem to be warranted in making:

1. There is a conspicuous inequality of library opportunity at the present time between town and country districts.
2. In attempting to apply the "efficiency score card" to the 70 town and village libraries of the state, even after making considerable modification to fit into South Dakota conditions,<sup>36</sup> the great majority could not meet the test, largely on account of being organized with too small an area of support.
3. The public school library as now operated in the state is inadequate both in point of service and support to properly meet modern educational needs.
4. The county library seems to offer the best single solution to all three problems both from a town and rural standpoint in most parts of the state.

With these observations in mind the writer wishes to devote the balance of the bulletin to a brief consideration of certain additional points concerning county libraries that may arise in the mind of the reader, if the county library system is to be gradually extended over the state.

## County Library Law

As a matter of information, a copy of the present South Dakota county library law is inserted in the back of the bulletin as Appendix B.<sup>37</sup>

After 40 per cent of the legal voters, living in at least 60 per cent of the taxing district, have indicated by petition that they want a county library, the board of county commissioners is authorized and directed to establish such a county library service.

Attention is called to the fact that this county library service may be organized and operated in one of two different ways:

1. If there is no free public library in a county suitable or available for use as a central library of the county system, the county commissioners appoint a library board which may then proceed to establish, regulate and maintain the library.

Source: <sup>36</sup> See section Library Conditions in South Dakota pp. — to —.

<sup>37</sup> Library Law of South Dakota published by the South Dakota Free Library Commission (1924).

2. In counties where there are one or more free public libraries, the Board of County Commissioners may take these over under the control of the county according to such terms as may be agreed upon, or may contract with the one or more existing libraries for a term of five years to supply free service to all residents of the county.

In either case any taxing district in the county already maintaining a free public library through taxation, may if they so desire, be excluded from participating in and supporting such a county library system. On this point, however, Miss Harriet Long, a recognized authority on county libraries, has this to say:

"Almost without exception, the union of local existing libraries with the county library is to be advised for the local library has everything to gain and nothing to lose by this arrangement."<sup>35</sup>

The county library law as it now operates seems to be quite satisfactory with certain minor exceptions. It requires almost a majority consent of the voters before action can be taken to establish a county library service. As a matter of interest, in all three counties where county libraries have been organized more than half of the voters in each county signed the petition for the county library before the project was actually launched.

**Cost of Operating County Libraries.**—The cost of operating the county libraries in Hyde, Tripp and Potter counties for 1934 was 36, 53 and 19 cents, respectively, per capita. In column 7 the cost is shown in terms of \$1,000 worth of assessable property. (Table 12).

TABLE 12.—Cost of County Library Service in South Dakota Counties (1934) \*

Counties	Population	Year Established	Tax Levy in Mills	County Library Appropriations For Year Ending June 30, 1934	Total Expenditures for Year Ending June 30, 1934	Cost per Capita	Cost per \$1,000 Assessed Property
Hyde	3690	1920	.33	\$1,808.20	\$1,337.05	.36	.35
Potter	5762	1924	.22	2,000.00	3,071.44	.53	.37
Tripp	12712	1921	.72	2,439.87	2,409.94	.19	.28

\* Source: Based on Eleventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission. 1934.

In consideration of the increasing part which the printed page is playing in the average person's life at the present time, an interesting comparison can be made by noting the reading value obtainable under such a library system, and what a family would have to pay by buying the same reading material individually.

**Service Rendered to Schools.**—The most important thing about a county library, however, is the service rendered.

One of the outstanding and increasing contributions that the county library is making is to the rural schools and to the rural children of the county. Table 13 shows the number of books loaned by county libraries to the rural schools for 1934. Out of 225 rural schools in three

Source: <sup>36</sup> Long, Harriet C., County Library Service, American Library Assoc., 1925. p. 76.



counties, 224 or 99.5 per cent of the schools borrowed book collections from their respective county library during 1934.

In most cases the county librarians loan collections of books directly to the teachers for the school. As a consequence, it is not always possible to obtain accurate records of the total circulation among the pupils. However, the county librarians do know that the total number of books loaned to the 227 schools served in 1934 was 15,547 or an average of 69.4 books for each school. (Table 13).

TABLE 13.—Books Loaned by County Libraries to Rural Schools (1934)

Counties	Number of Schools	Pupils in County	Number of Schools Loaned to	Number of Books Loaned	Average Number Books Loaned Each School
Tripp	135	1816	135	5983	44.3
Potter	49	644	49	5844	119.2
Hyde	41	519	40	3720	93.0
Total	225	2979	224	15547	69.4

In some of the older states such as California there seems to be a tendency for the rural school districts in many of the counties to even pool their own local library moneys provided by the school library law and put them into the county library fund because of the greater expertness in buying on the part of the county librarian, and the savings which can be effected when materials are bought in quantity.

In this way, all of the supplementary materials and apparatus are furnished by the county libraries, including supplementary readers, dictionaries, encyclopedia, maps, globes, charts, pictures, magazines, stereographs, and even phonograph music records.

The county superintendent and rural teachers operating under this system seem to be enthusiastic about the results.<sup>39</sup>

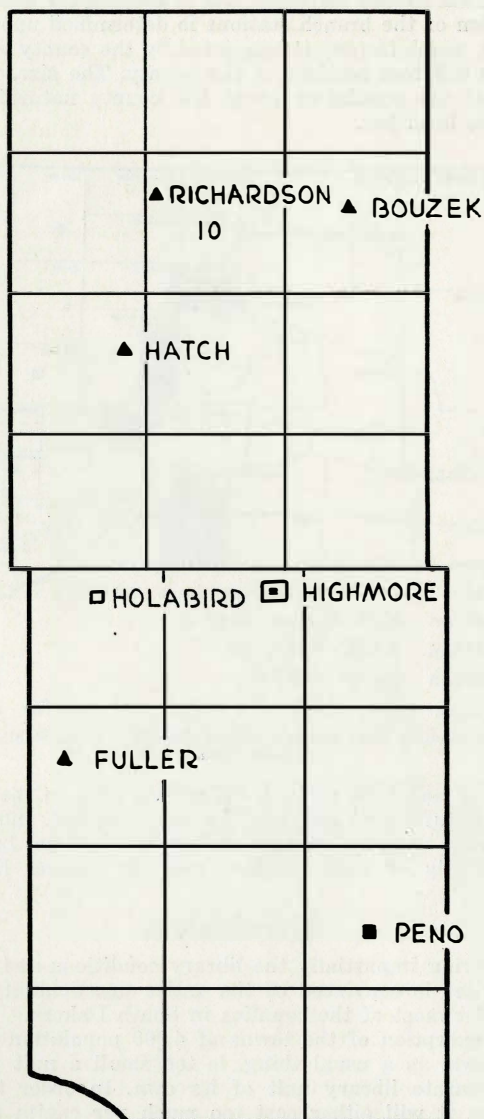
**Organization Problems.**—The plan of a county library system is designed to bring to all of the people of a county, regardless of where they live, the same free and easy access to books which the residents of the larger towns have long enjoyed.<sup>40</sup>

In order to do this, the emphasis is shifted from the usual town library procedure. Instead of the people going to the library headquarters, the library goes out to the people.

In a county library system, the headquarters are usually at some central point, often times in the county court house at the county seat. Fig. 10. Under this plan, the headquarters serve as a book loaning station and reading room to those within easy reach, but mainly as a distributing center to those who do not live at the county seat. The latter can usually be served more conveniently by having books sent out to branches located at strategic points about the county. The branch station may be located in a creamery, store, post office, telephone office, church, school or even a private residence. The main essentials are to have a room centrally located with reference to the local borrowers, and a branch librarian who will give the necessary time and attention to looking after

Source: <sup>39</sup> California County Free Library Service to Schools, by Milton J. Ferguson, State Librarian, 1924, pp. 18-28.

<sup>40</sup> Long, Harriet C., Field Librarian, Wisconsin State Free Library Commission, from an unpublished circular, 1927.



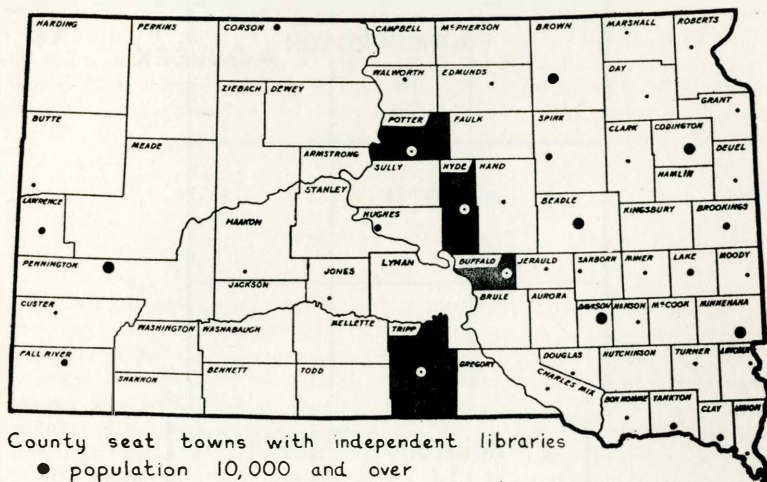
- COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS
- STORE
- POST OFFICE
- ▲ FARM HOME

Fig. 10.—Hyde County Library System, Showing Headquarters at Highmore and Six Branch Stations



the loaning of the library materials and to keeping the necessary records.<sup>41</sup>

The location of the branch stations is determined upon by the county library board, which in turn is appointed by the county commissioners to represent the different sections of the county. The size, topography, and distribution of the population about the county naturally influence the location of the branches.



County seat towns with independent libraries

- population 10,000 and over
- population 2,500 - 10,000
- population under 2,500

○ County seat towns that are headquarters for county libraries

Fig. 11.—County Seat Towns in South Dakota Having Public Libraries Already Established

The number and kind of book collections sent to the various branch stations will naturally be governed by local demand. Individual requests for special books or materials that the branch does not have on hand are supplied promptly by mail service from the central library at headquarters.

## Conclusions

After studying impartially the library conditions and agencies of the state, the writer is convinced of the entire practicability of the county library idea for most of the counties in South Dakota.

With the exception of the towns of 4,000 population or over, the incorporated town, as a usual thing, is too small a unit to satisfactorily support a separate library unit of its own. In order to operate as a going concern, it will either cost too much per capita or else the service will have to be cut somewhere to keep within a limited budget.

If organized properly, with due consideration as to which of the two alternative plans is the better adapted to local conditions, there are prob-

Source: <sup>41</sup> Ferguson, Milton J., State Librarian, says of their situation, "In California, in communities large enough to warrant it, a reading room is maintained in charge of a custodian who keeps the room open for whatever hours they are needed. Often times these reading rooms are welcomed as a strong influence for good in small communities. They are supplied with newspapers and magazines and books, making a most acceptable social center."

ably 40 counties in the state where a county library system would serve both town and country better than either are now being served.

Fig. 12 shows the county seat towns already having public libraries. As yet, very few of the counties have more than this one tax supported county seat public library within their boundaries. (Fig. 11). From the standpoint, therefore, of getting concerted support from all parts of a county, this would seem to be a strategic period for county library action.

While both town and country can doubtless gain by adopting the county as a unit of support, it is the rural community and small town under 4,000 that have most to gain. The county library will bring to them at a reasonable cost the benefits of the large library which they could not obtain if operating independently.

## Appendix A

### County Libraries

#### 1921 Session Laws

Section 1.—When a petition is filed with the county auditor of any county in this state signed by at least forty per cent of the legal voters of such county, as shown by the vote cast for the governor at the last general election therein, which petition shall be signed in at least sixty per cent of the taxing districts of such county affected thereby, providing that the board of county commissioners establish a free library for such county, the said board of county commissioners is authorized and is directed to establish such library, and in that event and for that purpose the provisions of this Act shall become effective and applicable, and in case a library is so established the county commissioners shall levy a suitable tax to maintain the same.

Section 2.—If there is no free public library in such county suitable or available for use as a central library of the county system, the board of county commissioners upon the filing of a petition provided for in Section 1 of this Act, shall appoint a board of county public library trustees for each county, consisting of five competent citizens, two of whom shall be women, and not more than one of whom shall be a member of the appointing board. One of said trustees shall be appointed for one year, two for two years, and two for three years, and annually thereafter, or whenever a vacancy may occur, for a term of three years respectively, or until their successors are appointed and qualified. The said board of county public library trustees shall exercise such powers in establishing, regulating and maintaining a free library as are given to them by this chapter. Such county public library trustees shall receive no compensation for their services as the trustees. The county librarian shall be the secretary of such board of county library trustees.

Section 3.—Such county library trustees shall qualify within ten days after their appointment by taking, subscribing and filing with the county auditor of such county, an oath that they will support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, and that he or she will faithfully and impartially to the best of her knowledge and ability perform all the duties of county public library trustee.

Section 4.—It shall be the duty of the county public library trustees to provide suitable accommodations for the free public library and for the accommodations of the public using the same. They shall select books,



papers and periodicals for such county free public library, and they may exclude from such library any reading matter they may deem harmful; they may accept gifts of books, money or property for the use and benefit of such public library. They shall appoint a librarian and other persons necessary for the care of such library and fix their compensation. Any librarian so appointed shall have the qualifications and training as shall be approved by the State Library Commission. The county public library trustees shall make all necessary rules and regulations pertaining to the use and selection of the books and periodicals of said library and shall determine what books may be circulated and what shall be retained in the library for reference purposes only, and they may provide for the circulation of the books in the rural communities of such county, and said public library trustees shall have the power to place certain books upon a pay shelf, for which a reasonable charge may be made for the use thereof.

Section 5.—On or before the first day of August of each year, the county public library trustees shall make careful estimate for the necessary expenses for the maintenance and extension of the county free public library for the ensuing year and shall certify the same to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the library is located; the said board of county commissioners shall levy tax upon the taxable property of the county sufficient therefor, but not to exceed in any one year a rate of one-half of one mill upon the taxable property of such county, which taxes shall be extended and collected as are other county taxes, which tax when collected shall constitute the county free library fund of such county and shall be credited to the county library fund and the cost of maintenance and extension of such county free library shall be paid therefrom, which fund shall be paid out upon warrants drawn by the county auditor of the county based upon vouchers filed by the board of county public library trustees. Provided, that in making the levy of taxes for the support of county free library by the board of county commissioners of any county of the state, it shall omit from such levy any taxing district that may at the time of making such levy be maintaining a free public library by revenue derived from taxes in such taxing district and residents of any taxing district so omitted shall be entitled to the benefits of such county library only by complying with such rules and regulations as may be made by the public library trustees and by payment of such fees and charges as may be required by such rules.

Section 6.—In counties where there are one or more free libraries, the board of county commissioners are authorized and empowered to take over the care and control of the same upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by and between such board of county commissioners and the then existing board of library trustees of such libraries. The board of county commissioners may contact with the library board of such county for free service to all residents of the county upon such terms as may be agreed upon between such commissioners and the library board for a term of five years to be thereafter renewed, if terms can be agreed upon, for terms not less than five nor more than ten years. Provided, also, that if there is more than one such free library in the county, the board of county commissioners may contact with each of such library boards for such free service if in its judgment advisable. Provided further, that in case the board of county commissioners and said library board of such city, town or township are not able to agree upon terms

satisfactory to both, that in that event the board of county commissioners shall proceed to appoint a board of county public library trustees as hereinbefore provided. It is also provided herein that in case twenty per cent or more of the cost of maintaining any such library thus contracted which shall be borne by the county, then there shall be two members added to such board of library trustees to be appointed by the county commissioners of the county act upon county affairs in connection therewith.

Section 7.—It shall be the duty of the county public library trustees, or the public library trustees contracted with as hereinbefore provided, on or before the first day of August in each year to make a report in duplicate, filing one with the board of county commissioners, and the other with the Free Library Commission, upon blanks provided by the Free Library Commission for such purpose, which report shall be for the fiscal year ending June 30 next preceding such report; providing, however, that in counties where the county commissioners contract with the library board, then and in that event, such report shall be made in triplicate, the additional copy to be filed with the body appointing such board..

Section 8.—All Acts and parts of Acts in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed. Approved March 12, 1921.



## Appendix B

Library Service in Towns and Villages in South Dakota\*  
(Arranged According to Size of Towns)

Towns	Population	Librarians		Volumes In Library	Budget		Building Open		Borrowers		
		Full Time	Special Training and Experience		Receipts	Expenditures	Days	Hours	Town	Country	Circulation
		+	Or —	+	Or —						
Towns above 2500											
Sioux Falls	33,362	+	+	35,307	\$23,714.32	\$12,416.64	6	11	1544	8	106,763
Aberdeen	16,465	+	+	24,821	12,390.19	12,282.29	6	11	8082	684	191,678
Huron	10,946	+	+	19,467	9,005.07	8,573.78	6	11	6104	88	133,035
Mitchell	10,942	+	+	17,979	9,937.46	6,657.64	6	11	7691	17	105,945
Watertown	10,214	+	+	16,954	7,073.73	6,632.61	6	11	3649	42	103,908
Rapid City	10,404	+	+	16,223	8,859.00	7,120.98	6	8½	9185	—	112,278
Yankton	6,072	+	+	29,038	8,505.06	6,745.98	6	7½	4236	14	57,013
Lead	5,733	+	+	20,694	Supported by	Homestake	6	7	583	—	51,730
Brookings	4,376	+	+	7,540	2,923.98	2,922.90	6	7	1993	362	41,723
Madison	4,289	+	+	8,972	4,477.00	4,207.74	6	7½	1998	691	56,914
Pierre	3,659	+	+	11,502	8,326.14	4,075.05	6	6½	2588	12	39,712
Mobridge	3,464	+	+	5,090	3,765.89	2,299.89	6	7½	2218	47	29,844
Hot Springs	2,908	+	—	6,412	3,971.30	2,768.08	6	5½	2622	111	61,116
Vermillion	2,850	+	—	3,564	3,639.92	3,007.24	6	5	2048	—	34,837
Redfield	2,664	+	+	6,443	2,538.35	2,377.10	6	7½	1660	30	18,190
Towns from 1000-2500											
Deadwood	2,559	+	—	11,669	3,169.19	2,969.10	6	6	2322	120	28,221
Milbank	2,389	+	+	5,820	3,488.13	2,624.88	6	6½	1776	334	26,453
Canton	2,270	+	—	6,712	1,968.34	2,018.08	6	5	2590	9	57,807
Belle Fourche	2,032	—	—	—	—	—	No Report		—	883	19,347
Flandreau	1,934	—	—	4,024	1,180.74	757.51	3	5½	—	—	19,171
Webster	1,805	—	—	3,353	803.42	708.66	2	4	1660	—	12,530
Sturgis	1,747	—	—	3,566	581.31	581.31	—	4	730	—	25,659
Dell Rapids	1,657	+	—	6,125	1,819.48	1,723.91	6	5½	732	377	43,728
Sisseton	1,569	+	—	7,307	1,916.04	1,824.07	6	5	2454	—	18,700
Lemmon	1,508	+	—	4,235	1,314.14	962.05	6	5½	200	150	11,145
Beresford	1,460	—	—	3,088	603.48	590.54	2	5	801	—	—

Source: \* Based on the Eleventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission.

## Appendix B (Cont.)

Library Service in Towns and Villages in South Dakota\*  
(Arranged According to Size of Towns)

Towns	Population	Librarians		Volumes In Library	Budget		Building Open		Borrowers		
		Full Time	Special Training and Experience		Receipts	Expenditures	Days	Hours	Town	Country	Circulation
		+	Or —	+	Or —						
Towns from 1000-2500											
Miller	1,447	+	—	4,492	\$1,155.08	\$ 901.21	6	5	400	10	9,863
Wagner	1,420	—	—	4,426	419.22	419.22	4	4	891	263	17,851
Wessington Springs	1,401	—	—	4,051	1,403.34	1,171.33	4	6	1220	500	15,123
Chamberlain	1,364	—	—	4,515	1,136.68	910.53	3	4	—	—	12,934
Britton	1,312	+	—	1,837	1,446.55	996.52	6	7	—	—	—
Elk Point	1,294	—	—	605	83.65	41.41	2	4	54	—	851
Clark	1,290	—	—	3,084	599.60	337.79	2	4½	430	3	7,767
Tyndall	1,287	+	—	5,828	2,378.74	1,666.64	6	6½	891	550	25,514
Parker	1,229	—	—	3,896	472.00	437.05	2	6½	187	91	7,093
Howard	1,224	—	—	1,944	233.78	205.08	—	—	571	4	4,663
Custer	1,203	—	—	1,539	87.17	48.68	1	3	50	16	2,535
Scotland	1,163	—	—	3,626	605.74	616.28	2	6	999	—	20,424
Woonsocket	1,108	—	—	2,310	910.23	398.29	4	5	791	369	9,378
Edgemont	1,103	—	—	2,464	636.76	609.53	3	5½	645	169	6,794
Lake Andes	1,052	—	—	3,961	375.07	375.08	2	4	289	306	8,499
Gregory	1,034	—	—	2,901	—	—	1	2	—	—	7,715
Arlington	1,020	—	—	614	200.85	199.75	3	4½	300	80	2,104
Armour	1,009	—	—	5,888	1,385.17	1,378.07	3	5	442	—	14,898
Groton	1,009	—	—	2,308	—	—	2	4	412	110	—
Towns below 1000											
Lake Preston	944	—	—	2,033	289.62	289.62	2	4	728	268	8,500
Ipswich	913	+	—	5,064	1,118.09	1,118.09	6	5½	1350	—	20,248
Waubay	903	—	—	1,650	70.65	70.15	2	3	197	16	—
Clear Lake	834	—	—	3,440	600.00	530.00	6	4	393	—	8,555
Philip	786	—	—	—	No Report		—	—	—	—	—
Alexandria	688	—	—	—	No Report		—	—	—	—	—
McIntosh	663	—	—	—	No Report		—	—	—	—	—
Murdo	619	—	—	772	103.58	62.92	1	3	34	—	1,021
Faith	607	—	—	1,370	107.55	151.50	1	4	41	—	3,560
Carthage	590	—	†	1,302	277.80	222.84	1	4	134	256	8,450
Hurley	586	—	—	890	47.25	33.44	1	4	126	—	2,869
Wilmot	566	+	—	1,855	760.54	554.64	6	6½	507	15	11,955

Source: \* Based on the Eleventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission

† In the cases of these libraries, they still exist but have only volunteer helpers rather than a regular librarian.

## Appendix B (Cont.)

Library Service in Towns and Villages in South Dakota\*  
(Arranged According to Size of Towns)

Towns	Population	Librarians		Volumes In Library	Budget		Building Open		Borrowers		
		Full Time	Special Training and Experience		Receipts	Expenditures	Days	Hours	Town	Country	Circulation
		+ Or -	+ Or -								
Towns below 1000											
Selby	548	—	—	---	No Report		—	—	—	—	---
Doland	538	—	—	1,575	73.48	\$ 53.44	2	4	42	7	2,004
Castlewood	500	—	—	1,991	678.93	394.44	2	4	546	—	8,061
Mt. Vernon	489	—	—	2,600	752.96	633.30	4	2½	304	330	4,404
Estelline	488	—	—	2,473	251.33	243.73	—	4	—	—	7,353
Presho	487	—	—	642	297.53	276.80	3	3	396	6	7,350
Hudson	478	—	—	1,402	172.48	135.89	2	4	209	80	5,635
Alcester	460	—	—	1,554	207.87	111.54	2	4	34	6	743
Dallas	423	—	—	---	---	---	—	—	---	---	---
Letcher	414	—	—	2,025	169.17	169.17	2	4	48	53	4,326
Canova	364	—	—	1,170	275.68	174.40	1	5	---	---	---
Mellette	363	—	—	---	---	---	—	—	---	---	---
New Underwood	311	—	†	1,213	109.72	63.63	1	5	179	---	---
Frederick	461	—	—	3,188	484.30	315.62	1	7	727	---	7,871
Buffalo County	---	—	—	---	---	---	—	—	---	---	---
Gann Valley	---	—	—	---	---	---	—	—	---	---	---
County Libraries											
Hyde County	3,690										
Highmore	1,034	+	+	5,476	2,041.54	1,337.05	6	6	699	1442	26,837
Potter County	5,762										
Gettysburg	1,400	+	+	---	3,750.00	3,071.44	6	6½	1294	1697	52,292
Tripp County	12,712										
Winner	2,220	+	+	15,297	2,439.87	2,409.44	6	10	1485	4970	86,924

Source: \* Based on the Eleventh Biennial Report of the South Dakota Free Library Commission.

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