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NON-EUROPEAN LIBRARY SERVICE, TRANSVAAL

Report by Librarian.

25th August, 1950.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to present the library report for the Non-European Library Service, Transvaal, for the period January - June, 1950.

Depots Section of the N.E.L.S.T. Statistics

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>
1. Number of library depots at present receiving books.	100	99
2. Circulation during the period Jan.- June.	1,845	8,606
3. Bookstock.	10,000	10,000

During the past year the circulation of books at centres has decreased rapidly, due to the fact that we have not enough books for centres, especially children's books, and many voluntary librarians do not record circulation.

Mr Makenna has visited the following centres:- Bantule, Marabastad, Lady Selbourne, Ferguson, Good Shepherd, Bynespoort and Onverwacht. The travelling supervisor reports that an improvement in the recording of circulation can be expected from these centres. He has discussed library service with children and interested teachers and other adults at these centres.

The supervisor and his assistant in the library, Mr Moletsane, recommend that the following centres be temporarily closed.

<u>Centres</u>	<u>Reasons</u>
Alexandra Health Centre	Asked us to suspend issue.
Bantule Salvation Army	Poor circulation
Eafokeng School	" "
Bethal Training School	" "
Bethesda	Needs investigation
Bloemhof Library	Asked for suspension
Boksburg Methodist School	Poor circulation
Daggerfontein	Box lost
Elim School	Needs investigation
Jandrell School	Box lost
Jane Furse	Asked for suspension
Kekana School	Poor circulation
Krugersdorp Location	Closed
Linokana	Poor circulation
Middleburg Native Location	" "
Nchaupe II School	" "
Randfontein Wesleyan School	" "
Roodepoort Location	" "
Standerton Location	" "
Swazi National School	Asked for suspension
White River	Needs investigation
Wintersrest	Poor facilities
Number of depots to be closed	22
Depots worth maintaining	78

Lost Books

The loss of books in the depots section remains very serious. At the end of 1949, centres were supplied with lists of books missing at their library depots. Very few have been returned. Only two centres paid for books lost. Mr Moletsane reports that non-fiction is disappearing rapidly at the centres

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because it is non-fiction that adults find most interesting. He has recommended that some non-fiction should be transferred to the student library because there has been, up to the present, no loss of books lent to individuals directly through that section. He advises that the popular non-fiction should be sent only to centres where library conditions are satisfactory, and where there are paid librarians interested in maintaining library service.

### STUDENT SERVICE

#### Statistics

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u> (Jan.-June)
Total number of members	569	384
Total circulation	1,248	844
Total bookstock	2,203	2,203
Visitors	560	650

#### Circulation

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u> (Jan.-June).
General works	23	10
Philosophy	16	1
Psychology	48	0
Logic	3	0
Ethics	6	0
Religion	15	5
Social science	130	127
Sociology 59		
Statistics 1		
Politics 9		
Economics 13		
Law 17		
Administration 31		
Education	29	37
Commerce	2	0
Philology	8	3
English Language	21	39
Bantu Language	108	24
Pure science	7	20
Biology	18	9
Anthropology	31	11
Useful arts	39	33
Fine arts	12	2
English literature	547	326
Poetry 21		
Drama 66		
Fiction 460		
Afrikaans literature	44	70
History	56	58
Geography and Travel	49	48
Biography	40	16
	<hr/> 1,248 <hr/>	<hr/> 844 <hr/>

The student service has developed rapidly. The demand for this service grows daily. During 1950, the library has been reorganized under the Dewey system, and the books of N.F.L.S. have been joined on the shelves with books belonging to the T.F.D. (Native Education). Separate records are being kept but all members of both libraries can now more readily make use of the resources available to them, and the library is more efficiently administered as one unit. The T.F.D. has supplied filing cabinets for the catalogue and an index of authors, titles and subjects is being completed. Cataloguing has been started, but the books in the library are largely unclassified. The circulation of 1,248 refers to books withdrawn from the present reorganized library.

No books have yet been received from U.F.D. though the library is now in a position to have books lent in bulk to N.F.L.S. from the Department's

Library. It is hoped that the Department will allow books to remain for at least six months with N.F.L.S.

Mr Fanclo, Student Librarian, reports that there has been a marked increase in the demand for fiction. In accordance with the wish of the Committee that he should encourage students to read for recreational purposes, he has attempted to interest the members of the student section in fiction. Unfortunately the collection is too small and requires expansion.

Membership of the section will in future be renewed every two years. No books have been lost during the period under review.

#### VERNAACULAR

The library has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr Mashabela, a degree student, who manages this section in co-operation with Mr Fanclo and Mr McLeane.

Mr Mashabela states, that as yet, African people read vernacular mainly for examination purposes, but he reports that a new class of African from the humbler walks of life is reading books in the mother tongue.

Books are sent to depots and circulation should improve when the travelling supervisor visits depots and learns the special requirements of centres in vernacular literature.

The library has been inundated with requests for books and is aware of how inadequately our present stock supplies the need. We have however, prepared a comprehensive list of books which T.F.D. will shortly consider purchasing for the library service.

The circulation for the last six months is as follows:-

	<u>Student Section</u>	<u>Reserve Section</u>	<u>Depots Section</u>	<u>Total</u>
Northern Sotho	60	30	61	151
Southern Sotho	18	2	73	93
Tsonga - Shangaan	3	0	10	19
Tswana	10	2	36	48
Venda	1	0	0	1
Xhosa	2	0	18	20
Zulu	14	2	34	50
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	108	36	238	382
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In Northern Sotho, Tswana and Venda the bookstock of the library is limited to a few titles only. Tsonga and Xhosa are not extensively spoken in the Transvaal, and thus find very few readers.

#### RESERVE BOOKS

Mr Mashabela was unable for a period to devote much time to this section due to the reorganization of the library and the preparation of the Vernacular book list.

Centres do not seem to have a clear idea of the Reserve Book Section and at present reservation are mainly made by students. Books reserved have been added to the circulation figures of the Student and Depots Section, but are quoted separately for the interest of the Committee.

Religion	2	English literature	1
Sociology	2	English poetry	2
Law	1	English drama	6
Administration	5	English fiction	33
Education	2	Afrikaans literatuur	6
English language	1	History	2
Bantu languages	48	Geography and travel	9
Anthropology	6	Biography	1
Useful arts	3		
Fine arts	2		
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		Total	132
		<hr/>	<hr/>

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There were altogether 178 requests, 46 of which are still outstanding.

ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report has not yet been printed owing to lack of funds.

STUDY AND TRAINING

Lectures have had to be suspended owing to lack of time and opportunity. I gave assistance wherever possible and in July, Mr Fanele wrote three subjects for the Elementary examination. He has submitted his Preliminary certificate to the T.E.D. for recognition.

BOOKS FOR PURCHASE

A list of books to the value of £300 has been prepared for the T.E.D. These books will be used for the general service to depots and students.

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**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

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