

10.—Public Libraries, by Provinces, 1939, with Totals for Representative Years 1931-37

Year and Province	Volumes	Circulation	Registered Borrowers	Expenditure on Books, Periodicals and Repairs	Total Expenditure
	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$
Totals, 1931	4,516,206	21,135,354	1	509,322	1
Totals, 1933	4,770,981	22,376,340	1,114,201	421,142	1
Totals, 1935	4,848,793	21,106,742	1,097,247	448,251	1
Totals, 1937	5,070,132	19,560,375	1,062,187	502,509	2,041,486
Totals, 1939	5,175,811	20,728,151	1,045,521	494,776	2,131,199
1939					
PROVINCE					
Prince Edward Island.....	50,228	242,751	13,024	5,875	24,597
Nova Scotia.....	119,917	204,509	26,267	4,262	13,896
New Brunswick.....	105,066	268,659	18,116	4,476	20,357
Quebec.....	652,565	697,440	24,945	36,362	170,037
Ontario.....	3,277,452	13,999,414	679,384	309,620	1,384,555
Manitoba.....	145,818	877,104	43,436	20,923	78,580
Saskatchewan.....	242,154	1,052,557	56,546	26,830	102,881
Alberta.....	256,790	1,364,350	62,361	28,968	120,002
British Columbia.....	309,846	2,008,320	121,138	56,921	213,947
Yukon.....	15,975	13,047	304	539	2,347

¹ Not available.

In the larger centres the libraries are conducted as municipal institutions, usually by a board appointed by the city or town council. Almost 300 are in this category. The more numerous smaller libraries are conducted by voluntary associations. Small provincial grants are given to libraries of both types in most of the provinces, but not in New Brunswick, Quebec, and Manitoba. There is a provincial centre for the direction and encouragement of public library development in the Public Libraries Branch of the Ontario Department of Education, and in the Public Library Commission of British Columbia. This seems to be one of the most effective means of assisting the library movement; public library service has been more complete in Ontario and British Columbia than in other provinces. Prince Edward Island now possesses a centre in the headquarters of its provincial library, and Nova Scotia in its recently founded Regional Libraries Commission.

Circulation.—The circulation of books in a year represents about two books per person in the Dominion, but since service is confined to about 40 p.c. of the population the average is about five books apiece per year. It is estimated that about one-quarter of the patrons of libraries are children, which is approximately the same proportion that school enrolment bears to the total population of the country.

In 1937 the circulation of about 80 p.c. of the public libraries was classified as to adult fiction, adult non-fiction, and juvenile; the results of this classification are shown in Table 11. Ontario libraries, representing about two-thirds of the circulation for the Dominion, show about 56 p.c. adult fiction, 18 p.c. adult non-fiction and 26 p.c. juvenile. In adult reading the proportion of non-fiction is highest in Manitoba, Quebec and British Columbia libraries.