

MALABAR BRANCH

History 1959 - 1969

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.

- Circulation
55,456
- 1959-1960: The demand for a change in book selection became pertinent following the sub-branch conversion. Immigrants coming heavily from Europe, Central Europe, South America and Mexico requested material that would help them to adjust to their new environment. Art and Philosophy collection would not. After a time, the adult readers felt freer to come into the library. The undisciplined children began to respect the library and its users.
- 56,948
- 1960-1961: Librarian has been absent since November due to accident on the job. The substitute, Isabelle Roberts, carried on. More than 50% of the Circulation was children.
- 58,104
- 1961-1962: Enter new Librarian-in-Charge, Inez J. Brown. The entire book collection was carefully weeded by the Regional Librarian, Mrs. Nicholas. Found Juvenile collection weak in Science, Art, and American History. Reference collection needed enlarging and updating. Faithful newspaper and magazine readers continued to come. No classroom visits.
- 54,226
- 1962-1963: Shifting population continued with Orientals, Mexicans and Negroes replacing the older Jewish residents. New residents felt library service cost money and stayed away. The children who came were noisy; constant training in library conduct was needed. The Juvenile collection was very weak. Reaching 60% of circulation, fewer books were available. The mature 12 year old children find greater challenge in the YA section. 45 classrooms visited and 15 classes at the library.
- 53,535
- 1963-1964: Population still shifting. Basically a non-reading public. Residents largely Mexicans, Japanese and Negroes. A few Chinese and older Jewish families. Juvenile collection weak in Fairy Tales, Readers and Picture Books. Poetry and American History limited. Provided service to 3 public schools and 2 Parochial schools.
- 52,178
- 1964-1965: Year of the School Survey. Malabar School has an enrichment program for underprivileged children on Saturday. There were 44 Teacher borrowing 566 books during the school year. 20 classes visited the Library, 76 Classroom visited.
- 40,851
- 1965-1966: Inventory and delinquent records show heavy losses. 22 Classroom visits. Personal conference with teachers and principals of neighborhood schools held throughout the year to bring children and books together. Informal atmosphere necessary to keep patrons welcomed.

Calendar of Events(Cont'd)

- Circulation
35,813
- 1966-1967: Noisy crowd of children continue to come into library after school, using card catalog and securing library cards. 44 classrooms visited. P.T.A., Mother's Clubs were visited and Bond Issue talks given. The NYC has relieved the librarian of many clerical duties.
- 37,981
- 1967-1968: Librarian vacancy March thru July...4 months. No Classroom visits. 6 classes of story hours followed by crayon and pencil drawing relating to the story. Narcotics Film Program became a Regional Project with all branches in region participating. NYC and Summer Worker helped with clerical duties.
- 34,003
- 1968-1969: Librarian vacancy September 29 thru January 27, 1969. 4 Months, affected statistics. No Classroom visits. 18 teachers borrowed 289 books. 18 classes at library, including Boy's Arr Club, Bluebirds and Pre-school groups. Highlight of the year was Open House celebrating the 42nd Birthday. Displays of Children's art work, music and dancing enjoyed. The use of the Clubroom during the story hours and story-record time gave the children a feeling of intimacy. Juvenile readers becoming interested in non-fiction than fiction, naming Space, Cars, Science, Drawing as their preference. Girl's Day was shared with a student from Roosevelt High. Our Spanish Book Collection is developing to the great pleasure of our Spanish Clientele.

During the period of ten years, there has been in this community, a distinct change, socially, economically and culturally. Where once Jewish families were predominate, Mexican-Americans have now become so. Tolerance and respect for different culture have permitted Negroes, South Americans, Japanese, Chinese, Cuban and older Jewish families to live together with little discord.

The kind of book selection and library services had to meet the challenge; more school contact was required to acquaint the new residents with the value of the library, as well as the services available to the children, teachers and parents.

Popular titles, how-to-do books, Civil Service Exams, mechanical trades and technical projects became demanding.

Y.A. Section was expanded to meet the more mature 12 year old readers, older reluctant adult readers and Senior Citizens.

Children XZ's needed constant replacing with duplicate copies and later editions. As the percentage of children increased, a larger Juvenile budget became necessary to meet demand.

At present the service to children is 60%. To bring out the best potential, constant contact with schools, P.T.A., Mother's Club, should be made by the Children Librarian. A full time librarian could raise the circulation back to the 60,000 it was before the library was changed to a sub-branch.

Community projects should be extended and developed to motivate non-library users.

As the increase in student-use becomes apparent, more college material should be considered in book selection. Later editions and broader subjects should not be overlooked.