

interest or failure to appreciate to the full the responsibilities of a public library, have failed to keep pace with modern trends. This failure may well be attributed to a widespread belief that children's reading is adequately catered for by school libraries, but it is highly desirable, if not imperative, that a school library service, no matter how efficient, should function in close co-operation with a public library service, to which it is merely supplementary.

The failure of suburban libraries to face up to their responsibilities in this direction is well illustrated by the fact that only six of the fourteen have juvenile subscribers enrolled (53) but two others Addington and Opawa, have collections of children's books on which parent subscribers may draw for their children's reading. The largest juvenile membership is ninety while, in contrast, two libraries have six and seven juvenile members respectively and the total for the six libraries is 226. Yet the City Library, where adequate facilities are provided, can boast a juvenile membership of 3500. That there are difficulties to be overcome before an adequate suburban service can be established is undeniable, but the essential point is that those difficulties are not insurmountable.

Although at first sight it might seem beyond the scope of this thesis to incorporate the outlying schools, the reason will appear obvious when it is realised that, with the large drift to the city so apparent in New Zealand since 1900, it is essential that children coming from country districts should also have acquired the library habit during their primary school education. If they have not acquired it then, there is very little likelihood that they will take

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53. See map inside back cover.