

## New Downtown Home Is City Library's Best-seller

"Without a library, I'd be lost."

That's how Leonard A. Shimota describes the importance of the new Minneapolis library to him.

Shimota, 33, is a commercial artist specializing in department store displays. His jobs range from designing Aquatennial floats to reconstructing Paris street scenes.

"I never do the same thing twice," he said.

**"And each display must include authentic detail. So hardly a week goes by that I'm not over at the library, finding out how things really look."**

His research illustrates the library's resources.

"I work mostly from the picture file in the art department," he said.

**"There I can find accurate, complete pictures of anything from sundials to Flemish costumes."**

This collection consists of over a million photographs, drawings, reproductions, portraits, magazine clippings and posters.

**Constance Humphrey, the department head, and her staff augment this file at the rate of over a thousand new pictures a month.**

Occasionally, special projects have led Shimota into other library departments.

For a Christmas window display he culled poems, stories and illustrations from the central children's room.

For an Aquatennial float with a historical theme, he delved into the history department's shelves to find data on Minnesota fashions and manners over the past 100 years.

**While on a business junket to the library, Shimota is likely to wander into the history department for pleasure, too.**

"My wife, Rita, is the cur-

rent fiction reader in the family," he said.

Shimota also finds the library helpful in his favorite hobby—rebuilding, restyling and refinishing antiques.

**In the picture file are portraits that may serve as inspiration for the paintings Shimota is doing of his children—Lindsay, 5, Jennifer, 4, and Jon, 2—at his home at 3803 Tonkawood road, Hopkins.**

Shimota seems to be a typical case.

For now, as the library heads into its third month in new quarters and prepares to mark National Library week next week, it is enjoying the widest circulation in its history.

Raymond Williams, head librarian, estimated the staff and facilities are 50 per cent busier than in the old building.

Alyce Mae Underhill, head of the children's room, said her business has increased 90 per cent.

**During the first month after the move, 6,581 new library cards were issued—twice as many as in an average month.**

Many businessmen and office workers stop in during their lunch hour to leaf through magazines or books.

"Extra space allows us to use a supermarket approach," Fritz Zeuthen, head of the science and technology department, said.

**"People can walk up and down the aisles, and when they spot appealing books they can pluck them out just like apples and pears."**

In the old quarters, Zeuthen's department could display 7,500 books. Now there is room for 21,000.

Skyrocketing circulation has put a strain on the library's inventory. "We desperately need more books," Williams said.

**ONLY 2 DAYS LEFT**