Jefferson Parish Library
Is Now Offering Art Prints

Art is on the move in Jefferson Parish. Circulating framed pictures have started moving in and out of homes throughout the parish this year as residents borrow reproductions of the works of the masters from the Jefferson Parish Library.

One or two prints may be borrowed by adult patrons for one month. If desired, the loan period can be extended two weeks if no other patron is waiting for the particular print.

The pictures are ready for hanging, complete with wire for looping over a wall hook or nail. Specially kitted, reinforced cardboard cartons house the pictures as they are brought home and back to the library.

All of the prints not in circulation are housed at the library’s headquarters. Patrons make their selections from manuals which contain a color photograph of the print, its frame size, the artist’s name and dates, suggested book titles, and a brief biography of the artist.

Facts on Hopper

For example, the entry in the loose-leaf catalog for Edward Hopper’s “Early Sunday Morning” shows its frame size to be 26 by 43 inches and informs the reader that Hopper was born in 1882 in Nyack, New York, and died in 1967.

The description notes, in part, “He sold his first painting, an oil, from the Armory Show in 1913, but had to wait almost 10 years for the next sale, a watercolor... Together with Burchfield, Hopper painted small-town America, its people and architecture, but unlike the latter, he derived from the Ashcan tradition and painted city genre as well.” The entry suggests reading “Edward Hopper” by Guy Pene du Bois for more information about the artist.

Lake Charles Cited

69 apiece, may be consulted at any of the 10 branch libraries and on the bookmobiles serving the parish.

Coordinating the library’s art program is Roby Houston Spaar, assistant library administrator, who received his master’s degree in art history from the University of North Carolina.

Circulating collections of framed art are by no means new to Louisiana, according to parish library administrator Marice D. Walsh Jr. He said the Lake Charles Public Library began its collection in 1960 and has almost 300 prints, and added that Miss Mary Louise Girard, Lake Charles’ head librarian, acted as an advisor to the Jefferson library system in its selection procedures and circulation policies. The New Orleans Public Library has also had a circulating art collection for