

The image features a complex abstract design with several overlapping diagonal bands of varying shades of gray and white. These bands are separated by curved, organic shapes that create a sense of depth and movement. The overall composition is framed by a thin black border.

LE PHILLIPS
MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Director's Note

The appointment of a special Planning Committee by the Library Board is the event of 1984 which probably will do the most to shape the library's development through the end of the decade.

As the year closed, the library's staffing and hours of operation were shifted so that we could provide Sunday afternoon hours for the first time. We are pleased that public response to the new hours has been so enthusiastic.

The expiration of the contract for countywide library services at the end of the year has meant that the library will now be serving fewer municipalities than previously. Our hope is that a future contract will restore countywide library services so that all county residents can participate in the fine program of services the library continues to provide.

Mark Morse

Mark Morse
Library Director



The year 1984 at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library can be best put into perspective with a look at a few key events and accomplishments. It was a year in which the work of a committee to plan for the future direction of the library was set into motion. It was also a year in which the library continued to work with area groups and institutions to provide a variety of programs for people of all ages and interests. Using the combined resources of the community and the library, cultural programs, informational workshops and seminars, exhibits and activities for children brought scores of people to the library. We supported local on-going programs such as literacy programs, investment clubs and day care centers with library resources, and reached out beyond the library doors with services to both patrons and organizations with special needs. These included Homebound Services, large print books and telephone reference services for the deaf. Finally, 1984 saw the Eau Claire County Towns Association withdraw from the Countywide Library Services contract and library services for some county residents discontinued at the end of the year.

Planning

A Planning Committee of Library Board and staff members has been gathering information which will be used in developing a five year plan. Library staff prepared a community profile, students from UW-Eau Claire conducted a telephone survey of citizens, and volunteers distributed a survey to library users. With volunteer help we took several new measures of performance called Output Measures, which are designed to measure what a library gives to a community rather than what it receives. We will take these measures annually and use them to compare results with other libraries and to track our progress from year to year.

Programs

Our role as a community center for programs was enhanced in 1984 by the increased involvement of the library's best resource, the people of the community we serve. We worked with area groups and institutions throughout the year, exploring ways to bring people together to exchange ideas and share experiences. The result was a feast of workshops, films, lectures, art shows and children's activities.

In May, nearly 200 people attended "I've Always Wanted to Write," a workshop on writing co-sponsored by L.E. Phillips Senior Central and the library in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin—Extension. During the three days of the workshop, participants learned how they can turn incidents from their own lives into articles, stories, poems and drama.

Women's History Week was celebrated with a women's view of Eau Claire in the 1860's. Two members of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire faculty gave an interpretive reading of Lucy Hastings' letters. In writing to her family in Massachusetts, Mrs. Hastings reveals her thoughts on current events, social issues and living conditions on the "frontier."



Financial Report

For the Year Ended December 31, 1984

BEGINNING BALANCE JANUARY 1, 1984 \$13,222

Receipts:

City of Eau Claire	\$939,033
Other Municipalities	1,433
County of Eau Claire	99,502
Library Rebate from County Contract	225,026
Indianhead Federated Library System	111,472
Fines & Fees	48,165
Grants & Gifts	27,924
Miscellaneous	70,099

1,522,645

Disbursements:

Salaries	\$566,891
Benefits	132,258
Materials & Supplies	239,998
Contractual Service	242,802
Debt Service	242,413
Capital Expenditures	15,999
Miscellaneous	11,851

(1,452,212)

BALANCE..... \$83,664

Reserve for Appropriation to 1985 Budget..... (22,300)

Reserve for Transfer to Gift Fund..... (844)

ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1984..... \$60,520

Library Collection

At the end of 1984, the library collection included:

Books.....	186,417	16mm Films.....	480
Phonograph Records	6,286	8mm Films.....	254
Cassettes	3,143	Framed Art Prints	179
Slides	2,811	Juvenile Art Prints	100
Filmstrips	722	Microform Titles	69
Periodical Titles	458	Videocassettes.....	575
Browsing Books	18,812		

Library Board of Trustees

Dennis Bowen
Daniel Enright
Patrick George
Sarah Harder, President

Jeanne Harris
Janis Haywood, Secretary
Marvin Lansing, Vice President
Bette Wahl

1984 Gifts and Grants

Anonymous Donor
Austin Memorial (various donors)
Ann Barland
Minnie Chaycut
Chippewa Reality
Committee for Viennese Ball
Friends of the Library

Gramac's
Hobbs Foundation
Northwest Fabrics
Northern States Power Company
Stuart Willson
Wisconsin CATV
Wisconsin Humanities Committee

Annual Statistics and Output Measures

Total Circulation.....	671,166
Circulation Per Capita*	8.5 items
Use of Materials in Library Per Capita.....	3.0 items
Total Registered Borrowers.....	26,127
Registration as % of Eau Claire County Population.....	33.2%
Reference Questions Answered	29,261
% of Reference Questions Answered at the Library.....	86%
Fill Rate (% of Materials Sought and Found by Library Users)	
Specific Titles	67%
Specific Authors or Subjects.....	72.5%
Browsing.....	94%
Annual Program Attendance.....	10,026
Program Attendance Per Capita.....	.13
Volunteer Hours Contributed	1,546.25
*per capita figured on Eau Claire County population	

Exhibits



The art gallery at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library is the only public gallery which exhibits the work of local artists. We believe providing support for area artists and a means for the community to be exposed to all artistic forms is an important part of our mission as a public library. Many of our art exhibits bring people to the library especially to visit the gallery. Travel photographs from around the world by Dr. George Wahl of Eau Claire was one of these, as was a display of quilts and a quilting demonstration by July Florence. Youth Art Month, another drawing card each year, gave Junior and Senior High School students a chance to publicly display their artistic talents.

During the month of July, the gallery displayed the watercolors of Carl Gawboy, a Chippewa Indian regional painter. His works, inspired by scenes from northern Wisconsin and Minnesota, have been selected for national competitive exhibits.

ArtsWest, a juried art show sponsored annually by the library and Indianhead Federated Library System, features all media and offers an opportunity for area amateur and professional artists to show their recent work. This year, two art instructors from UW-River Falls served as our judges and built a very strong show from the entries. As in previous years, area businesses helped with funding this event, including a Best of Show monetary prize.

An exhibit of student artwork, photos, letters, brochures and medals from Eau Claire's sister city, Velikiy Ustyug, in the Soviet Union, was on display in the gallery throughout August thanks to the efforts of a local organization. Letters and artwork from Eau Claire residents were sent to Velikiy Ustyug as an exchange in an effort to promote understanding between the peoples of our two countries.



A grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Committee helped to fund a series of three programs on George Orwell and his novel "1984." Two of the programs featured films followed by discussions led by UW-Eau Claire faculty, with the final program bringing Orwell's themes together using audience participation and dramatizations.

When tax time '84 came around, the library was a source for federal and state forms and tax preparation guides. Two seminars at the library offered the help of IRS instructors with tax preparation. They alerted taxpayers to special credits and deductions and led them through a return line-by-line.

Children's programs and activities are presented the year around at the library. Pre-school storytimes, for 3, 4 and 5 year-olds, introduce young children to good literature and provide a positive peer group experience for youngsters away from home. This year, over 2,100 children attended these 30-minute programs.

Teachers have found that a valuable experience for their students is a trip to the public library. More than 2,000 students made class visits to the Children's Room in 1984, where our staff showed them how "user-friendly" the library can be.

While the schools are on summer hiatus, children's programs at the library get into full swing. This year's theme was "Hats Off to Kids" and featured a reading achievement program that involved 1,600 youngsters. Readers earned stickers, certificates and coupons from a local restaurant while a Read-to-Me program was popular with pre-schoolers.

The library lawn became a real zoo when the Pleasant Valley 4-H Club brought farm animals as a petting zoo. The program was a great success — the kids had almost as much fun as the animals.

Other children's summer activities included a creative writing contest, a magic show, a puppet show, storytelling, a variety show, creative dramatics and a Monday morning film series. Because these summer programs are so popular, we rely on community volunteers to make them successful. So it's "Hats Off to Volunteers" as well!

Excursions _____

Not all of our programs stay at home. Our proximity to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area affords us the opportunity to take advantage of a wide range of cultural events. For several years, we have sponsored trips to the critically-acclaimed Guthrie Theater. In 1984, we worked with the public libraries in Chippewa Falls and Menomonie to arrange reserved seats and bus transportation to a number of Saturday matinees. We also co-sponsored with the UW-Eau Claire two Twin Cities cultural events: the Metropolitan Opera's Midwest tour in May and a performance of the Nutcracker ballet. These were first-time ventures for us that we hope will continue to draw community support.



Countywide Library Services _____

As a result of the Eau Claire Towns Association's withdrawal from the Countywide Library Services contract, some county residents were left without library services for 1985. This was not an isolated event. The issue of county reimbursement to the library has remained controversial since countywide library service was established in 1977.

At that time the library began offering services to Eau Claire County residents under an agreement whereby the county reimbursed us on a per cardholder basis. The number of county cardholders rose rapidly from the beginning, but the County Board denied our requests for corresponding increases in county funding.

Both parties grew weary of yearly debates on the same library funding issues until, in 1982, they reached an agreement to work together on a formula for computing the county's fair share. The contract, a model for the state, allows individual municipalities to pay for library services according to how much use their residents make of the services. Other counties in Wisconsin base library funding on equalized assessed property valuation, resulting in a disproportionate share of library taxes paid by rural municipalities. Eau Claire County's contract avoids this problem through a system of rebates.

In October of 1983 we went "on-line" with an automated circulation system. New library cards had to be issued to city and county patrons alike and, as a result, we were able to determine that county use was not 10% of the total as we had thought, but 20%. By the terms of the contract, the cost of services at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library would double for county residents.

In reaction to these cost increases, the Towns Association voted in June, 1984 to withdraw from the Countywide Library Services contract effective December 31, 1984. The city of Eau Claire offered to phase in these increases over a period of years, but the Towns Association rejected the city's offers. County proposals by the Towns Association were not acceptable to the city. In December, 1984, the library and city offered contracts for services to individual municipalities. The cities of Altoona and Augusta and the town of Washington signed contracts with the library. As the year closed, no other municipalities had signed contracts for library services.



L.E. Phillips Memorial
Public Library

400 Eau Claire Street
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701
Telephone: 839-5002