1996 annual report

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library

Eau Claire, Wisconsin
DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It was very disappointing to lose the referendum for library building expansion and technology improvements in March, but the vote was very close. There were 5,513 "yes" votes, just 318 votes short of approval. If 160 citizens had voted "yes" instead of "no", the referendum would have carried.

Based on citizen input, in September the Library Board approved an updated building expansion and technology improvement proposal, which included $52,000 to improve parking in the existing library lot and on both sides of Eau Claire Street and $23,000 for book and videocassette drop boxes at each of eight sites around the city. At the same time, independently of the library’s expansion proposal, a developer proposed the establishment on the nearby Soo Line lot of a parking ramp of 120 spaces, to be financed by the creation of a tax incremental finance district. The Soo Line lot development issue is expected to be settled by the City Council in the first half of 1997.

The total bond issue to pay for the proposals approved by the Library Board (excluding the Soo Line development costs) would be $5.5 million in 1997 costs. The increased property tax for the owner of a $60,000 home, including increased operating costs as well as debt service payments, would be $25.47 for a period of 20 years.

In September, Eau Claire County notified the City of Eau Claire and the library of their intention to withdraw from our countywide library services agreement, effective December 31, 1997. Services for all current cardholders residing outside the City of Eau Claire will end on that date unless a new contract is negotiated. Both the City Council and the Library Board have indicated they would welcome a long-term agreement for library services.

It is the belief of both the City Council and the Library Board that the contract for countywide library services has served the citizens in the city and in Eau Claire County at (continued on following page)
At the end of 1996, the library collection included:

- **Books**: 207,090
- **Browsing books**: 12,325
- **Phonograph records**: 1,324
- **Audiocassettes**: 3,350
- **Compact discs**: 4,967
- **Books on cassette**: 3,072
- **Videocassettes**: 6,975
- **Art prints**: 92
- **Slide tapes**: 48
- **Periodical subscriptions**: 524
- **Serials**: 3,478
- **Maps**: 62

**TOTAL**: 243,307

---

**1996 ANNUAL STATISTICS AND OUTPUT MEASURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Circulation</strong></td>
<td>872,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation per capita</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Registered Borrowers</strong></td>
<td>37,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration as a percentage of the population served</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turnover Rate</strong></td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equals the number of times each item is circulated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reference Questions Answered</strong></td>
<td>84,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Volunteer Hours Contributed</strong></td>
<td>1,827</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**LIBRARY COLLECTION**

For 1996, the library collection included:

- **Books**: 207,090
- **Browsing books**: 12,325
- **Phonograph records**: 1,324
- **Audiocassettes**: 3,350
- **Compact discs**: 4,967
- **Books on cassette**: 3,072
- **Videocassettes**: 6,975
- **Art prints**: 92
- **Slide tapes**: 48
- **Periodical subscriptions**: 524
- **Serials**: 3,478
- **Maps**: 62

**TOTAL**: 243,307
a reasonable cost and has worked well for all parties. The City Council and the Library Board believe, however, that the continuation of these services should be provided under a long-term agreement that will allow the Library Board and the City Council to plan for future facility needs.

The Library Board has not yet requested from the City Council authorization for holding a new library referendum. The Board feels that the issue of services to people living outside the City of Eau Claire needs to be settled first, so that long-range plans for adequate library facilities can be made.

Mark Morse, Library Director

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Martha O'Halloran, President
Kevin McKinley, Vice President
Phyllis Fabiny, Secretary
Beverly Boettcher Carol Olson
Richard deGrood Craig Vogt
Jeff Hansen Don Marjala

THANKS TO OUR 1996 DONORS!

Ayres Associates
Susan J. Bruce
Idella A. Bruness
Mike Campbell
Car City Honda-Volkswagen
Committee for Our Library's Future
Cora Rust Owen Memorial Trust
Cray Research
Howard & Monique Culver
Exhibits USA
First Federal Bank of Eau Claire, Isb
Firstar Bank Wisconsin, Eau Claire Office
Roger & Joanne Flaten
Friends of L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library
Friends of the Rogers Public Library
Jim Carter Ford
Patricia Johnson
Alvin & Shirley Kissinger
Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire--Clearwater
Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire--Noon Group
Gene & Betty Kroening
Richard Larson
Nicholas & Elaine Leochler
Maclin Family
Grace E. Miller
Thomas & Sharon Morse
M&I Community State Bank
Northern States Power Company
Norwest Bank Wisconsin, N.A.
Ardelle M. Peterson
Frank & Ardis Potts
Ron Smith
Donald E. Smith
Jonathan Spitzer
Lauri & Bob Spitzer
Phillip & Carol Stokes
Sweetwaters Restaurant & Bar
John & Dollie Tiller
Time Warner Cable
Gene & Kay Vandever
Wisconsin Genealogical Society