

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)

1996 ANNUAL STATISTICS AND OUTPUT MEASURES

Total Circulation	872,572
Circulation per capita--9.6	
Total Registered Borrowers	37,043
Registration as a percentage of the population served--35%	
Turnover Rate	3.6
Equals the number of times each item is circulated.	
Reference Questions Answered	84,598
Volunteer Hours Contributed	1,827

LIBRARY COLLECTION

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	<u>62</u>
TOTAL	243,307

(Director's Note, continued)

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
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Wisconsin Genealogical Society

FINANCIAL REPORT (Pre-Audit) For the year ended December 31, 1996

BEGINNING BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 1996		\$48,000
Receipts:		
City of Eau Claire	\$1,545,820	
County of Eau Claire	365,164	
Indianhead Federated Library System	98,190	
Fines and Fees	110,597	
Grants and Gifts	16,758	
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>55,719</u>	
		2,192,248
Disbursements:		
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,273,007	
Contractual Service	420,679	
Materials and Supplies	325,097	
Debt Service	0	
Capital Expenditure	<u>129,262</u>	
		<u>(2,148,045)</u>
BALANCE		\$92,203
Reserve for Appropriation to 1997		(40,000)
Transfer from Gift Reserve Fund		<u>4,158</u>
ENDING BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 1996		\$56,361



L. E. Phillips Memorial Public Library

400 Eau Claire Street

Eau Claire, WI 54701

Address correction requested