1997 annual report

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library

Eau Claire Wisconsin
A sound, long-term relationship between the library, the City and the County was confirmed at the end of 1997, with the approval of a ten-year agreement preserving services for county residents at the library. The new agreement increases county representation on the Library Board from one member to two and expands the total number of people on the Library Board from nine to ten. In addition, the agreement sets caps on annual increases in charges to the County for library services, but exempts the year 1999 from the cap so that the library can make some needed major improvements in customer services, such as those included in the library’s Five-Year Financial Plan described below.

The largest pieces of the Five-Year Financial Plan are the proposed technology improvements. These include an upgrade of the computerized catalog, replacement of terminals with microcomputer workstations, provision of Internet services and equipment, replacement of data cable, upgrade of the local area network, license fees and other costs for increased access to electronic data bases, support personnel and training. These improvements will enable the library to keep up with the rapid, large-scale changes taking place in the world of technology and communications. The goal of the library remains the same: to provide the best possible access to information in electronic, as well as print, formats.

By selecting from options on a computer screen, library customers will be able to connect to the library’s on-line catalog, a library information system, the Internet, or to numerous CD-ROM databases. Customers can select a “Library Information” icon to get answers to such commonly asked questions as “How do I get a library card?” or to receive a calendar of upcoming events. Another selection will retrieve information ranging from magazine indexes to census statistics. Staff will be trained in the use of the Internet and can help the user “navigate the ‘Net” or recommend specific sites.

Customer services will also be substantially improved by

(continued on following page)
At the end of 1997, the library collection included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>214,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Browsing books</td>
<td>11,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phonograph records</td>
<td>1,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audiocassettes</td>
<td>3,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compact discs</td>
<td>5,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books on cassette</td>
<td>3,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Videocassettes</td>
<td>7,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art prints</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slide tapes</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodical subscriptions</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serials</td>
<td>4,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>252,634</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
four other proposals in the Five-Year Financial Plan: video and book drop boxes will be installed at eight Eau Claire locations, reserving items by telephone and renewing check-out items by telephone will be inaugurated, and the library's budget for collection purchases will be restored to its 1994 base level. In addition, parking near the library will be improved by the already planned construction of a parking ramp as part of the City's development of the Soo Line lot on Dewey Street, or by other parking improvements at or near the library.

Mark Morse, Library Director

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Carol Olson, Secretary

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Emily Moore
Sylvia Schilling
Terri Stanley

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1997 DONORS AND DONATIONS

Total Cash Donations
Total Other Donations
Total Total Donations
Regulations for the 1998-99 Turnover
The library is closed
Thank you to all volunteers

LIBRARY USE

Books
Browsing
Phonograph Records
Audiocassettes
Computers
Books
Videocassettes
Art prints
Slide talks
Periodicals
Serials
Maps
TOTAL