



# LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## **The Janesville public library : a centennial history, 1884-1984. 1984**

Pierce, Janice Kay

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1984

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/GPQ7CGMQ7F5578P>

This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, US Code).

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

Keep 9/2003

67  
JPL

THE JANESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY: A CENTENNIAL  
HISTORY, 1884-1984

Submitted to the 1984 JPL  
Centennial Committee

by

Janice Kay Pierce  
530 S. Parker Drive  
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545

June 1984

JANESVILLE ROOM  
JANESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN

THE 1984 JPL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE:

Sally Cullen, Chair  
Helen Diotte  
Larry Fladhammer  
Richard Hartung  
Ken Waterman  
Vern Williams  
Harold Combs

Fred Holt  
Karl Samek  
Sima Wexler  
Steve Karges  
Sue Keeney  
Carol Liddle

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the staffs of the Janesville Public Library and the Rock County Historical Society for their cooperation and assistance in this project. Special thanks is due to Rick Hartung and Carol Liddle of the JPL Centennial Committee for their cooperation and technical assistance.

This study of the Janesville Public Library was greatly enriched by the published and unpublished works of John C. Colson. Mr. Colson was kind enough to share his manuscript, sources, and ideas to further this research on the history of the JPL.

Several individuals have contributed significantly to this project through reviews and comments on draft versions of this report. Special thanks to Rick Hartung, Carol Liddle, Jan Farley, Irene Blackford, and Joseph Accardi.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
THE 1984 JPL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE. . . . .	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . . .	iii
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
CHAPTER	
1. ANTECEDENTS OF THE JANESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY (1856-1883) . . . . .	4
The Lyceum Movement in Janesville. . . . .	6
Janesville Young Men's Association . . . . .	8
The Janesville Public Library Association. . . . .	14
Conversion to a Municipal Free Library . . . . .	18
2. IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES . . . . .	26
The Free Reading Room. . . . .	28
The Library as an Educational Force. . . . .	30
Library Cataloging and Classification. . . . .	38
Professionalism of Staff and Services. . . . .	43
3. COOPERATION WITH SCHOOLS AND THE GROWTH OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES . . . . .	52
The Nature of Library/School Cooperation . . . . .	53
JPL School Branch Libraries. . . . .	56
The Growth of Children's Services. . . . .	61
The Growth of Children's Services at the JPL. . . . .	66
4. COMMUNITY SERVICE . . . . .	81
Community Use of Library Facilities. . . . .	82
Other Aspects of Community Service . . . . .	93
Programs and Services. . . . .	101
5. Extension/Outreach Services . . . . .	111

Early JPL Extension Efforts. . . . .	111
Library Branch Service in Janesville . . . . .	120
6. THE ROLE OF THE JPL IN COUNTY-WIDE LIBRARY SERVICE . . . . .	128
Rural Library Service by the JPL . . . . .	130
Creation of the Rock County Library System . . . . .	134
Impact of Arrowhead Library System on the JPL. . . . .	137
SUMMARY. . . . .	146
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY. . . . .	147
APPENDICES . . . . .	154
A. Highlights in the History of the Janesville Public Library, 1882-1984 . . . . .	155
B. Librarians/Library Directors of the Janesville Public Library, 1882-1984 . . . . .	161
C. Growth of the Janesville Public Library, 1896-1983 . . . . .	162
D. Facilities of the Janesville Public Library, 1884-1984 . . . . .	163
E. Members of the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Janesville Public Library, Selected Years, 1882-1984 . . . . .	173
F. Potential Documents and Material for Use in an Historical Exhibit of the Janesville Public Library . . . . .	179

111

## Introduction

On January 7, 1984 the Janesville Public Library celebrated its 100th anniversary of service to the Janesville community in a rededication ceremony attended by nearly 200 citizens. Implicit to the rededication theme, "a century of enlightening," is acknowledgement of the library's central and essential role as a community reference service and cultural center. Yet, the Janesville Public Library was not always nor universally recognized as a desirable, much less essential, community institution; certainly few would today dispute its current importance to city and county citizens and governments alike. The shift from library associations to "free" libraries is one fascinating aspect of the public library movement in the United States. The Janesville Public Library provides a significant local and regional example of this shift in community consciousness and attendant public support for library services.

The Janesville Public Library was the product of many years of experimentation with various library association forms

employed by nineteenth century Wisconsin citizens to meet the educational and recreational needs of its members and subscribers. Its library predecessors were dogged by the problems of unstable library association membership, insufficient and fluctuating sources of revenue, and the sometimes infuriating indifference of the public-at-large who had not yet acknowledged nor accepted responsibility for a library free and accessible to all. The Janesville Public Library was born at the zenith of the Public Library Movement in nineteenth-century Wisconsin, yet was very nearly still-born in the face of public apathy. Its survival in its "modern" form was left to the unfranchised, but not powerless, women of Janesville who organized a fund-drive to save from auction the library collection of the Young Men's Association. In the next several months, they pleaded and exhorted the citizens and city of Janesville to assume municipal control of the library. Central to the ladies' efforts to save the library was a view of the library as a valuable educational institution, as well as a moral one capable of providing a wholesome alternative to the city saloons.

The objectives of the Janesville Public Library are consistent with national and state trends of library development. Major goals have centered on the provision of



educational and "cultural" material to the community, but the perspectives and strategies on achieving these goals have (not surprisingly) experienced substantial change. This history of the Janesville Public Library documents the history of the library from its earliest beginnings in the mid-nineteenth century through its organization as a public library in 1884 to the present date; it chronicles major events in the development of the institution within the perspective of national, regional, state and local trends. Research is based upon documentary sources available at the Janesville Public Library and the Archives of the Rock County Historical Society, newspaper accounts, and other pertinent literature.

## Chapter 1

### Antecedents of the Janesville Public

#### Library (1856 to 1883)

The public library in the current, "modern" sense of the word, evolved from 150 years of experimentation with semipublic libraries in New England and New York--parish and parochial libraries, social libraries which included proprietary, subscription, mechanics' and mercantile libraries, and circulating libraries.<sup>1</sup> It evolved from and was supported by community action, yet it was forced to wait for acceptance as a necessity of cultural sophistication, along with the attendant support of public coffers.<sup>2</sup>

The modern concept of a "public" library as a tax-supported institution was nonexistent in Wisconsin until the 1870s except in the sense that the library was open to at least some portion of the public. In many of the towns and villages of Wisconsin, including Janesville, earlier library forms existed as social libraries--Young Men's Associations, lyceums, and library

associations.<sup>3</sup> These social libraries were referred to as "public libraries" throughout the remainder of the nineteenth-century; "when tax-supported public libraries began to be established, those institutions were called 'free libraries,' or 'free public libraries,' such as...the Janesville Free Library."<sup>4</sup> By and large, libraries in nineteenth century Wisconsin were modelled upon the social and subscription libraries common to New England and New York with which transplanted Yankee residents were very familiar.

The social library forms of New England were subscription libraries composed of voluntary associations of individuals for the purpose of collecting books for joint ownership by the members. These social libraries were the nearest equivalent to public tax-supported libraries as we know them, before 1850, and they were the direct ancestors of the American public library as it exists today.<sup>5</sup> In fact, the social library was more than a forerunner of the public library pattern which later supplanted it--it was a semipublic library system based on the ability of the patron to pay for the services he received. Throughout nineteenth-century Wisconsin, the library association (a simple membership organization) was the principal form in which public

libraries were organized, especially before the Town Library Act of 1868.<sup>6</sup> In 1872, library associations existed in no less than eleven Wisconsin cities. Another 86 associations were organized in the next 28 years and library association organization continued after the turn-of-the-century. Many had moral and religious uplift purposes, and most were dominated by protestant and professional men of New England/New York descent who were active politically.<sup>7</sup> The library association movement, however, is closely allied to other earlier, and sometimes co-existent forms of literary and cultural enlightenment, including the lyceum.

#### The Lyceum Movement in Janesville

An early predecessor of the library association in Janesville was the Janesville Lyceum (1856), dedicated to "literary improvement," and which opened a reading room and founded a library.<sup>8</sup> The lyceum was an institution through which lectures, debates, and dramatic performances were essential means of stimulating educational interests; often its library collections were outgrowths of this literary focus. The Janesville Lyceum co-existed with the Janesville Mechanics'

Institute which shared the lyceum's concern with "mutual improvement in arts, sciences and general intelligence."<sup>9</sup> The lyceum survived in Janesville, not as a separate organization, but through subsequent literary and library associations that borrowed essential features of the lyceum program. Early in their development, lectures and debates were cornerstones of the associations' meetings and programs and served to legitimize the educational value of these organizations as well as to provide a needed source of revenue. Some investigators have gone so far as to say that the young men's associations were literally lyceums in every way but name only.<sup>10</sup>

The lyceums, literary societies, young men's associations and library associations were inherently weak as agents of sustained and concerted library development. "The failure of the social libraries to attain the later results of a public library system arose...from the weakness inherent in voluntary societies."<sup>11</sup> In 1863, the Young Men's Literary Union of Janesville, both a literary and library association, called for public support of its programs and activities, and in so doing, pointed out the failures of its predecessors to sustain library service in Janesville:

It has been the opprobrium of the City of Janesville that no organization of this character could be sustained for any length of time; that no library for the young men of the city exists, and consequently they have sought amusement in the saloons and amid the paths of vice.<sup>12</sup>

The "men of means, men desiring to advance Christianity, men of true patriotism..." were not forthcoming with their money or influence, and the Janesville Young Men's Literary Union was not heard from again.<sup>13</sup> The value of the library as a moral and social control device is explicitly stated in such appeals and is characteristic of later attempts to enlist public support for library development in Janesville and elsewhere.

#### Janesville Young Men's Association

One of Janesville's most successful nineteenth-century library associations was the Young Men's Association; its library collection was later to become the nucleus of the city's municipal library. The Janesville Young Men's Association (YMA) was granted a charter on April 10, 1865 only two short years after the failure of the Young Men's Literary Union to organize a similar venture. The objectives of the YMA were "to establish and maintain a library, to institute literary and scientific debates and lectures, and to provide other means of moral and

intellectual culture."<sup>14</sup> The stated educational purpose of the YMA reflected its affinity to the lyceum movement, but the organization and operation of a library was early the most important objective of the association.<sup>15</sup> The YMA Library was the only circulating library in the county "...and has been a source of benefit in furnishing valuable reading matter to the public. It has maintained, with few interruptions, weekly debates on various topics of interest."<sup>16</sup> The debate topics ranged from the problem of divorce, to co-education in colleges, property rights for married women, and railroad rate regulation. Its annual lecture series was reportedly well-patronized by the public, at least early in its existence.<sup>17</sup>

By 1871, the YMA Library boasted 1200 volumes, circulated periodical literature, and opened the reading room and library nightly for patrons who subscribed with a \$2.00 yearly fee. It was proclaimed "...one of the most useful agencies in the city for promoting knowledge and morality."<sup>18</sup> Membership in the YMA reportedly included the greater portion of young and middle-aged men of professional and mercantile trades, many of whom were politically influential. Yet its socially elite membership was unable to sustain the revenue and muster the support needed for

the maintenance of a semipublic library. The YMA enjoyed a few short years of undeniable success as a literary and library association, but it was early plagued by financial shortfalls that eventually culminated in its collapse in 1882.

The Janesville YMA maintained a marginal existence from membership dues, and lecture program admission charges for six years after its formation. By 1871, the importance of lecture programs as a source of revenue had declined, and the association turned to concerts by the Opera House Orchestra as a more lucrative venture. The "dime concerts" as they were called, were successful and continued until March of 1872.<sup>19</sup> At that time the Association began to enjoy some measure of public support, as when Mayor Sutherland advocated city provision of "suitable rooms and care" for the YMA Library. In the Spring of 1872, the Association received public financial support for the YMA Library through an amendment to the City Charter which appropriated for that purpose one-half of the revenue from sale of city liquor licenses.<sup>20</sup> The action is indicative of Janesville's early interest in establishing a public "free" library; however, the so-called Graham amendment sponsored by Janesville Assemblyman, Alexander Graham, was not without substantial opposition from



city officials. The Common Council balked at the appropriation to the YMA Library and submitted the funds only under court order.<sup>21</sup> By 1873, opponents had the amendment repealed in the legislature, much to the bitter disappointment of YMA members. The Association was apparently disheartened by the action and the organization made no further attempt to renew its formerly successful "dime concert" series. The YMA experienced a slow decline and by 1876, the annual meeting had to be postponed for lack of a quorum. The YMA attempted to revive interest in its organization in 1877 and again in 1879, but the decline was slow and steady.<sup>22</sup>

Repeal of the amendment to the City's Charter prompted the Janesville Gazette to call for the establishment of a public library, but this suggestion and subsequent ones were ignored by the citizens until the YMA was totally defunct in 1882.<sup>23</sup> After 1871, the YMA was unable to attract the membership base necessary to build financial support for library operation. Public apathy and indifference to the plight of the Association was probably attributable at least in part to formation of rival groups and libraries which detracted potential support. The Literary Society and Mutual Improvement Club were created as discussion

groups, and their memberships overlapped in part with that of the YMA. In 1874, the Janesville Ladies Temperance Union (LTU) organized a free library and reading room with the help of some YMA members; by January 1875, the LTU Library was opened to the public as one instrument of prohibition that received support and recognition of varying degrees.<sup>24</sup>

Library advocates in Janesville were apparently content to allow responsibility for library service to reside in membership associations which entertained various differing objectives. These competing special interests in library objectives contributed to disunity in Janesville's public library movement.<sup>25</sup> The Gazette was frequently the source of "boosterism" on behalf of establishing a public library. As elsewhere in Wisconsin, the positive effects of a public library were linked to industrial growth, and cultural growth was seen as a secondary aspect of commercial development. The promotion of a "moral order" was often explicit.

In dollars and cents it will pay in cultivating the productive energies of the people, in advancing good morals, and in adding to the attractions of the city as a residence for men of enterprise, of culture, and of wealth.<sup>26</sup>

One early push for a public library was initiated in 1877 as

library advocates (who remained anonymous) engaged in public discourse in the Gazette. A letter of March 12, 1877 from one citizen argued that a city library would be an asset as well as a convenience to Janesville's citizens. He further urged the Council to refer the matter to the people for action.<sup>27</sup> Under some pressure, the City Council called a Special Meeting to consider the possibility of a public library, but crafty opponents tabled the matter indefinitely by not attending the meeting at all, and the idea died quietly.<sup>28</sup> In 1881 and 1882, the Gazette once again raised the issue to the public as the YMA struggled in its death throes. Association leaders, it reported, were said to desire to donate the YMA Library to a city library.<sup>29</sup>

In a last ditch effort to forestall public sale of its library in the fall of 1882, the YMA sponsored a series of three lectures on Egypt by Professor William H. Hoisington. The results were dismal; the Association netted only \$15.00 at \$.25 per lecture admission.<sup>30</sup> The YMA went bankrupt for lack of \$200.00 necessary to continue library operation. The Gazette saw the Association's financial straits as symptomatic of the more serious problem of maintaining membership and leadership in the

face of competing interests and responsibilities.<sup>31</sup>

### The Janesville Public Library Association

The pace quickened and interest in establishment of a public "free" library accelerated as the YMA at last collapsed financially, and the dispersal of its library resources was at hand. The Recorder reported that Association leaders were divided over the issue whether to sell the library or give it to the city; the editor called for the establishment of a public library.<sup>32</sup> The YMA evidently stalled at auctioning the library as the Gazette exhorted the wealthy men of the city to buy the library and present it to the city.

There could be no better opportunity for some of our rich men to exhibit their public spirit than that which will be offered next Saturday [September 9, 1882 at 7:30 p.m.] at the sale of the Young Men's Association Library.<sup>33</sup>

There was no response to this call for library philanthropy, and the auction was postponed while the YMA struggled to keep the library collection intact.

The women of Janesville began to enter the fracas. "E Pluribus Unum," an anonymous female writer, asserted that the

ladies of Janesville were considering action; she and other women writers emphasized the value of the library as a temperance program.<sup>34</sup> In response to a published request, a number of ladies assembled at the Myers House Parlors in the interest of securing a public library for Janesville. Some expressed hope that sufficient funds might be obtained to make the library free. The organization was named the Public Library Association of Janesville and was incorporated on February 2, 1883.<sup>35</sup> The Janesville Public Library Association (PLA) was formed "to give practical effect and meaning to the various donations, that have been or may be generously made for the purpose of founding a public library in Janesville easily accessible to all her citizens..." The objective of the PLA was clearly the establishment of a free public library (See Appendix A).<sup>36</sup> An impressive membership of 82 local women was recorded.

The PLA wasted no time in electing officers and initiating a fund drive that encompassed all five city wards. Chairmen were appointed to supervise the collection effort in each ward; by December 1882, \$502.25 was raised by subscription.<sup>37</sup> The ladies' organization received much needed assistance from Colonel Burr Robbins. Robbins was a resident of Janesville and owned a circus

called "The Great American and German Allied Shows." At his return to Janesville following the close of the circus season, he heard of the efforts of the PLA to buy the YMA Library collection in the hope that it might become the nucleus of a public library. The Colonel generously offered to assist the library fund by donating the proceeds of a benefit circus performance in the Spring of 1883, provided the library was made a free library.<sup>38</sup> The canvass of the city's wards thereby became the mechanism by which the Association sold tickets to the Colonel's benefit performance as well as to other fund raising events. The net receipts of the circus exhibition were \$757.00 and went a long way toward maintenance of a free library.<sup>39</sup>

The Colonel's benefit offer prompted the Association to immediately tackle the issue of whether the library should be free. The membership resolved that for the term of one year from the opening, the Association library be made a free library provided that the sum of \$500.00 could be raised by subscription. By the end of November 1882, the subscriptions were short by \$96.00 of the \$500.00 goal; five members and officers then pledged various donations to meet the minimum established by the Association as necessary to make the library

free.<sup>40</sup> By November 10, 1882, the Association had paid the YMA's liabilities and so acquired the YMA Library of approximately 2500 volumes for \$150.90. The conveyance of the YMA Library to the PLA was on condition that the purchaser maintain a public library in the City of Janesville.<sup>41</sup>

The Association's free library was officially opened on February 17, 1883 by vote of the Board of Trustees. Hours were scheduled from 11:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. and from 6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., Sundays and holidays excepted.<sup>42</sup> Borrowing privileges of the PLA were established in the Constitution and By-Laws. Any Janesville resident over 15 years of age was granted the privilege to draw books (references might be required); only one book was issued at a time except for members and by permission of the Board; Association members were allowed a maximum of two books, but not two new books.

The Colonel's benefit offer went a long way in mustering public support for the library fund. Benefit offers began to pour in shortly thereafter in the fall of 1882, and the Association appointed an Entertainment Committee to screen offers. Only a few short months before, the citizens of Janesville seemed indifferent to the issue of a public library,

but the total collapse of the YMA galvanized at least some into concerted action. Other benefits for the library fund staged in 1882-83 included a performance of Faust by Minerva Guernsey and 60 other city socialites;<sup>43</sup> a local music class gave two performances of children's operettas for which the opera house and orchestra donated their facilities and services; the Bower City Roller Rink sponsored a benefit event; and Miss Helen R. Porter gave an (unspecified) entertainment as well.<sup>44</sup>

The Association appropriated the proceeds of the Minerva Guernsey and Miss Porter benefits for the purchase of new books and expanded the library further by acquiring the library of the LTU of Janesville.<sup>45</sup> Once again the library was sanctioned as a moral standard-bearer and an effective temperance agent.

#### Conversion to a Municipal Free Library

Even before the official opening of the PLA Library and consistent with its primary objective, the Association's Board of Trustees were appointed to "place the matter of the public library being transferred to and being supported by the City, properly before the City authorities."<sup>46</sup> Janesville officials had



refrained from taking any public stand on the issue of a free public library between July and December, 1882. Significantly, PLA leaders held a private meeting on November 22, 1882 which prominent, elite political leaders attended; with the support of acknowledged community leaders, the transition to public status seemed assured.<sup>47</sup> In February, 1883, the City Attorney, Mr. E. M. Hyzer, reported before the Association Board and stated that in "his opinion no legislation was necessary in order to determine the question of the library being owned and supported by the City." At the Board's request, Mr. Hyzer presented the matter to the Common Council and reported back that the Council had referred the matter to the Judiciary Committee for review.<sup>48</sup> On March 12th the Committee recommended to the Council that the library election be held, and the Council unanimously approved the measure.<sup>49</sup>

The PLA immediately mobilized its ward supervisors to see that arrangements were made in each ward for voting on the question of a free library at the upcoming city election and referendum scheduled on April 3rd. The newspapers enthusiastically endorsed the concept of a free public library in a barrage of editorials, and on April 3rd, the citizens of

Janesville voted overwhelmingly in favor of a public library (1,209 to 39).<sup>50</sup>

By 2 December 1883 the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Janesville Free Public Library (JFPL) convened in the rooms of the PLA to elect officers and to appoint a committee to draft By-Laws for the Board. The Rules and Regulations Governing the Library were adapted from those of the Madison Library.<sup>51</sup> A Library Committee was appointed to recommend the purchase of books and periodicals and care of same to the Board; a Room Committee was appointed to procure quarters for the library and reading room and for the care and maintenance of same; and a Finance Committee to make budget recommendations and to assist with the Annual Report. On behalf of the City, the Board renewed the PLA's lease with A. P. Bennett for rooms located on the second floor of the building known at that time as Bennett's Block; the lease was for \$120.00 per year with an option to renew on the same terms for a period of five years (See Appendix D).<sup>52</sup> On 7 January 1884 the bill of sale between the Janesville PLA and the JFPL Trustees was signed and accepted on behalf of the City. The transfer of the PLA Library to public municipal status was at last official. For the nominal sum of

\$1.00, the City of Janesville received a collection of 2,403 books, 544 reference volumes, 350 pamphlets and periodicals, 14 arm chairs, one clock, 2 step ladders, 9 pictures, 5 book cases, 7 palm leaf fans and other furnishings.<sup>53</sup>

The ladies of Janesville had scored a remarkable victory. Their contribution to the City was acknowledged by the Gazette: "What men could not do, or would not do, they [the Janesville PLA] have quietly done and have done it well."<sup>54</sup>

## Chapter 1

### Footnotes

- 
1. Robert E. Lee, "The People's University--the Educational Objectives of the Public Library," reprinted in Reader in American Library History, Michael H. Harris, ed. (Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971), p. 117.
  2. Jesse H. Shera, "Causal Factors in Public Library Development," reprinted in Readings in American Library History, Michael H. Harris, ed. (Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971), p. 141.
  3. John C. Colson, "'Public Spirit' at Work: Philanthropy and Public Libraries in Nineteenth-Century Wisconsin," Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. 59, No. 3 (Spring, 1976), p. 192.
  4. John C. Colson, "Newspapers, Civic Development and Public Library Development in Nineteenth-Century Wisconsin: Some Speculations on Institutional Relationships," Journal of Library History, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Winter, 1978), p. 22.
  5. Jesse H. Shera, "The Expansion of the Social Library," reprinted in Reader in American Library History, Michael H. Harris, ed. (Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971), p. 45.
  6. John C. Colson, "The Public Library Movement in Nineteenth Century Wisconsin," (1975) unpublished manuscript and revised version of Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 1973.
  7. Ibid., pp. 49-54; Colson, op cit., 1976, pp. 192-193.
  8. Orrin Guernsey and Josia F. Willard, History of Rock County and Transactions of the Rock County Agricultural Society and Mechanics' Institute (Janesville: William Doty & Bro., 1856), p. 163.
  9. Ibid., p. 163.

10. Colson, op cit., 1975, pp. 89-92; Carl Bode, The American Lyceum: Town Meeting of the Mind (New York: Oxford University Press, 1956), pp. 238-245.
11. Shera, op cit., 1971, p. 48.
12. Janesville Gazette, 28 November 1863.
13. Ibid.; Colson, op cit., 1975, p. 196.
14. The History of Rock County, Wisconsin (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1879), p. 571.
15. Colson, op cit., 1975, p. 89-92.
16. The History of Rock County, op cit., 1879, p. 572.
17. Janesville City Directory and Business Advertiser for 1866 (Janesville: Veeder and Devereux, Book and Job Printers, 1866), p. 26.
18. Holland's Janesville City Directory for 1870-71 (Chicago: Western Publishing Co., 1871), p. 31.
19. Colson, op cit., 1975, pp. 103-105.
20. Janesville Gazette, 1, 6, 19 December 1871, 8, 19 April, 8 May 1872; In Chapt. 137, Laws of Wisconsin, 1872; Colson, op cit., 1975, pp. 103-105.
21. Janesville Gazette, 13 August 1872.
22. Colson, op cit., 1975, pp. 149-150.
23. Ibid., p. 225.
24. Ibid., pp. 150-152, 226; Janesville Gazette, 27 February, 5, 7, 9, 27, 28 March 1874; 8, 13, 23 January 1875.
25. Colson, op cit., 1975, pp. 225-226.
26. Colson, op cit., 1978, pp. 18-20, 22; Janesville Gazette, 24 March 1877.
27. Ibid., 12 March 1877.

28. Ibid., 17, 29 March, 25 April 1877; Colson, op cit., 1975, p. 228.
29. Janesville Gazette, 12, 16 March 1881, 6 January, 21 February 1882.
30. Colson, op cit., 1975, p. 98.
31. Ibid., p. 147; Janesville Gazette, 12 March 1881.
32. Janesville Daily Recorder, 8 July 1882.
33. Janesville Gazette, 7 September 1882.
34. Ibid., 6 September 1882; Janesville Daily Recorder, 6 September 1882.
35. Minutes of the Janesville PLA, November 3, 1882; Articles of Incorporation of Janesville PLA, 2 February 1883.
36. Preamble, Constitution and By-Laws of PLA.
37. Minutes of Janesville PLA, 3 November 1882, p. 31; 5 December 1882, pp. 32-33.
38. Ibid., 10 November 1883, pp. 33-34; Colson, op cit., 1976, p. 197.
39. Minutes of Janesville PLA, 4 May 1883, p. 49; an Entertainment Committee Audit Report, 7 May 1883, showed a balance of \$752.80. See Janesville Gazette, 1 May 1883 for report of the circus benefit.
40. Minutes of Janesville PLA, 10, 24 November 1882, p. 34, 37.
41. Ibid., 17 November 1882, p.35; Receipt dated November 10, 1882 for \$141.33 paid to YMA Treasurer, G. Sutherland, by the Janesville PLA; letter of conveyance of YMA Library to PLA, n.d., but circa November 10, 1882.
42. Minutes of Board of Directors, PLA, 9 January 1883, p. 137; 6 February 1883, p. 140.
43. A twentieth-century account of the Guernsey benefit is in

Janesville Gazette, 5 June 1947.

44. Minutes of the Janesville PLA, 5 December 1882, 9, 29 January 1883, pp. 41, 137-139; see Janesville Gazette, 28 November 1882, 1, 14, 15, 28 September, 3, 13 December 1882; Janesville Daily Recorder, 15 September 1882, 8, 10 December 1882, 27 March 1883.

45. Minutes of Janesville PLA, 17 November 1882, p. 36; 9 January 1883.

46. Ibid., 3 February 1883, pp. 46-47.

47. Colson, op cit., 1975, p. 233; Janesville Gazette, 9, 13 December 1882.

48. Minutes of Janesville PLA, 6 February 1883, p. 140; 14 February 1883, p. 142; Janesville Gazette, 13 February 1883.

49. Colson, op cit., 1975, p. 234.

50. Janesville Gazette, 4 April 1883.

51. Minutes of Board of Directors, JFPL, 14 December 1883, pp. 28-29.

52. Ibid., 9 December 1883, p. 27; Lease between Bennett and City of Janesville, dated 3 March 1884.

53. Minutes Board of Directors, JFPL, 7 January 1884, pp. 32; Bill of Sale, 7 January 1884.

54. Janesville Gazette, 13 December 1882.

## Chapter 2

### Implementation of Public Library Services

Its mission to establish a public "free" library in the City completed, the Janesville Public Library Association (PLA) no longer played an active organizational role in local library development. Its interests and concerns, however, were amply represented on the First Board of Trustees of the Janesville Free Library in that three PLA officers and charter members (Mrs. Sarah Little, Mrs. A. H. Sheldon, and Mrs. C. B. Conrad) were subsequently elected officers of the Board. By 1902, the PLA had evidently been inactive for years, and its treasury balance of \$63.44 was turned over to the Free Library's Book Committee for the purchase of reference books.<sup>1</sup>

In conformity with common practice of the time, a number of rules and regulations were formulated and published regarding the use of the City's newly established public library. In Janesville's case, the Board of Directors modified regulations of the Madison Public Library and adopted rules very similar to



those of its library predecessor, the PLA. All persons 15 years or older were granted borrowing privileges upon signature of an obligation to observe the library rules and regulations; in the case of minors, a parent or guardian or other responsible adult was required to sign the obligation. Visitors to Janesville for whom a reliable citizen assumed responsibility were also granted library privileges as were residents of Rock County upon payment of a \$1.00 semiannual fee. In contrast to current standards of library usage and accessibility, the Janesville Public Library's (referred to hereafter as JPL) rules of 1884 seem unnecessarily harsh, but they were formulated in an era in which patrons were commonly restricted by narrowly defined and strictly enforced protocol. For example, patrons were not allowed more than one book at a time nor were they allowed to handle books upon the shelves (i.e., closed stacks). Not until the opening of the new Carnegie Library Building in 1903 were the shelves and stacks opened to the public for their perusal. In addition, stiff penalties were levelled at library vandals and thieves of the late nineteenth century: up to six months imprisonment or fines of up to \$100.00.<sup>2</sup> Clearly, access to library resources and services was considered a privilege and not necessarily a right.

## The Free Reading Room

The reading room was early the most popular and intensively used facility of the fledgling free library. Reading rooms had been important features of the Athenaeum social libraries of New England and were later adopted widely by YMCA libraries as a means of attracting patronage; public libraries were, however, relatively slow to offer the reading room service.<sup>3</sup> Reading rooms were separate sections of libraries which housed (noncirculating) newspapers and periodicals for the perusal of patrons. One Janesville observer noted:

The reading rooms are a great accessory [sic] to the library itself and are perhaps of more invaluable benefit than the library, as they furnish a pleasant place for evening occupation as well as the most desirable working [area for?] the topics of the day. These rooms are constantly frequented by young men who perhaps have no other place in which to spend their evenings and certainly no other opportunity of access to the literature of the day.<sup>4</sup>

The First Annual Report of the Board of Directors noted that the reading rooms were "...constantly frequented by persons of all classes, but especially by young men who find them a pleasant place in which to spend their evenings, and who are glad of this opportunity for access to the literature of the day."<sup>5</sup> The reading rooms were such a popular adjunct of the JPL that reading

space was critical, and frequently every seat was occupied, especially during the fall and winter evenings.<sup>6</sup>

Although access to the reading room was not restricted to males, it was clearly an acknowledged province of men. As the American library became increasingly subject to "feminized propriety," there were calls to restore a library atmosphere acceptable to males, and the most commonly employed method was the creation of reading rooms exclusively for men. The JPL Board authorized a Men's Reading Room in the lower rooms of the library building in 1911 to accommodate the needs and interests of Janesville's working class men.<sup>7</sup> The room was to provide a sanctuary for men to read, to smoke and to play checkers in the company of other men. This arrangement had been successful in northern Wisconsin lumber regions and was adopted by public libraries of Madison, Wisconsin, and Jacksonville, Michigan among others. In Janesville, the experiment was relatively short-lived.<sup>8</sup> Despite its role as an educational repository for current periodical literature, the reading room eventually filled the more informal function of a social parlor for young adults--much to the chagrin of librarians. By the mid 1930s, discipline was a problem in the adult reading room as high school

students congregated there every evening to rendezvous with friends. The Board considered such drastic action as restricting student access to the reading room, requiring passes, or having one teacher each night supervise the reading room.<sup>9</sup> But, to the library patron of the late nineteenth-century, the reading room was a valuable and welcome adjunct to the cultural and educational function of the public library. Modern versions of the reading room are seldom separate physical entities, but they are no less important to library patrons as a source of or setting for reading enjoyment.

#### The Library as an Educational Force

From its inception, the JPL, as well as other libraries nationwide, hailed its special contribution to the educational and cultural enlightenment of its patrons. Librarians shared the nineteenth-century faith in the universal education of the masses, and they saw in the library an excellent mechanism for encouraging self-development in the common man.<sup>10</sup> The library has "...generally been considered as evidence of the humanitarian and democratic ethos of American society and history." It was (and is) viewed by many as the counterpart to the public school in

providing economic and educational opportunity to the common people of America. By the late 1890s, librarians commonly couched their institution in terms of its educational function, an institution coordinate to the public schools, serving students and teachers alike as the "people's university."<sup>11</sup>

The JPL Board of Directors proudly summarized the library's first year of operation in just those terms:

It is believed that a large number of families have availed themselves of the privileges afforded by the library than represented in the public schools of the city. The benefits arising from a free distribution of books among so large a number of families, many of whom are entirely unable to purchase them, can hardly be over estimated.<sup>12</sup>

The Directors noted further that "A school education is of little benefit that is not supplemented by a course of reading...."<sup>13</sup> In 1899, the Board touted the library as second only to the school system as an educational force and called for its continued economic support and growth in the face of threatened funding reductions.<sup>14</sup>

The theme of the Library as an educational force continued to be a popular one in Janesville and elsewhere. The image of the "people's university" was frequently invoked to persuade

recalcitrant adult patrons to regularly use library resources for self-improvement and intellectual development.

The public library offers to the boy or girl an opportunity to continue what education he or she has missed.<sup>15</sup>

And elsewhere:

Yet at your very door is a free university, a college which you can attend without entrance examinations and without price. All this "Free University of the People" requires of you is your own diligent application to study. Prove your efficiency by attending this Free University--the Public Library.<sup>16</sup>

One concrete way in which the JPL served as the "people's university" was through cooperation with local study groups and clubs. Books requested by community study groups were withdrawn from circulation and reserved as special reference collections. This particular request by organizations undoubtedly delighted librarians who subscribed to the concept of self improvement for the masses.

The educational and social role of the public library was often the topic of professional library association meetings throughout the early part of this century. The keynote topic of the Twenty First Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Library

Association was entitled "The Library as an Educational and Civic Force." The conference convened in Janesville on February 21-23, 1912, and featured such speeches as "The Opportunity of the Public Library to Serve the High School;" "What the Librarian Needs from the Schools;" and "The Library as an Educational Agency."<sup>17</sup> The JPL consolidated its local preeminence as an educational institution by establishing a close working relationship and cooperation with area schools--a relationship which has continued to this day, and which will be discussed in detail later (See Chapter 3).

The early establishment of public libraries in the United States was marked by a felt "cultural superiority" by librarians and library advocates. Librarians concentrated on providing patrons with the books necessary to meet the educational objectives of the agency. Novels were viewed merely as stepping stones to the patron's serious literary reading, and their popularity with library users was viewed with disdain and some alarm. In fact, early in the nineteenth-century public library movement, the role of "recreational" reading was specifically rejected by leading authorities and such prominent libraries as the Boston Public Library. An influential report of 1876 emphatically maintained that the role of the public library was

not to supply popular novels of the day in competition with book clubs, but to "elevate" the reading interest of the public. It specifically enjoined small libraries not to surrender to the dictates of "popularity."<sup>18</sup>

The distrust of mass popular literature fostered by prominent leaders of the library profession was increasingly ridiculed by younger generations of librarians who resigned themselves to the fact that the "elevation" of literary taste was a losing proposition:

What an amount of misconception it would save if we would all admit that the order of things is pretty fairly established, and part of it seems to be that people with tastes for the highest literature are few and far between.<sup>19</sup>

The JPL, like its counterparts elsewhere, concentrated its early collection and circulation efforts on non-fiction; only after 1900 did it resign itself to the fact that serving the recreational interests and needs of patrons was a necessary and proper function.<sup>20</sup> So firmly established is this service concept today that in the early 1960s the JPL established a "rent a best-seller" program. Patrons who did not want to wait for the regular copies could check out the rental copy for two cents per day. This collection was discontinued in the mid-1960s and a commercial leasing program was initiated in 1964-65.<sup>21</sup>



The latter program continued for a number of years and was revived in 1978. In addition, the JPL has developed an extensive collection of paperback books (novels) to meet the demands of patrons for popular fictional literature.

Skepticism of popular literature played some role in the early collection development of the JPL as the library concentrated on building an educational resource for the community. Early reports of the Board of Directors detail the upgrading and development of the library's reference and encyclopedia collection in conformity with the Library's educational mission.

Especial attention has been given to obtaining works of reference of a historical, political, and scientific character, which are found to be exceedingly valuable to the advanced pupils in the city schools.<sup>22</sup>

By 1889, the JPL was said to have a "creditable" collection of encyclopedias and references, as the Board had given it urgent priority.<sup>23</sup> One method by which the library's magazine, pamphlet, and public document (reference) collection expanded was through direct appeals to the community for donations. Donated copies which the library did not own were then made available to the public, and copies which were duplicates of the JPL collection

were then exchanged with other libraries for missing volumes and editions. The drive continued for at least two years and was reportedly very successful in expanding the library's holdings in certain deficient areas.<sup>24</sup>

The emphasis on educational and cultural value continued at JPL. Circulation statistics were compiled and reported annually with declines in the fiction category highlighted as evidence of the library's fulfillment of its cultural mission. For example, in 1913 a steady and substantial increase in non-fiction circulation was reported between 1 July 1912 and 1 January 1913.

These statistics show that the public library is serving an ever-widening circle of readers, that the readers appreciate...the ability of the library to provide culture and self-improvement.<sup>25</sup>

As late as 1942, the JPL continued to highlight circulation statistics of fiction/non-fiction as indices of readers' interest and (implicitly) sophistication.

One method by which librarians sought to encourage the circulation of non-fiction was through the "two-book system," a device widely instituted in American public libraries by the 1890s. Commonly, the system allowed patrons to check out two books at one time, if one was not fiction. Recall that patrons

were routinely limited to one book during this era.<sup>26</sup> The JPL Board voted in 1897 to institute this system in a variant form. The library issued two library cards to patrons, which entitled borrowers to draw one book of any class from the library, and the second to draw a book from any class other than fiction and juvenile. The library publicized the new system to the community through newspaper articles and thereby took the initiative in encouraging adult patronage.<sup>27</sup>

Within eight years of its establishment, the JPL Board of Directors pointed with pride to the accomplishments of the community's public library; predictably, the praise was steeped in terms of the library's contribution to the intellectual and cultural welfare of Janesville's citizens:

The library long since passed the period of being an experiment. It has become one of the established institutions of the City, generously entertained for the intellectual welfare of the people. Its intrinsic value is no longer small. Its future development is of the greatest importance.<sup>28</sup>

The JPL has continued its important role as provider of educational information throughout the twentieth-century, but the emphasis of that service is influenced by technological developments in the field of electronic communication. For

example, in 1974 the JPL began to experiment with offering educational TV programs and special events through Cable TV's public access policy. One series emphasized staff and services and the second emphasized arts and crafts and featured local artists as guests. Special emphasis was placed on Cable TV programs during National Library Week. Significantly, one program planned by the JPL with the sponsorship of the Janesville Literacy Council was "Our Local Free University," a continuation of an age-old theme in the development of library services.<sup>29</sup> One innovative project offered in cooperation with the Rock County Library Service provided educational toys and games to county residents beginning in March 1977. The program was an effort to meet the changing and increasingly complex educational needs and interests of Rock County's young children.

#### Library Cataloging and Classification

A basic and immediate problem of all public libraries is the development and maintenance of a catalog and classification system by which librarians and patrons can access the collection. The common arrangement in nineteenth-century libraries, and JPL was no exception, was to close the shelves to patrons; open shelves, it was commonly believed, would lead to

disorder, theft, and encourage "aimless" reading. The closed shelf arrangement necessitated a catalog form by which the patron could identify and request volumes. The most common form of catalog was a printed and bound version sold to the public at nominal cost and periodically updated with supplements. Public libraries felt a special need to print catalogs because it increased circulation.<sup>30</sup> Catalog organization, however, became increasingly unable to cope with complex cross-references, and the task was further compounded by a system of allocating each book to a fixed shelf location, generally according to its date of acquisition. References of closely related topics were therefore often widely separated from one another in the shelf arrangement.<sup>31</sup> The printed form of the library catalog used by the JPL and its predecessors became increasingly costly to reproduce and to update. Generally, use of the printed catalog declined nationally during the 1880s-1890s as the move to subject headings increased the catalog bulk and cost.<sup>32</sup> In 1861 a new index system was begun by Harvard on 2 x 5 cards for the use of readers; it featured subject, author, title, place and date of publication, classification, and cross references. Within the next ten years, this system of card catalog design was adopted almost universally within the United States. The practical value

of this system was further enhanced when in November of 1901 the Library of Congress began to issue printed catalog cards; the card catalog thereby became a permanent feature of library access.<sup>33</sup>

By 1890 the JPL's cataloging method, which was based upon the YMA's system, was admittedly deficient and insufficient to match the growth of the library. The Board realized the importance of the catalog to the continued viability of the public library and reported that

The growth of the library...during the last few years, has made apparent the necessity of an improved method. The usefulness of the library to the public as it grows depends more and more upon the completeness of the catalogue.<sup>34</sup>

The Board recognized an expert was required for the awesome task of reclassification. It therefore took appropriate steps to hire a professional librarian for the express purpose of properly classifying and cataloging the library's collection. Mrs. L. B. Maxwell of Des Moines, Iowa was recommended for the task, and during the latter half of 1890, the JPL was converted to the Dewey system of classification under her guidance.<sup>35</sup> Shortly thereafter the Board adopted the card catalog form to provide

easier access to the library's resources.<sup>36</sup>

The conversion of the JPL to the Dewey system brought the city's library within the realm of modern library science and heightened consciousness of the necessity for professional, trained personnel for increasingly specialized and technical aspects of librarianship. The Board acknowledged the already burdensome duties of the librarian, but directed the Librarian, Mrs. Best, to adopt and execute the techniques employed by the consultant or face dismissal.<sup>37</sup> Mrs. Best was the JPL's first Librarian and the former Librarian of the YMA (See Appendix B). The work of Mrs. Maxwell was continued by a board member, Mr. H. L. Skavlem, who applied the techniques to the classification of public documents. So satisfied were the other Board members with Mr. Skavlem's contribution to the library that he was appointed librarian in October, 1891, while Mrs. Best was relegated to the status of Assistant Librarian. Mr. Skavlem's appointment was seen as a move to "professionalism." He was described by his peers as a "scientist and investigator well-informed as to library methods." Mr. Skavlem continued his reclassification of the JPL collection until August of 1893, at which time Mrs. Best was reappointed Librarian (Appendix B).<sup>38</sup>

It was not the last time Mrs. Best would suffer a demotion in the face of increasing concern for provision of professional service to patrons. By 1906 Mrs. Best was once again relegated to Assistant Librarian by action of the Board which passed a resolution recognizing her long service and pioneer work in the city library. The resolution further acknowledged

...the arduous and specialized duties that are required of a Librarian in a modern library such as ours. We feel the position demands a person trained in the technical knowledge of modern library work....<sup>39</sup>

The Board therefore appointed Miss Gertrude Skavlem Librarian, and Mrs. Best, Assistant Librarian (Appendix B). In 1928, the Board once again dealt with the complex problem of adequate technical services for the JPL; Miss Martha Podlasky of the Catalog Department of the Milwaukee Public Library was engaged for the month of February to revise the JPL's catalog. Without benefit of trained technical staff in its own catalog department, the JPL continued to seek the special knowledge and skills of other professional libraries and librarians.<sup>40</sup> The trend toward professionalization at the JPL was first and most immediately evident in the field of classification and cataloging--important issues of the day to the emerging library profession.



## Professionalism of Staff and Services

The increasing professionalism of librarianship in Janesville was not incidental, but was part of a larger national and state-wide pattern in which local professional organizations and state agencies were organized to guide development of the public library movement. On March 11, 1891 the First Annual Conference of the Wisconsin State Library Association was held in Madison with an open invitation extended to the state's librarians. Significantly, the Board elected to send Mr. H. L. Skavlem (not Mrs. Best) as the JPL's representative to the conference, apparently in the belief that he was best qualified to benefit from the experience.<sup>41</sup> The Wisconsin State Library Association struggled in its infancy to establish a broadly based organization, not a purely professional association, and it was influential in promoting a fraternal spirit among the state's librarians.<sup>42</sup> Its importance to the growth and development of library services in the State was superceded, however, by the State Library Commission which was reorganized in 1897 as a state agency to promote public library development in Wisconsin. In the latter half of the 1890s the reorganized Wisconsin Free Library Commission assumed enormous importance in providing public

libraries such as the JPL with the recommendations and services necessary to modernize and professionalize their staffs and collections.

Beginning in 1899, the JPL began to take advantage of the services offered by the Wisconsin Free Library Commission (WFLC). In December of 1898 the Board invited Miss Lutie Stearns of the Commission to the city to examine and report on the needs of the JPL and to give a public address to stimulate interest in the library.<sup>43</sup> Miss Stearns was an inspiring and dedicated promoter of public libraries in Wisconsin. She was librarian at the Milwaukee Public Library, a member and officer of the WLA, Secretary of the Free Library Commission, and Librarian in 1897; she was later appointed head of the Traveling Library Department, a post she maintained until 1914.<sup>44</sup> Her visit to the JPL resulted in a number of recommendations for the city library that were adopted by the Board: 1) Advised use of newspaper files on which papers could be hung; 2) Recommended magazine covers; 3) The use of cabinets for the card catalog and complete revision of same to include a subject catalog, title, and author arranged in dictionary form; 4) Need for registers; 5) Change in charging system to keep a card pocket in the book with card to be filed

showing borrower's name, date due; 6) Abolishing age limits for use of the library; 7) Simpler method of entries in accession catalog; 8) Employment of a Library School graduate during the summer to work on subject catalog; 9) Overdue fine reduced to one cent per day.

One obvious result of the recommendations made by the WFLC was that the Board requested the JPL's Assistant Librarian, Miss Calkins, to attend Library School at Madison during August with the understanding that her expenses and tuition were to be paid by the Board. There was an implicit realization that implementation of these recommendations required a trained and skilled staff familiar with current library practice.<sup>45</sup> The continuing education of library staff became a more acceptable solution to the problems of modernizing the JPL thereafter. The JPL continued to use the services of the WFLC in 1899 and in 1900. Miss Marvin of the Commission was engaged for a three day period in December to meet with community club committees about the making of bulletin boards; she also offered to instruct the librarian in taking an inventory and classifying new books. She recommended to the Board that local newspapers be kept, filed and bound for local historical interests and that a local history collection be started with lists of clubs, programs, church

members, etc. This collection is now housed in the Archives of the Rock County Historical Society. She made further detailed recommendations on the inventory of books, careful arrangement and labelling of books, and creation of shelf lists with notations on their status. She called for standardization of accession numbers and their placement on the books.<sup>46</sup>

Beginning in 1910, perhaps the most valuable service rendered to the JPL by the WFLC was the implementation of a "field practicum" for library school students; each February-March the Commission provided several library school students to assist the librarian with subject cataloging and reclassification. The services of the students were eagerly accepted by the Board as a means of updating and modernizing the library's catalog and accession records at no cost to the JPL.<sup>47</sup> This arrangement for technical assistance remained in effect at least until 1930 at which time the library continued to receive student assistance, but the source of that help appears to have shifted to the Library School.

Certainly, the WFLC was influential in molding the direction of public library development in Janesville and across the State, particularly during the formative years of the public library

movement. It provided public libraries with the advice and services needed to implement professional services, to train and to educate a professional staff, and to provide library school students with the practical experience necessary to execute the cultural and intellectual goals of the public library movement.

## Chapter 2

### Footnotes

- 
1. Minutes Board of Directors, JPL 19 March 1902, p. 25.
  2. Rules and Regulations of the Janesville Public Library, 1884, pp. 4-5, 9.
  3. Charles S. Thompson, "For a Broader Culture: Athenaeums," p. 54 and Doris M. Fletcher, "Read a Book and Sin No More: The Early YMCA Libraries," reprinted in Reader in American Library History, Michael H. Harris, ed. (Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971), p. 85.
  4. Committee on Rooms Report of Janesville Library Association, n.d., circa 1884.
  5. First Annual Report of the Board of Directors, 30 June 1884, in Minutes of the Board, p. 50.
  6. Third Annual Report of Board, JPL 23 June 1886, p. 88 of Minutes.
  7. Lutie E. Stearns, "An Innovation in Library Meetings," Lib. J., Vol. 31 (1906), pp. 55-57; Minutes of Board of JPL 4 August 1911, 8 December 1911, pp. 1, 7-8.
  8. Janesville Gazette, 10 April, 4 November, 7 December 1911; Janesville Daily Recorder 3, 31 December 1911.
  9. Minutes of Board, JPL 13 October 1933, pp. 143-44.
  10. Jesse H. Spera, "On the Value of Library History," reprinted in Readings in American Library History, Michael H. Harris, ed. (Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971), p. 9.
  11. Dee Garrison, Apostles of Culture: The Public Librarian and American Society, 1876-1920 (New York: Free Press, 1979), pp.

xi, 36-42, 90.

12. Library Committee Report to the Board of Directors, JPL 4 January 1884, p. 2.
13. First Annual Report, Board of Directors, JPL 30 June 1884, p. 50 of Minutes.
14. Annual Report of Board, JPL 30 June 1899, p. 68 of Minutes.
15. Janesville Gazette, 21 September 1914.
16. Ibid., 27 April 1911.
17. Ibid., 20 January 1912; 7, 15 February 1912.
18. U.S. Bureau of Education, Public Libraries in the United States of America, their History, Condition and Management, part I (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1876), pp. 395, 389-402.
19. Agnes Hill, "The Public Library and the People," Library Journal, Vol. 27 (1902), p. 13.
20. Robert E. Lee, "The People's University--The Educational Objective of the Public Library," reprinted in Reader in American Library History, Michael H. Harris, ed. (Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971), p. 121-22.
21. Irene Blackford, former JPL Director, 1966-77.
22. Fourth Annual Report of Board of Directors, JPL 11 July 1887, p. 109 of Minutes.
23. Annual Report of Board, JPL 30 June 1889, p. 150 of Minutes.
24. Annual Reports of Board, JPL 30 June 1892, 1893, pp. 202, 213 of Minutes.
25. Janesville Gazette, 11 February 1913.
26. Garrison, op cit., p. 91.
27. Minutes of Board, JPL 2 April 1897, p. 30; Annual Report of Board, JPL 30 June 1897, p. 34 of Minutes.

28. Annual Report of Board, JPL 30 June 1892, p. 202 of Minutes.
29. JPL Board Meeting Notes, 15 January, 19 March, 16 April 1974; 20 July 1976; Activity Report, 16 September 1977; Irene Blackford, former JPL Director, 1966-77.
30. David C. Weber, "The Changing Character of the Catalog in America," reprinted in Readings in American Library History, Michael H. Harris, ed. (Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971), p. 229.
31. Garrison, op cit., p. 4.
32. Weber, op cit.
33. Ibid.
34. Annual Report of the Board of Directors, JPL 30 June 1890, pp. 174-75.
35. Minutes of Board, JPL 9 July 1890, p. 164; Annual Report of Board, JPL 30 June 1891, p. 188.
36. Minutes of Board, JPL 16 November 1891, p. 182.
37. Ibid., JPL 20 September 1890, p. 164.
38. Ibid., 26 August 1891, 22 August 1893.
39. Ibid., JPL 6 October 1906, pp. 138-39.
40. Ibid., JPL 5 January 1928, p. 68.
41. Ibid., JPL 9 March 1891, p. 185.
42. John C. Colson, "The Public Library Movement in Nineteenth-Century Wisconsin," 1975; revised version of Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 1973, pp. 189-92.
43. Minutes of Board, JPL 14 December 1898, p. 52.
44. Colson, op cit., 1975, pp. 200-202.
45. Minutes of Board, JPL 30 June 1899, p. 66-67.



46. Ibid., 7 December 1899, p. 82-84; 19 January 1900, pp. 90-92.

47. Ibid., 12 January 1910; 3 January 1913, 2 January 1914; Janesville Gazette 29 March 1911.

Chapter 3

Cooperation with Schools and the Growth

of Children's Services

One essential feature of the JPL's contribution to the city's educational environment has been its long-standing and exemplary record of cooperation with area schools. As custodians of printed knowledge, the public library was early eager to serve the aesthetic values and goals of the American school system. In the United States, the movement for school district libraries had preceded the public library movement by nearly forty years; this movement was strongest in New York and New England and eventually failed because of small, inefficient districts and restrictive laws on the types of books to be purchased. As the public library movement gained momentum in the latter part of the nineteenth-century, the nature of the relationship between school and library was based upon interdependence and cooperation. The public library called its forces and resources to supply the books and services demanded by teachers and students.

Chapter 3

Cooperation with Schools and the Growth  
of Children's Services

One essential feature of the JPL's contribution to the city's educational environment has been its long-standing and exemplary record of cooperation with area schools. As curators of printed knowledge, the public library was early eager to serve the emerging values and goals of the American school system.<sup>1</sup> In the United States, the movement for school district libraries had preceded the public library movement by nearly forty years; this movement was strongest in New York and New England and eventually failed because of small, inefficient districts and restrictive laws on the types of books to be purchased.<sup>2</sup> As the public library movement gained momentum in the latter part of the nineteenth-century, the nature of the relationship between school and library was based upon interdependence and cooperation.<sup>3</sup> The public library rallied its forces and resources to supply the books and services demanded by teachers and students.

## The Nature of Library/School Cooperation

The first recorded cooperative program between the school and the public library occurred in 1880 at the Worcester (Massachusetts) Public Library. Samuel Green, the Librarian, devised a circulation system by which teachers were granted special borrowing privileges. His system offered two library cards to each teacher; one for personal use, the other for withdrawal of up to six books for students' use.<sup>4</sup> Other variations of this program allowed the school principal to select library books for student circulation from the school office. Undoubtedly, the cooperative effort which emerged between libraries and schools was influenced at least in part by an address delivered by Charles F. Adams, Jr. to the teachers of Quincy, Massachusetts. Mr. Adams' plan called for making each school a branch library in which the teachers would recommend titles for purchase and select books for students. The speech was widely circulated among educators, and his proposal was discussed in detail at the American Library Association Conference in Boston, 1879.<sup>5</sup>

The program implemented by the Worcester Public Library was

enormously successful and spread rapidly in the next two decades. In 1885, thirty-seven public libraries reported to the American Library Association that they maintained an official connection with area schools and that special privileges were granted to pupils and teachers. By 1891, most communities were estimated to have public library lending assistance to area schools.<sup>6</sup> The relationship which burgeoned between libraries and schools was favored by librarians who generally believed that it was advantageous to serve youth through loans to schools where teachers could guide students' reading interests and patterns and instill a lasting appreciation for books.<sup>7</sup>

In Janesville, a pattern of cooperation between the public library and the public school emerged in the 1890s and was formalized in 1897 when under provisions of Chapter 92 of Wisconsin Statutes, the high school principal automatically became an ex-officio member of the public library's Board of Directors.<sup>8</sup> Current statutes stipulate that the School Superintendent or his representative is to be a member of the public library board.<sup>9</sup> It is clear from previous analyses that the JPL early viewed itself as a useful if not indispensable adjunct to the city's school system. Chapter 92 merely gave

legislative assent to the informal but complementary relationship which had existed between the public library and the public school.

It is uncertain from the records available whether or when the JPL instituted the Worcester method of circulating books to teachers and schools, but certainly some variation of lending assistance did exist. The JPL certainly cooperated with area schools and local study clubs by reserving books and magazines for class assignments. A more formal relationship in which books were loaned to public schools and special privileges extended to teachers apparently did not emerge in Janesville until the turn of the century; there is a reference in the Minutes of the Board that the JPL Librarian and the high school principal, a member of the Board, were to confer on the matter of special teacher privileges and the use of library books in the public schools.<sup>10</sup> Just what decisions were reached was never recorded in the Minutes of the Board. The State Library Commission earlier had recommended that books charged to teachers for school work should not be treated differently in administrative/circulation procedures.<sup>11</sup> Eventually, a "branch" library system with city schools did emerge and seemed particularly effective and active

during the 1930s. However, the details of this cooperative program are somewhat sketchy.

### JPL School Branch Libraries

In 1918, under the direction of Librarian Mary Egan (Appendix B), the JPL established a plan to provide books to the public schools. The books were changed every few weeks by the Librarian in the beginning of this emerging school branch library system.<sup>12</sup>

The first detailed accounts of the JPL's school branch libraries appear in the Minutes of the Board, 1928-1930 when a major effort was directed at developing the schools' collection, and school visits to the Library were actively encouraged by the JPL. In 1928, the Librarian reported that "classroom libraries are sent to the schools some distance from the library." Reportedly, in 1930 books were sent to various schools, and in that same year, a modest school circulation of 3,700 was reported. Commonly, a library of twenty-five books was sent to each room.<sup>13</sup> Although it is not explicit, the focus of this branch library activity appears to have been exclusively elementary schools. In 1930 the JPL placed a branch collection

in Roosevelt School for the home use of children. An Assistant Librarian was scheduled to go to the school once or twice a week to check out the books for the students.<sup>14</sup>

Based upon the success of the school branch libraries at Roosevelt and Wilson schools, two new branches of the city library were established early in 1932 at Grant and Washington Schools. A collection of approximately 200 books was sent to each of the new branches. At Grant School, the JPL Children's Librarian and her assistant were to visit the school once a week, each on different days, to issue books to the pupils. Each class room, except kindergarten and first grade, held a special library period during which the school library was visited and books charged out. At the Washington School, a separate room for the library was unavailable, and so class room teachers of the second to sixth grades were assigned the task of issuing the volumes to their students.<sup>15</sup> In 1933, a fifth branch library was opened at Adams School and all five schools together showed a marked gain in circulation statistics. Books owned by the school as well as by the JPL were circulated at the school branches. The school branch libraries together boasted a 21 percent increase in 1933 circulation over 1932 figures with a total of 35,640 volumes

issued. The total circulation of the Juvenile Department of the JPL registered 85,254 in 1933, including the school branch issuance.<sup>16</sup>

By 1936, the JPL's school circulation had grown to 59,808 volumes reflecting the increased service effort of the JPL staff.<sup>17</sup> In September, 1952, a total of 13,500 volumes were housed in the five school branch libraries. The relationship between the school and city libraries was fostered by School Superintendent and JPL Board member, V. E. Klontz (Appendix E). A single staff librarian, Mildred Holmes, was assigned to serve the five grade libraries and to give library instruction in the schools.<sup>18</sup> This extension of library services to the schools occurred in a period during which on-site visits were routinely made and instruction rendered by the librarian in library use at the public schools and at the vocational school as well. Until the school branch libraries were established, and even afterwards, the JPL appears to have pursued a strategy of cooperation with teachers and administrators which entailed reserving references and books for student use in the library; compiling graded book lists of the State Reading Circle; purchasing books in conformity with the state reading list



requirements for high school pupils; visiting the public schools to enlist support and interest of young readers; and giving lectures and guided tours to students and student organizations on library and catalog usage.<sup>19</sup>

In addition to its drive to establish branch libraries at city elementary schools, the JPL also expressed an interest in extending educational resources to rural portions of Rock County in cooperation with professional educators. In 1920 the Board authorized the JPL Librarian to express to the Rock County Teachers Association the desire of the Board to "cooperate with the Board of Education in educational work with rural residents of Rock County by furnishing county extension service if an appropriation for that work should be made by the County Board of Supervisors."<sup>20</sup> There are scattered references to special borrowing privileges for county teachers from 1943 to 1979, but generally discussion arose only in instances where the cost of service was disputed. In 1943, county teachers paid a \$5.00 service fee for the privilege of charging ten books at a time for use in their classes; in 1964 the fee was \$4.00 for the privilege of charging twelve books at a time; and in 1979, in conformity with earlier practice, the JPL issued an institution card to

appropriate school authorities on which teachers (resident or nonresident of Janesville) could charge library books.<sup>21</sup>

The JPL continued to actively pursue a close cooperative relationship with Janesville Schools throughout the 1960s and to the 1980s. By about 1957, however, the position of Grade School Librarian was eliminated.<sup>22</sup> In the late 1970s, primary responsibility for promoting this liaison with school officials, administrators, and teachers was assumed by the Children's and Young Adult Librarians of the JPL. They strove to create greater teacher and student awareness of library resources and services through personal contacts with public and parochial schools, staff visits with administrators and teachers, and through in-service training sessions given to teachers at all three junior high schools to promote library services.<sup>23</sup>

At the request of the Educational Services Center, JPL librarians prepared bibliographies on "Learning Disabilities" and the "Emotionally Disturbed" for distribution by school and parent groups. In addition, a "Teacher Alert" packet was prepared with a list of Children's Department services available to teachers; a modified packet was distributed to day care/nursery centers. The packets encouraged group visits to the library by school and

nursery centers and are illustrative of the aggressive role the JPL has assumed in creating and maintaining a formal liaison with city schools.<sup>24</sup> The JPL also served as the resource center for the School District's Gifted and Talented Program. The JPL worked closely with the Janesville School District (JSD) to support and promote the program collection of educational games and materials acquired by the JSD for the public schools.<sup>25</sup>

The relationship between the JPL and the JSD expanded to include administrative/technical services in 1981. At that time, the JPL contracted with the JSD to supply centralized technical services for all media and school library operations. The move toward centralized technical services for multi-type libraries was heartily approved by the Division of Library Services as an economical and efficient means of providing quality service to area libraries. When the program was implemented, the JPL-JSD agreement was the first school/public library system cooperation of its type in the state.<sup>26</sup>

### The Growth of Children's Services

Closely allied to the nineteenth-century concern with public library/school cooperation was the issue of whether and how to

provide library services to juvenile patrons on a routine basis. Library age restrictions commonly ranged between 12-14 years and were obviously a deterrent to initiating children's services as we know them today. In 1876, one librarian called upon the public library to live up to its claim as an educational institution by exerting influence on young readers as early as possible rather than denying them library privileges.<sup>27</sup> However, public library service to children was slow to materialize in the United States. The primary concern of the American public library until the 1890s continued to be the needs and concerns of adult patrons.

The creation of a separate children's room in public libraries served a less than glorious function in many nineteenth-century libraries; often separate children's rooms were regarded as a welcome and necessary means of segregating juvenile patrons from a largely adult domain.<sup>28</sup>

What to do with children in the free public library is one of the unsettled problems of library economy. For the comfort of the elder reader it is certainly desirable that children should not come in large numbers into the main part of the library in which the public is given access to the shelves.<sup>29</sup>

The first separate children's collection in a public library

was established by the Pawtucket (Rhode Island) Public Library in 1889. Children were given free access to the bookshelves in contrast to the general practice of the day. By 1891 the Brookline (Massachusetts) Public Library opened a children's reading room furnished with one large table, ordinary school chairs, and tables fastened to the floor to reduce noise. In 1893 Minneapolis reportedly opened the first children's room in a public library.<sup>30</sup> The move toward provision of separate facilities and collections for children accelerated thereafter.

In 1894, the Denver Public Library opened a children's room with 3000 volumes, approximately 60 percent of which were fiction. The room's shelves were lowered especially to accommodate young readers, and juveniles were allowed direct access to the library materials without supervision. There was no age limit at the Denver Public Library, and young readers were not restricted to the juvenile collection--a very generous arrangement indeed by nineteenth-century standards. The Boston Public Library followed suit in 1895 with the philosophy that the library is the "nursery of good citizenship" and educated readers. The Boston collection was placed under professional supervision, and children also enjoyed free access to the room's

resources.<sup>31</sup>

The acknowledged pioneer of children's services in the United States was Caroline M. Hewins, Librarian of the Hartford Public Library. An inspiration to the profession, she initiated many of the methods subsequently adopted by others as part and parcel of children's services: stories read aloud to children; reading clubs; nature walk activities; separate children's collection established until separate library quarters were acquired; and separate catalogs for the children's collections.<sup>32</sup>

Miss Hewins was an able and diligent champion of library services for children. She compiled reports on children's services over a twelve year period and routinely reported her results to the profession. Her report of 1893 showed that of 146 library respondents, one-half had age limits of 12-14 years for young patrons; only one-fourth had no age limit at all; and only five planned to hire special assistants for juvenile library users. A report of 1897 already indicated great over-crowding in areas reserved for juveniles, and libraries turned increasingly to hiring special staff to deal with the volume of children who inundated the public library system.<sup>33</sup>

The turning point for children's services in American public libraries occurred in 1896 as separate facilities were announced around the country. The Children's Room became an element of architectural design of public libraries and increasing attention was paid to creating a suitable decor. A ground floor location for children's rooms was preferred; framed pictures and art objects were recommended for display; large, bright bulletin boards erected; and chairs and tables suitable to young readers were installed. Increasingly, the view shifted toward granting juveniles direct access to the collection. Librarians initiated an active publicity campaign to enlist readers, and collections suitable for teachers' school curriculums were built. Many of these "progressive" ideals were incorporated in the Milwaukee Public Library's Children's Room in 1898. Children were allowed to volunteer to work in the library room with assignment to a section of the collection. Appropriate illustrations and posters were used to identify reading areas. Framed pictures and art objects were displayed and live plants brightened the room's decor.<sup>34</sup> It was an ambitious plan to include children in the library routine and thereby instill a greater appreciation for books.

## The Growth of Children's Services at the JPL

In Janesville, the Public Library Association had allotted a fund of \$35.00 for the purchase of juvenile books for the City's fledging public library soon after service was initiated in 1883. On a modest scale, the Directors of the Free Public Library continued the commitment to juvenile literature by allocating \$9.45 of the remaining book fund for the purchase of children literature in 1884.<sup>35</sup> The use of the JPL by young patrons was effectively limited by the library policy which set a minimum age limit of 15 years for borrowing privileges. Minors were allowed borrowing privileges upon signature of an obligation by their parents, guardians, or other responsible adult. Age restrictions upon juvenile patrons were common in the late nineteenth-century, although its desirability was the subject of some debate within the profession.

The initiation of children's services at the JPL was not without some controversy, however. In 1894, the JPL Board rescinded loan privileges to children under 12 and between the ages of 12-15 years to forestall what they termed an "abuse" of the privilege by juvenile patrons. Reportedly, young readers were making a "game" of library circulation by competing with one



another to check out the most books in a given week. In some instances, young children were noted to be drawing books daily. Not least among the Board's concern was the increased workload the Librarian was required to shoulder while trying to cope with the accelerated demands for service and the increased wear and tear on books.

According to the revised library policy instituted by the Board to "correct the evil...", loans to juveniles required the written order of an adult in whose name a library card was issued; the adult thereby became responsible for the actions of his children.<sup>36</sup> The increasing importance of young readers to library growth is reflected in the fact that the Board lamented that their action reduced circulation in 1895/96 over levels reported in 1893/94; yet, the action was defended as a necessary and proper means of curtailing library abuse.<sup>37</sup> The Board's action of 1895 elicited a cluck in 1929 from the JPL Librarian, Miss Emily Moeser, who observed:

That ruling would indicate the library of 1895 was a storehouse for books rather than a collection from which books could be borrowed and read.<sup>38</sup>

Certainly, the fact that the JPL experienced such a phenomenal (unwanted and unsolicited) increase in juvenile patronage in

1893-94 is illustrative of the new direction the public library was required shortly to take.

Locally, the needs of young readers could no longer be ignored nor wished away by 1900. A visiting representative of the State Library Commission criticized the JPL for its inadequate collection of children's books and recommended that a large percent of all the money appropriated for new books be directed at rectifying the deficiency. The visiting librarian suggested that the JPL begin with the list of children's books in the pamphlet, "List of Books for a Township Library."<sup>39</sup> At the recommendation of the State Library Commission, the JPL Board agreed to create a separate children's room to accommodate the number of juvenile patrons desiring library service.<sup>40</sup>

Additional rooms on the third floor of the Phoebus Block were rented in 1900 from Mr. Pliny Norcross (Appendix D) to house the juvenile collection, and local organizations and individuals pitched in to assist in a variety of ways. The Angle Worm Club and other groups loaned the JPL chairs and tables for the children, and Mr. H. L. Skavlem, former Board Member and Librarian, loaned his collection of stuffed birds and specimens for display. Mr. Skavlem's bird collection remained housed in

the Children's Room for many years, and remnants of that collection are now in the possession of the Rock County Historical Society. In addition to the loan of equipment, the JPL was also the recipient of volunteer service as well. Various women's clubs agreed to help operate and maintain the room and to assist the librarian with general library work.<sup>41</sup> Within one year of its opening, the Children's Room of the JPL accounted for one-third of the library's total circulation of 46,904 while its collection comprised only one-tenth of the total library holdings.<sup>42</sup> All in all, the debut of the JPL Children's Room was a memorable community success.

The rental of additional space for a children's room in 1900 dramatized the need for more suitable quarters for the entire city library. With limited resources at their disposal, the JPL Board boldly appealed to the generosity of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to supply a portion of the needed capital for construction of a new municipal library building. Carnegie had embarked on a widely hailed program of library funding between 1886 and 1896; from 1898 to 1903, his donations to municipal governments peaked to an all time high with a gradual leveling off by 1919.<sup>43</sup> Carnegie seemed, therefore, a likely source of

financial support for the city's proposed library building, and Judge Fifield, a JPL Board member, personally wrote the philanthropist on behalf of the JPL (See Appendix D).

Judge Fifield's case for a new municipal library building cited "sadly cramped quarters on the second floor in a back building...as a veritable fire trap." He noted that creation of the Children's Room in 1900 had helped to relieve congestion in the library, but it had also increased the agency's expenses as well. He pledged that the city would raise enough money to purchase a lot and that a yearly appropriation of between \$3000 and \$3500 for maintenance would be allocated if a donation was made by Mr. Carnegie for the library building.<sup>44</sup> Judge Fifield's efforts met with considerable success: Carnegie agreed to finance \$30,000 for the proposed structure on promise of a site and \$3000 per year support; the City Council gladly accepted his offer and appropriated \$3500 for library maintenance.<sup>45</sup>

A separate Children's Room became an architectural feature of the proposed Carnegie Library Building, and JPL Board members visited Madison area libraries for suggestions and ideas on designing the reading, reference, and children's rooms.<sup>46</sup> The construction of the new Children's Room was financed with a

\$10,000 bequest from F. S. Eldred who desired that a memorial plaque be erected in memory of his daughter, Adah W. Eldred Sayre.<sup>47</sup>

For the official opening of the Carnegie Library Building, on 15 June 1903, the Board voted to establish an open-shelf policy, and the library devoted a greater portion of time, money and energy to the needs and interests of children. In contrast to the experience of the 1890s, the JPL actively encouraged attendance by juvenile patrons through school visits and various educational/entertainment activities. Following precedents established in the 1890s by Miss Hewins, the JPL children's assistants initiated regular "story hours" to attract and entertain young readers, a strategy which has continued its success to the present. In 1911, during the month of April, the JPL children's assistants directed a story hour on Saturday mornings which staggered attendance of grades kindergarten to fourth. The program was extremely successful and netted an attendance of over 90 youngsters in the first week.<sup>48</sup>

Story hour became a regular, permanent feature of JPL children's services thereafter and was discontinued in the summer only. During the 1930s, the librarians noted a decrease in

attendance at Story Hour because of increased competition from movie houses which offered free Saturday matinees. To combat this siphoning of young readers, the JPL resumed its fall visits to the city schools and even used an attendance contest between schools to create friendly competition and to revive interest in the Story Hour. In fact, the library broadcast Story Hour on WCLO Radio on Saturday afternoons in an ingenious and determined effort to revive interest in reading through mass communication.<sup>49</sup> Evidently, the efforts of the JPL met with considerable success, for by the fall of 1941, the Librarian proudly reported to the Board that over 900 children had attended opening day of the Library's Story Hour; not less than 300 attended each Saturday session thereafter.<sup>50</sup> During the 1960s and 1970s, Saturday Story Hours were discontinued, and storytelling began to be staged for holiday and thematic events. In 1969, a picture book story period was initiated. The ever-popular storytelling events continued to draw such large crowds that by 1983, the JPL constructed (in its 1968 Main Street facility) a separate Children's Story Hour Room with funds provided by the Woodruff Trust.

Consistent with the JPL's "new" (1903) mission to make

reading material more readily available to the public (through its open-shelf policy, for example), recommended books were routinely placed on public display in the Children's Room, as well as in the adult reading room, to highlight their availability and possible interest to patrons. The Wisconsin Library Commission regularly loaned book exhibits to the JPL and other libraries state-wide to promote judicious reading of various types of literature.<sup>51</sup> "Good Book Week," for example, provided JPL librarians with a forum for directing special attention to the reading needs of children. Visits by school children were highlighted, and special programs fostering good reading habits were planned at city schools.<sup>52</sup>

Other effective methods of eliciting reader interest among juvenile patrons included dramatizations of books and creating a summer reading program or "club" for children ages 8-14: the "Clock Club," "The Reading for Fun Club," and the "Victory Corps Reading Club" are just a few examples of those created during the 1930s and 1940s when interest was particularly high in this activity. Reading Clubs have continued to the present, and their names reflect the interests and activities of children bombarded by high tech and the mass media ("Rocket Reading Club," "Star

Wars," "UFO," etc.). Typically, reading clubs are goal-oriented and encourage the youngster to read a specified number of books to receive a certificate of recognition.

In 1980, the Children's Department created a puppet theatre with funds provided by a volunteer auxiliary organization of the library known as the "Friends of JPL." The puppet theatre is yet another creative device for capturing the imaginations of young readers through ingenious dramatizations of published and original fictional pieces. The theatre was built and staged almost entirely by library volunteers and is an enormous success for the library and the Children's Room in particular. An average of over 120 persons commonly attend each of three staged performances.<sup>53</sup> The puppet theatre is one very effective program for drawing youngsters to the mystique of the literary world.

Not content solely to implement children's programs within the library itself, more recent strategies have taken the librarian from the confines of the JPL out into the school and community in a type of "outreach" program. In 1979, in addition to the regular summer reading programs, the Children's Department contacted youngsters at the city's playgrounds where a Story Hour was held and books were circulated. Ten playgrounds were visited



in a five week period between June 19 to July 17, 1979, and two recreational areas were visited each Tuesday. The pilot program was successful in that it served 94 children and loaned 172 books. The program was continued in 1980 with the aid of National Reading is Fundamental Program funds.<sup>54</sup>

A "Stories Alive" program was implemented in the summer of 1980 with the cooperation of the Janesville School District and the City Recreation Department (now the Division of Leisure Services). During summer session recesses, JPL librarians and volunteers met with young students at the school playgrounds to conduct a story-telling period and to give students the opportunity to check out library books for home use. The School District also provided buses so that groups could have transportation to the JPL. The "Stories Alive" program was very successful and used the services of teenage volunteer story-tellers. An estimated 403 children were reached and 430 books were issued by the session's end.<sup>55</sup> This program is illustrative of the far-reaching changes and attitudes which have occurred in the library profession with regard to children's services. Increasing emphasis has been placed by the JPL on "outreach" efforts to reach young readers who have little

opportunity or inclination to otherwise use the resources of the public library. The continuing cooperation between the JPL and the JSD has been of paramount importance to the effectiveness and creativity of the JPL Children's Department especially--perhaps now more than ever.

A "Stories Alive" program was implemented in the summer of 1980 with the cooperation of the Janesville School District and the City Recreation Department (now the Division of Leisure Services). During summer session recesses, JPL librarians and volunteers met with young students at the school playgrounds to conduct a story-telling period and to give students the opportunity to check out library books for home use. The School District also provided buses so that groups could have transportation to the JPL. The "Stories Alive" program was very successful and used the services of teenage volunteer story-tellers. An estimated 403 children were reached and 430 books were issued by the session's end. This program is illustrative of the far-reaching changes and attitudes which have occurred in the library profession with regard to children's services. Increasing emphasis has been placed by the JPL on "outreach" efforts to reach young readers who have little

Footnotes

Chapter 3

- 
1. Dee Garrison, Apostles of Culture: The Public Librarian and American Society, 1876-1920, (New York: Free Press, 1979), pp. 52-53.
  2. Wilma L. B. Woolard, Combined School/Public Libraries. A Survey with Conclusions and Recommendations, (Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1980), pp. 1-2.
  3. Arnold K. Borden, "The Sociological Beginnings of the Library Movement," Library Quarterly Vol. 1, No. 3 (July 1931), p. 280.
  4. Garrison, op cit., pp. 55-56.
  5. Woolard, op cit., pp. 3-4.
  6. Ibid., p. 4; Harriet Long, "The Beginning of Public Library Service to Children," reprinted in Readings in American Library History, Michael H. Harris, ed., (Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971), p. 219.
  7. Long, op cit., p. 219-20.
  8. Annual Report of the Board, JPL 30 June 1897, p. 34 of Minutes.
  9. Wisconsin Statutes, Chap. 43.54(c).
  10. Minutes of the Board, JPL 11 January 1901, p. 116.
  11. Ibid., 19 January 1900, p. 89.
  12. Janesville Gazette, 17 December 1918.
  13. Librarian's Report, 1 January 1929, p. 84, 10 January 1930, p. 97 of Minutes.

14. Minutes of Board, JPL 14 February 1930, p. 98.
15. Janesville Gazette 30 January 1932.
16. Ibid., 16 January 1933, 17 January 1934.
17. Report of the Library, 1936, 1937.
18. Janesville Gazette, 20 June, 23 August 1953.
19. Ibid., 11 July 1916.
20. Minutes of the Board, JPL 12 March 1920, p. 206.
21. Ibid., 12 March 1943; 7 February 1964; 19 March 1974; 20 September 1978.
22. Gerda Frankwicz, former JPL Children's Librarian.
23. Director's Report, JPL February 1978, April 1980, August 1980, January 1981.
24. Ibid., January 1981, August 1981.
25. Ibid., October 1979, July 1980.
26. Memo dated 6 March 1981 to JPL Board, Arrowhead Library System (ALS), JSD, et al. from Dan Bradbury, JPL Director.
27. Long, op cit., p. 218.
28. Fannette H. Thomas, "The Genesis of Children's Services in the American Public Library: 1875-1906," Ph.D dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1982, p. 102.
29. John C. Dana, "The Children in the Public Library," The Outlook 54 (1896), p. 555 as quoted by Thomas, op cit., p. 102.
30. Thomas, op cit., pp. 103-104; Long, op cit., pp. 223-224.
31. Thomas, op cit., pp. 107-108.
32. Long, op cit., pp. 222-223.

33. Ibid.
34. Thomas, op cit., pp. 111-112; 114-115.
35. Minutes of the Board of Trustees, PLA 12 March 1883; Minutes of Board, JPL 19 May 1884, p. 144.
36. City Library Report, 30 June 1894, p. 228 of Minutes; Annual Report of Board, JPL 30 June 1896, p. 19 of Minutes.
37. Annual Report of Board, JPL 30 June 1896, p. 19.
38. Janesville Gazette 15 April 1929.
39. Minutes of the Board, JPL 19 January 1900, p. 88.
40. Ibid., JPL 7, 14 February 1900, pp. 94, 96-98.
41. Annual Report of Board, JPL 30 June 1900, p. 108 of Minutes.
42. Ibid., 30 June 1901, p. 141 of Minutes.
43. George S. Bobinski, "Impact of Carnegie Philanthropy on American Public Library Development," reprinted in Readings in American Library History, Michael H. Harris, ed., (Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971), pp. 165-65.
44. Draft letter to A. Carnegie from Judge Fifield, dated 19 February 1901.
45. Letter dated 6 March 1901 to Judge Fifield from J. Bertram; letter dated 10 March 1901 to Mr. James Bertram from M. G.
46. Minutes of Board, JPL 3 December 1902, pp. 52-53.
47. Ibid., 20, 30 March 1901, p. 123, 126; typewritten one page history of JPL on file in Janesville Room, JPL, n.d.
48. Minutes of the Board, JPL 1 April 1911, p. 64.
49. Report of Library, 1937, 1939.
50. Financial Report, JPL, October 1941.
51. Janesville Gazette 21, 24 November 1913.

- 52. Ibid., 11, 15, 20 November 1930.
- 53. Director's Report, JPL February 1980.
- 54. Ibid., June, July 1979; March, April 1980.
- 55. Ibid., May, June, July 1980.

## Chapter 4

### Community Service

Education, especially adult education, has been a major force in shaping the program of library services the JPL has rendered to the Janesville community throughout its history. The focus of these service efforts changed from time to time, from an advisory role and later to community services and library-sponsored group activities. It was, however, a progression consistent with the materials-centered services and informational and recreational functions of the JPL adapted to the needs of special groups in the community. Current statements of library objectives are couched in terms of the JPL's commitment to serving informational and recreational needs as a form of community service.

The general purpose of the Janesville Public Library is to serve the community as a reliable source of information, self-education, and intellectual stimulation and recreation through an effective library program of books, materials, and services.<sup>1</sup>

There is a certain ambiguity and common ground to the terms "community service," and "extension services" as librarians

employ the terms. Of necessity, service to community groups often entails implementing a broad range of "extension services" to adequately meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the target community. This study will examine library extension services separately (Chapter 5) and here will highlight the library's evolving and expanding sense of community service in terms of its role as a cultural, educational and civic organization.

#### Community Use of Library Facilities

Soon after construction of the Carnegie Library Building in 1903, the JPL was confronted with a series of new service demands by its clientele. Various civic and community organizations lost little time in appealing to the Board for use of the library's second floor facilities for club meetings and events. The JPL's Board implicitly understood that just as the library's physical facilities had expanded, so too had public perception of the library's obligation to serve the community interest in the broadest manner possible. Although the Board acknowledged its new commitment to community service, on what basis these services would be provided was matter for some discussion. There was no local precedent upon which to base a uniform or equitable policy



for extra-curricular library use by special groups.

Clearly, by 1903, the JPL had entered a new era in which it was required to function as a community center as well as a cultural and intellectual center. Subtle changes in philosophy, service programs, and publicity were required to more fully meet the challenge. One common thread united library policy of the time with regard to this aspect of community service--only literary and educational societies were allowed the use of the library building. The Board believed that any other use of library facilities was precluded by legal/philosophical mandate. Still, not until 1912 was this policy officially adopted by the JPL Board which voted that "Library Hall be rented only for musical, educational, or charitable purposes."<sup>2</sup> In actuality of course, this policy had been adhered to consistently by the JPL since the opening of the Carnegie Building. The basic commitment of the JPL to educational and cultural standards reaffirmed, the JPL refused the petition of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) to use a library room for meetings in 1905.<sup>3</sup> The University Extension Division, on the other hand was allowed use of the basement library rooms two nights per month free of charge presumably because this use was consistent with the library's

avowed educational mission.<sup>4</sup>

As early as 1903, the JPL Board appointed a committee of two to arrange the matter of renting a room to the various ladies clubs which had expressed interest in using the JPL's second floor Library Hall. It was decided to rent the Board Room to various clubs for meetings at a fee of \$1.00 per meeting.<sup>5</sup> One of the chief users of the JPL facilities during this period was the Art League which rented accommodations from the JPL for art exhibitions as early as March of 1904. In fact, because of its steady use of the JPL and its acknowledged contribution to local culture, the Board allowed the Art League to meet two times per week at the Library without charge.<sup>6</sup>

Inconsistency in rental policy was very evident in the early years of the Carnegie Building as the JPL grappled with the task of accommodating the diverse needs, interests, and financial conditions of special community organizations. A bewildering range of rental charges was levelled at various community groups in the next ten years. The Literary Society was allowed use of the "Art Room" at the rate of \$4.00 per night; the Art League was allowed use of the same room for exhibit purposes at the same rate; the Musical Literary Society was charged \$2.50 an evening

and \$1.00 for afternoon use of library rooms. The Apollo Club, Athena Class, Janesville Symphony Orchestra and Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) were other organizations which routinely requested library space for meetings. Evening charges were escalated to cover the costs of electrical lighting, heating and janitorial support.<sup>7</sup> By 1909, rental charges for the Library Hall were somewhat standardized for all groups and were based upon evening or afternoon use.

By 1911, use of the library rooms by community organizations was an accepted and routine part of the library's service concept. The librarian therefore recommended to the Board that lectures in Eldred Hall for literary meetings of the Twentieth-Century Club, History Club, or any other study club, be exempted from charge provided no lights or other service was required.<sup>8</sup> Pressures to expand the JPL's community service through provision of meeting rooms for local organizations mounted, and various women's societies were influential leaders of the campaign. Twenty delegates of the women's clubs met with Board members to petition the use of the middle unfinished room of the second floor as a meeting place. The women pledged that they would have the room finished; after considerable discussion,

the Board agreed to such action.<sup>9</sup> Just whether the room was in fact finished by the women's clubs at that time is doubtful, however, as they once again brought the issue before the board in 1916 in conjunction with a proposal presented by the Ladies Aid Society of All Soul's Church.

The Ladies Aid Society of All Soul's Church petitioned the Board to accept \$1000 from the All Soul's Fund to finish the center second floor room of the JPL as a public rest room (i.e., comfort station). The proposal was discussed in terms of its civic value to the library and to the Janesville community. The public rest room was believed to be "a certain and permanent source of benefit...and a permanent asset to the city." The mayor endorsed the plan as a "...worthy, civic improvement," and the proposal was soundly endorsed by a petition from a number of women's clubs, including the DAR, Civic League, Art League, Women's Relief Corp, Philomathian Club, Star Suidy Class, Twentieth-Century Club, Athenia, WCTU, Daughters of Isabella, Helpful Circle, Rebekahs, Triumph Camp Royal Neighbors, and the A.O.H. Auxiliary.<sup>10</sup>

In fact, the women's clubs took the opportunity to renew their petition of 1911 to finish and maintain the other barren

library room without expense to the Board with the understanding that the room be available to them and any other educational or "helpful" clubs or organizations of men and women. The women proposed to divide the south room into two meeting rooms so that more than one organization at a time could convene meetings. The Board approved the plan and prescribed the use of the rooms for study and civic clubs.<sup>11</sup> The JPL thereby demonstrated its concern with serving the "public interest" as redefined by library patrons and community organizations, but at the same time, it made it clear that recipients of these services must qualify as educational and literary associations.

It should be noted that no further mention of the women's clubs proposal appears in the Board minutes, and apparently, despite the best of intentions, no action was taken. Shortly after the public announcement of the All Souls Society's civic-minded proposal, the Society withdrew its offer. The women's clubs established club rooms elsewhere, and the second floor of the Carnegie Building remained unfinished until a motion was made in 1927 to complete it for occupancy.<sup>12</sup> Use of the second floor JPL meeting rooms by various community organizations continued however, and 1916 was a pivotal year for the JPL's

emerging concept of community service in this regard.

The first challenge to the Board's rental policy was voiced by the Art League which took issue with the library directors for charging their club a fee to use library rooms for an art exhibit. Club representatives argued that their exhibition of Wisconsin artists had been free and open to the public, and that they therefore should not have to pay a rental fee. The Art League's challenge to prevailing practice elicited some lively discussion among Board members. Some thought that city organizations should be encouraged to have free lectures and entertainment for the public, and others thought these organizations should pay a fee sufficient to cover basic library expenses. The Board resolved to charge no fee for use of the Library Hall by the Art League for the remainder of the year, but they also made it clear that they did not intend for their action to be considered a precedent.<sup>13</sup> Clearly, the JPL was viewed increasingly by the public and various private organizations as having a mandatory obligation to meet changing standards of public service ancillary to the library's established informational/educational goals. How these services were to be financially supported was the overriding issue to the majority of the JPL Board members in the early portion of the

twentieth-century.

For the next forty years the Board continued to individually examine the petitions of local organizations for use of library rooms for meetings and special events. The JPL policy continued to evolve slowly toward a more open use of library facilities by a variety of clubs and organizations, some with little or no pretensions to cultural or educational enlightenment. Political clubs, for instance were granted use of the library in 1920, and by 1922, the major criteria for use of the library by a community or civic group was based chiefly on whether the event they sponsored was free to the public. Where an entertainment was given for personal or commercial gain in the library building, a charge of \$6.00 plus janitor fees was levied on the group user.<sup>14</sup>

A separate Community Room was featured in the architectural plans of the current, Main Street library facility built in 1968 (Appendix D). At that time, renewed efforts were directed at defining access policy for various types of organizations requesting use of the Community Room with amendments made in 1971, 1977, 1978 and 1982. Commercial groups, or those charging entrance fees, were excluded as were political (partisan), religious, or social groups and unsupervised students. According

to these new guidelines, the Transcendental Meditation Group as well as the Parker Pen Research Division were denied use of the Library Conference Room in 1976 and 1977, respectively.<sup>15</sup>

Revisions to the Community Room policy in 1978 and 1982 made the rooms more easily accessible to community groups and to non-profit organizations, a fact that the Library Director noted with some pride. In fact, current JPL policy actually welcomes use of the meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions; the rooms are available to all community groups on equal terms regardless of beliefs and affiliations of members, provided the meetings are open to the public and not intended for commercial gain.<sup>16</sup>

Provision of library rooms to the public is now considered a valuable and necessary additional service which the library is able to render. The accepted importance of this JPL service to the local community was highlighted by the Library Director in the following statement:

Providing a meeting room for community groups and offering cultural and educational programs to the public are another aspect of community service.<sup>17</sup>

As the JPL developed more fully its concept of community service during the early 1920s, the public library became a



social and cultural center through its provision of facilities for local organizations. Soon the JPL explored new avenues of public service in this regard. In 1928, following completion of the heretofore unfinished second floor and the move of the Art League to new quarters elsewhere, the Board considered the issue of to what use the Library Hall might be put. Board member and City Manager, Henry Traxler, proposed that the Library Hall be offered to the Richard Ellis Post of the American Legion for the purpose of establishing a museum. The American Legion accepted the Library's offer to accommodate a public historical museum, but plans were slow to materialize.<sup>18</sup> The Librarian reported that the museum was installed, but progress was at a standstill in early 1930. "Except for a few Saturdays early after its establishment, it has not been open to the public. This has been a source of disappointment to many."<sup>19</sup> Eventually, the historical collection assembled by the American Legion in the library sponsored museum project was absorbed by the Rock County Historical Society.

The JPL continued to open its facilities to other community organizations in a similar manner. The DAR was allowed exhibit space and in 1930, the Board allowed a room on the second floor

to be used by the Janesville Little Theatre as a workshop. In the winter of 1932, in the midst of the Great Depression, the Board proposed to the Council an extensive library repair program as a civic project which would afford additional employment to Janesville workers. The Board justified their appeal for appropriations from the general fund in terms of the civic and cultural contributions the library rendered to the community at large.

With the library meeting with widespread civic appeal, new circulation records being established with each passing year, the board members pointed out that any building program undertaken should be more than a make-shift expedient, and that the building should be placed in first-class condition in keeping with its place in the community's life.<sup>20</sup>

Plans for library renovation were expanded to include construction of an auditorium and stage and two dressing rooms at an estimated cost of \$8,647.50. The auditorium was designed to seat 295 persons and utilized unused space on the library's second floor. The auditorium was intended to be a "center for community entertainments and theatricals" and was appropriately constructed to stage such performances.<sup>21</sup> The Janesville Little Theatre was the chief benefactor and user of the JPL auditorium for the many years of its existence, but many other organizations

also availed themselves of the service. Fifteen different groups reportedly used the library auditorium in 1948, for example, and only religious groups were excluded from holding services there unless they qualified as nondenominational. Through this unique civic project, the JPL actively fostered and consolidated its role as a community cultural center in a manner which transcended its traditional provision of books and materials alone.

### Other Aspects of Community Service

Expansion of community service programs in the early portion of the twentieth-century was based on the ideal of providing educational and cultural enrichment to Janesville citizens, chiefly through books and materials. As we have seen, at the JPL and other libraries across the nation, this traditional role was expanded to include implementation of a variety of programs and services based upon changing standards within the library profession tempered by local demands and resources. As the JPL soon discovered, good public relations was not only a desirable but a necessary ingredient of establishing the rapport needed to build a program of community service compatible with the library's educational and cultural mission.

As early as 1900, the JPL initiated a library publicity campaign with the assistance and advice of the Wisconsin Library Commission and the Library Extension Committee from the women's clubs. The Extension Committee planned to print placards calling attention to the Library and to place them in shops and public places. Boxes with instructions and applications for library cards were also to be placed throughout the city.<sup>22</sup> This particular project constituted an outreach effort to contact segments of the Janesville community which were unaware of the library's resources and the terms of their availability, and was therefore a pioneer effort to forge a stable liasion with the public and to increase patronage.

Concern with establishing good public relations as one aspect of furthering effective community service continued, particularly under the direction of Librarian Lydia Kinsley. In 1912, the JPL secured a booth and erected a library exhibit at the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Exhibition. It was the first time the library had ever advertised in this manner.<sup>23</sup> The publicity campaign continued as in 1918 when the librarian noted that "...there are a great number of people who do not appreciate the value of such an institution [library] and every effort is

being made by the Library officials to make the Janesville Public Library one of the most popular places in the city."<sup>24</sup>

Efforts to serve the public and at the same time to foster self-improvement in individuals, continued along traditionally established lines, particularly with respect to the library's role as an advisor to readers. The JPL early used the services of community organizations to develop more fully its advisory role to the public while at the same time enlisting popular support for its program. In 1899, the Board invited the women's clubs of the city to form a committee to cooperate with the Book Committee and the Librarian in preparing "bulletins of books in the library on topics of the day, and on subjects relating to public holidays, etc."<sup>25</sup> Suggestion cards were also issued to patrons to request books they would like the library to acquire. To publicize the library further, a \$5.00 gold piece was offered as a prize for the best student essay on "The Most Interesting Book in the Library and Why it is So."<sup>26</sup>

In 1900, the Wisconsin Library Commission recommended that the JPL establish a Reader's Exchange to gather the opinions of library patrons on books they had read. The submissions made by library patrons were to be kept and filed at the JPL for use by

librarians and the public. The Reader's Exchange would allow patrons to furnish input for use by the library in recommending books to interested, but perhaps uninformed readers. The Commission further recommended that these viewpoints, along with other items of interest and short book lists, be printed in the newspaper for the benefit of the public; these suggestions were to apply to non-fiction only.<sup>27</sup> Throughout the first two decades of the twentieth-century in particular, the JPL regularly released to the newspaper short articles concerning books and subjects of interest to a wide range of patrons, including farmers, music lovers, poultry farmers, railroad men, working women, and homemakers as part of its effort to serve the public in an informative manner. Publishing monthly book lists in the Gazette continued to be an important publicity device throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

The reader's advisory role continued in other forms. In 1923, the librarian required each staff member to read and report on a book for periodic staff meetings. In this way, the librarian hoped that each staff member would be familiar enough with the new books that they could assist patrons to make the proper selection for themselves.<sup>28</sup> More recently, the Young Adult

Librarian has routinely written book reports for inclusion in the Marshall Junior High Newspaper, and in this manner has informed young readers about the contents of new acquisitions. Other librarians have given presentations to interested groups on book reviews and related subjects, sometimes within the library setting, and often on their own time. A business information newsletter for small businesses and local officials was developed in 1982 with the dual purpose of informing business and community leaders of JPL materials available for their operations while simultaneously improving communications with both. These are recent aspects of community service and public relations that have met with great success and interest.

One valuable program in which the JPL rendered community service consistent with its educational goals was through cooperation not only with the schools, but with the University of Wisconsin Extension as well.

University lectures are being held in towns far distant from the state university. The town library is the medium through which the classes and correspondent students receive their text books and required readings. This calls for close cooperation on the part of the local librarian and the university extension division.<sup>29</sup>

The extension division sent a temporary collection of books to

the public library to reserve for enrolled students. Alternatively, in the case of individual enrollments, the extension division sent the library a list of required books; supplements to the local collection were sent by the university if required.

In accordance with the aim of the library to help educate all classes, use of material which is sent all over the state is given. Not only the books that make up a part of the public library's permanent collection, but others which are constantly circulating and may be called for and used as needed are at command....This is one of the most complete and far reaching of any state's program for "bringing the university to the people" and all of these helps are available at the Janesville library.<sup>30</sup>

Cooperation with such programs made the JPL the local handmaiden of adult education while rendering an undeniably valuable service to the community at large.

Library sponsored exhibits and programs also composed one aspect of the newly emerging concept of community service. The H. L. Skavlem bird collection was a permanent natural history exhibition housed in the Children's Room until 1928 when it was removed to the second floor. Exhibits of exotic interest were most popular as travel-adventure books captivated public imagination of the day. In 1912, a collection of native Filipino weapons were loaned for exhibit in the Children's Room by Captain



Thomas L. Richardson. This collection too is now housed by the Rock County Historical Society. In conjunction with the exhibit, the JPL sponsored a lecture by a U.S. Army veteran on the Filipino weapons and the Philippine Islands to highlight local interest in the collection.<sup>31</sup> This lecture is possibly the first library-sponsored program in the JPL's history.

Articles from China, Japan and Hawaii were loaned for exhibit to the JPL by R. M. Bostwick in 1915 along with Philippine Island Indian baskets collected by the Bostwick family.<sup>32</sup> Other, similiar exhibits followed in the ensuing years and their public display has now become a routine aspect of JPL community service having educational and informational value. In 1969, the JPL inaugurated monthly case exhibits in which artifacts, curios and art collected by organizations and individuals are displayed to the public. Some exhibits have included model trains (1981); a door knob collection (1978); and Liv Ullman's doll collection (1979).

Regular exhibits of current book acquisitions were displayed in the library lobby and in the Children's Room as early as 1903 to keep patrons up-to-date with regard to new publications. Library books on a variety of topics were even displayed by the

JPL in the show window of the Reliable Drug Company to create additional interest in the library and its services.<sup>33</sup> The book exhibit tactic has been continued without interruption to the present as a tried and tested method of publicizing the library to patrons in an interesting and informative manner. Most of the book exhibits are thematic in nature and planned to coincide with events, special weeks and subjects of current or special interest to patrons. Book exhibits are particularly important aspects of publicizing National Library Week and other related thematic topics of special interest to patrons.

The use of open houses as a means of commemorating library milestones and of involving the public in the JPL's programs and services was instituted in 1915 to commemorate the library's 50th anniversary (with some debate over whether it was appropriate to commemorate service from 1865). Refreshments were served, orchestral entertainment provided and an exhibit of antiques and curios featured at the event. Earlier, in 1900, the Wisconsin Library Commission had suggested that an "Annual Library Inspection Day" be inaugurated, and although the Board approved the plan, there is no further indication in the Minutes that the open houses were employed as a public relations device until the

1915 event.<sup>34</sup> Thereafter, open houses became a more accepted means of forging good public relations. In January of 1984, the JPL held an open house to commemorate its 100th year of service to the Janesville community and to showcase recent renovations and alterations to the library building.

### Programs and Services

Two organizations were developed to further the library's goal of serving community needs through an effective program of books, materials, and services. The "Friends of the JPL" was created in 1978 to

assist the library in developing programs to meet community needs; promote knowledge and participation in library programs; aid in providing funds for special library needs (sculpture loan collection), and provide a channel for individuals and organizations to express ideas and suggestions for library usage and services.<sup>35</sup>

The "Friends" have been of invaluable assistance to the library in granting money and services for the implementation of programs and collection development. In addition, they represent an effective organ for community input on the quality and types of services the Janesville community would like its library to render.

In 1980, the Janesville Public Library Foundation, Inc. was created as an exclusively charitable and educational foundation with the purpose of developing programs to focus public attention on library services, facilities and needs in the Janesville area; stimulate and encourage the gifts of books, collections, endowments and bequests to the library and to receive, hold, manage and distribute such properties given for the benefit of the JPL.<sup>36</sup> Both organizations serve a heartfelt need for community input into the type and quality of library service desired while at the same time providing a mechanism by which these goals can be implemented. Both organizations will undoubtedly continue to be important factors in molding the character of community service rendered by the JPL in the years ahead.

Expansion of certain collections, programs and services is certainly one aspect of community service responsive to local interest. In 1929, the JPL began to actively collect musical books and musical scores because of intense local interest in music. Eventually this collection grew to include opera scores, a choral sheet music collection, a Memorial Music Collection established by J. Harry Scidmore, and curatorial rights to the

nationally significant Fulcher Music Collection.<sup>37</sup> A related collection and service includes the record-album collection of the audio-visual section (a sub-department of Public Services since August, 1983) which circulates popular, classical, and country music to library patrons. The growth and development of the audio-visual collection has been particularly sensitive to popular demand and responsive to technological innovations in communications and mass culture. Since the 1960s, the JPL has developed a collection of films, video cassette programs, cameras, records and albums, and computer software for loan to patrons as well as a circulating art-replica collection. Much of the growth of the audio-visual collection is attributable to the establishment of county-wide service.

Another community service is rendered through availability of a separate "Janesville Room" collection of historical data about the City. The Janesville Room was opened in April of 1972 as an event of National Library Week. It houses high school yearbooks, directories, newsclippings, plat books, etc. to meet the demand of local history buffs and genealogists for local historical material.<sup>38</sup> The Janesville Room has been a popular and useful collection that supplements the more extensive collections of the Rock County Historical Society.

Perhaps the greatest strides in public service have been made since the late 1960s as a variety of special services and library-sponsored programs have been implemented. The Area Artists Exhibits began in May of 1974 to offer local artists an opportunity to display their work to the public via the JPL. A Library Art Committee appointed by the JPL Board selects and schedules artists. Exhibits run for two months and are confined to the Library foyer walls. Art mediums have included everything from acrylic paintings, sketches and water colors to leather and fabric. The Area Artists Exhibits have met with a great deal of local enthusiasm by artists and patrons alike.

Since 1974, the JPL has prepared an annual tax information workshop with assistance to taxpayers provided via information and tax forms furnished by the Reference Department. Often representatives of the IRS or a private tax consultant are scheduled to make public presentations and to render assistance to patrons. In 1975-76 Genealogy Workshops were conducted by the JPL and a related historical exhibit prepared. The JPL cooperated with the Janesville Bicentennial Committee on an oral history project which chronicled the history of the Janesville labor movement; later, an exhibit of the project was hosted by

the JPL in cooperation with the Rock County Historical Society to publicize the findings of the study to the community.

A "Career Corner" devoted to occupational guidance and career counseling materials was established in 1978 to meet the community need for such a collection. A "Consumer Information Carrel" established in the same year culled together consumer information items from throughout the library as a single resource collection more easily available to the reference staff and to the public.<sup>39</sup> Another collection of job-hunting materials was set up in the Career Corner to assist patrons in finding employment, writing resumes, etc. The Job Carrel and Career Corner filled a community need to tackle the effects of prolonged local unemployment due to the 1981 recession. The Library Director was hopeful that "emphasis on serving the unemployed will further position the JPL as an information and resource provider for the community." In fact, it did just that. With the assistance of a ALS grant, the ALS established at the JPL the Job Education Information Center (JEIC) which furnished two circulating typewriters, out-of-state newspapers, exam books, and job information to the entire county library system. Three workshops were held by the JEIC with the "summer employment for

teens" program being the most popular. <sup>40</sup>

Other community service programs and activities have been offered in cooperation with other local organizations. In fact, the JPL has actively sought co-sponsorship of programming activities within the last six years. For example, the Homebound Program was offered in cooperation with the Janesville Volunteer Service Bureau; the "Her Story" (1979) Exhibit was conducted in cooperation with the Rock County Historical Society. A Kiwanis Club donation (1982) funded a film series on drug and alcohol abuse, human sexuality, peer pressure etc. The series was aimed especially at the community's young adults. <sup>41</sup> Other library sponsored events offered in cooperation with other groups, to name only a few, have included an "American Short Story Film Series" presented in cooperation with the county system in 1978; and a "Just Folk" series presented in the fall of 1979 featuring folk art, music and dance. The latter program received an Award of Merit from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for its quality and depth. <sup>42</sup> Many of the library sponsored programs are recreational in format, but undeniably educational and cultural in purpose.

A significant part of increases in service statistics during



the 1970s and 1980s is directly attributable to the high quality of programming offered by the JPL. Reportedly, 7,300 attended library sponsored events during 1978 alone--a statistic indicative of just how important programming efforts are to the current JPL community services concept.

1. JPL Library Development Projection, 1980-85.
2. Minutes of Board, JPL, April 1973, p. 41.
3. Ibid., 11 January, 8 March 1973, pp. 114, 116.
4. Ibid., 2 December 1970.
5. Ibid., 23 September 1971, p. 87; 7 October 1973, pp. 88-89.
6. Ibid., 17 December 1973, 7 March, 7 June 1974, pp. 93, 100, 102.
7. Ibid., 31 November, 6 December 1974.
8. Ibid., 2 May 1971, p. 192.
9. Ibid., March 1971, p. 192.
10. Ibid., 25 February 1976, pp. 103-107; Janesville Gazette 26 February 1976.
11. Ibid.
12. Minutes of Board, JPL, 7 April 1976, p. 115, 21 January 1977.
13. Ibid., 7 April 1976, pp. 113-114.
14. Ibid., 10 November 1973, 14 December 1973, pp. 267, 282.
15. Ibid., 20 April 1976, 17 May 1977.
16. Library Board Policy regarding use of Community Room, January 1978; Minutes of Board, JPL, 16 April 1982.

## Chapter 4

### Footnotes

- 
1. JPL Library Development Projection, 1980-85.
  2. Minutes of Board, JPL 4 April 1913, p. 41.
  3. Ibid., 11 January, 8 March 1905, pp. 114, 116.
  4. Ibid., 2 December 1910.
  5. Ibid., 23 September 1903, p. 87; 7 October 1903, pp. 88-89.
  6. Ibid., 17 December 1903, 7 March, 7 June 1904, pp. 93, 100, 105.
  7. Ibid., 11 November, 6 December 1904.
  8. Ibid., 5 May 1911, p. 195.
  9. Ibid., March 1911, p. 192.
  10. Ibid., 25 February 1916, pp. 103-107; Janesville Gazette 26 February 1916.
  11. Ibid.
  12. Minutes of Board, JPL 7 April 1916, p. 116, 21 January 1927.
  13. Ibid., 7 April 1916, pp. 113-114.
  14. Ibid., 10 November 1922, 14 December 1923, pp. 267, 285.
  15. Ibid., 20 April 1976, 17 May 1977.
  16. Library Board Policy regarding use of Community Room, January 1978; Minutes of Board, JPL 14 April 1982.

17. Library Board Policy regarding use of the Conference Room, January 1978; Annual Report, 1978.
18. Minutes of Board, JPL 13 July 1928, p. 78-79; Janesville Gazette 17, 18 July 1928.
19. Minutes of Board, JPL; 14 September 1928, p. 79; 12 April, 10 May 1929, pp. 84-88; Report of Librarian, 10 January 1930.
20. Janesville Gazette 6 February 1932; See Minutes of Board, JPL 5 February, 11 March, 6 May 1932.
21. Janesville Gazette 13 September 1932; See also 15 March, 6, 19, 30 April, 15, 25 June, 5 July 1932.
22. Minutes of Board, JPL 19 January 1900, pp. 87-88.
23. Janesville Gazette 13 November 1912; Janesville Recorder 9 November 1912.
24. Janesville Gazette 17 December 1918.
25. Minutes of Board, JPL 9 November 1899, pp. 80-81.
26. Ibid., 10 July 1899, pp. 71-72.
27. Ibid., 19 January 1900, p. 89.
28. Janesville Gazette September 1923.
29. Ibid., 6 April 1928.
30. Ibid., 13 July 1928.
31. Ibid., September 1912, 24, 31 December 1912; Minutes of Board, JPL 16 September 1912, p. 26.
32. Janesville Gazette 11 April, 19 July 1915.
33. Ibid., 30 January 1915.
34. Ibid., 25, 30 October 1915; Minutes of Board, JPL 19 January 1900, p. 88; 3 September 1915, pp. 89-90, 29 September 1916, p. 126.

35. Annual Report, 1978.
36. Articles of Incorporation, JPL Foundation, Inc., 1980.
37. Minutes of Board, JPL 13 December 1929, 9 May 1931, 16 May 1978, 17 April 1979.
38. Janesville Gazette, 22 April 1972.
39. Minutes of Board, JPL 18 April 1978, 18 July 1978.
40. Director's Report, JPL March, October, November 1982, March 1983.
41. Ibid., June 1982.
42. Minutes of Board, JPL 17 January 1978, 18 September 1979, 20 May 1980.

## Chapter 5

### Extension/Outreach Services

The information function of the JPL had been accepted from the library's inception, but discharge of this duty had of necessity relied upon the quality of the library's collection and strategies to increase patronage. Publicity had developed and been used to disseminate the news of "good" books available to patrons, but the extension movement sought to make these resources more widely available to all, often outside the walls of the library itself. It is not surprising that the JPL's first documented effort at library extension was directed at Janesville's working class men. The library was, after all, the product of a nineteenth-century movement that envisioned the education and self-improvement of the masses.

#### Early JPL Extension Efforts

Early library extension efforts in Janesville were directed first at increasing patronage and secondly at geographically

extending library service through the establishment of deposit collections or substations at local manufacturers. In 1900, with the cooperation and technical assistance of the Wisconsin Library Commission, the JPL established a Library Extension Committee composed of representatives from Janesville's women's clubs. This Extension Committee first tackled the issue of enlisting additional patronage for the JPL via a publicity effort that concentrated on placing placards and library card application blanks in local businesses and public places. The Committee then proposed to establish a library substation in the offices of local manufacturers.<sup>1</sup>

Specifically, the Committee proposed to establish, on an experimental basis, a library deposit collection at the Janesville Barb Wire Company.<sup>2</sup> The barb wire factory reportedly had a workforce of 40, a high percentage of whom were German and literate as well. The Committee obtained permission for the project from the factory owner, Mr. Harris, before submitting its proposal to the JPL Board. The plan, when presented to the Board, called for placing a box in the factory containing 25-50 volumes under lock and key for circulation under the care of a volunteer "librarian" (i.e., factory employee). The volunteer would check

out books according to library practices and standards. The idea for this extension/outreach plan was influenced somewhat by the Wisconsin Free Library Commission which employed a similar circulation method for rural residents under the auspices of the Traveling Library Department.

When implemented, the box placed at the factory contained 50 volumes on general subjects. Fred Capelle, a factory employee, volunteered as "librarian," and he reported a circulation of 500 during the first half year of operation.<sup>3</sup> The project was deemed a success, and apparently service to the barb wire factory continued for several years. However, in 1903, the plan was evidently out of action as the Board voted to give the book case to Mr. Skavlem for the Busseyville Library.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Skavlem had retired recently at Busseyville, and he requested the box for the local library there. There is no further indication that the ambitious extension/outreach plan was implemented at other area factories, although that was the desire of the Committee.

The JPL's industrial extension project was in many respects far-sighted indeed. Similar plans, even broader in scope, were developed elsewhere in the upper Midwest shortly thereafter. In 1916, the plan for the Chicago Public Library developed by Henry

E. Legler proposed development of industrial branches located in 100 places of work. Legler's ambitious plan for industrial outreach via "branches" was predicated on the premise that effective library service must be rendered within the target community and responsive to the interests of that constituency. Although his plan was never implemented, it would have required the factory to furnish the space and personnel necessary to maintain the collection. The public library was to assist the industrial library branch as a resource center, installing the collection and providing technical services to train personnel.<sup>5</sup>

The JPL Library Extension Committee unfortunately receded into the background entirely in subsequent years. No mention of it or its activities are made until 1920, and then apparently, this committee was composed entirely of JPL Board members and not representatives of community organizations. The library directed its revived interest in extension/outreach not so much at the working man as at business and industry in general as well as the medically confined. The issue of extending library service to the Chamber of Commerce emerged in 1920 as the Board discussed whether to establish a "branch" in the offices of the Chamber of Commerce. While grappling with its probable role in this aspect of community affairs, the JPL elected to retain its business



collection in the library and to furnish a duplicate catalog to the Chamber of Commerce as a gesture of its commitment to the Chamber's work.<sup>6</sup> More recent efforts to cooperate with and to serve business and governmental officials of Janesville has entailed publication of a newsletter (See Chapter 4).

The most significant and geographically widespread library extension effort of the JPL was the establishment of library school branches in 1918 with renewed and expanded service to area grade schools during the 1930s (See Chapter 3). Other extension and outreach activities of the time were more limited in scope but focused on serving a segment of the local population which was unable to otherwise utilize the JPL's resources. In 1923 the Board approved a plan to place books at the hospital and at the Chevrolet Plant, but whether the proposal was implemented at that time is debatable. In 1928, the Board held lengthy discussions on the question of whether to establish a collection of books in the hospital for indefinite loan as well as an open deposit station in some section of the city.<sup>7</sup> The concept of library extension at the time was strongly associated with the physical expansion of the library's facilities through the establishment of "branches" or "deposit stations."

The Mercy Hospital deposit collection was enormously successful and is probably the longest running library extension program of the JPL to date. The decision to establish the extension at the hospital was based upon the fact that many books withdrawn from the JPL were by persons who acted on behalf of hospitalized relatives. Under ruling of the Board, the extension was to be "a hospital branch of the public library..." with full supervision by the librarian.<sup>8</sup> The Superintendent of Nurses reported the book collection was invaluable. Juvenile books in the hospital collection were placed in the Kiwanis Ward on shelves furnished from the library's attic and erected by the Women's Auxiliary of the hospital. The hospital program was successful enough that the librarian planned the expansion of the collection in 1930.<sup>9</sup> By 1959, circulation of the hospital deposit collection numbered 5,495 volumes, an average of 106 on each weekly visit of the JPL librarian.<sup>10</sup> Circulation policy of the hospital outreach program was revived and revised in 1979 with paperback books targeted for patients on a weekly circulation basis. The interest in serving the medically confined continued throughout the 1930s when a deposit collection was established at the Pinehurst Sanitarium, the county tubercular facility located

outside the city limits.<sup>11</sup>

The JPL's library extension and outreach experiment of the 1930s assumed a somewhat unusual form of public spirit when in 1930 the library furnished nearby summer camps with books suitable for juvenile readers.<sup>12</sup> In 1931 it placed a substation at the City's firehouse. The Fire Station collection consisted of a total of 100 worn fiction books "to help the firemen pass their leisure time...."<sup>13</sup> Recreational reading was acknowledged thereby as an increasingly important aspect of public library service, important enough to warrant creation of a special outreach effort. The expansion of this type of project to a coordinated service effort was fulfilled in 1979 when the JPL hired a full time "Extension Librarian" to coordinate activities and to develop outreach programs in cooperation with other library departments and community organizations.

Since, JPL extension and outreach service efforts have continued to promote library services to special users either inside or outside the main library facility. For example, in 1974, service to shut-ins was initiated with the assistance of volunteers and the cooperation of the Janesville Volunteer Service Bureau. The "Homebound" service continued to grow in

ensuing years as its visibility was heightened through direct promotion to senior housing and retirement homes, public service announcements, and assistance from local churches.<sup>14</sup> In 1980, an experimental deposit collection was placed at Marshall Junior High School in connection with their successful SSR Bookmobile Program. JPL's "Stories Alive" summer programs, 1982 to date, offer books for loan and story telling at Janesville's public parks.

Other outreach programs developed by the JPL in the last four years, some in cooperation with the ALS, include deposit collections at the Disturbed Developmentally Disabled Unit of the Rock County Health Care Center, Cedar Crest Health Care Center, Janesville Health Care Center, St. Elizabeth's Home, Rock Haven, and the Rock County Jail. New and expanded services to these sites were made possible through a grant awarded to the Arrowhead Library System in which particular attention was focused upon serving deposit sites on a rotating basis.<sup>15</sup>

One important outgrowth of the extension/outreach program at the JPL was the development of an organized and structured volunteer program in 1979. The program enlisted citizens as nonprofessional aides for the purpose of expanding library

service at minimal taxpayer expense. JPL volunteers perform many supplementary library tasks, including assistance with outreach programs such as "Homebound" and service to the Rock County Jail, among others, as well as "in-house" services.

Library service to jails has become an increasingly important issue to the library profession in recent years not only from a humanistic viewpoint, but from a professional, and legal standpoint as well.<sup>16</sup> The JPL initiated library service to the Rock County Jail in 1980 with later expansion of the program based upon procedures used at the Huber Facility. Service to jail inmates is provided primarily with the assistance of volunteers and some supplemental assistance from JPL staff. The service was initiated to combat "idleness and boredom" as well as to improve reading and educational levels, to stimulate employment interests of inmates, and to provide an acceptable recreational outlet (i.e., "escape") to prisoners.<sup>17</sup> Over 5000 items were loaned to jail inmates in the two year period of 1980-82.<sup>18</sup>

Through development of programs such as this, the JPL has tried to provide sustained library service to targeted segments of the local community outside the folds of the main facility. Locally, for some time, interest had been high in the possibility

of expanding the City's public library into a series of one or more library branches strategically placed about town. Although the possibility of branch services was explored intensively during the early 1980s, at the JPL, the decision was made to channel resources toward enhancing and improving existing library service at the main facility as a member of the county-wide library system.

#### Library Branch Service in Janesville

Formal exploration of the possibilities for branch library service in Janesville was to begin in 1979 with development of an extensive community survey of library needs, including, among others, the feasibility of bookmobile service and the desirability and need for various other extension/outreach programs. The survey, however, was never conducted. Extension/outreach programs received new priority from the JPL with the hiring of a fulltime staff member in 1979 to develop and coordinate outreach services. In 1981, partly in response to queries by a concerned Board member, the JPL developed a subprogram to explore the feasibility of branch library development for future informational and planning purposes.<sup>19</sup> Funding for the subprogram was not realized.

Experimentation with "mini-branch" library development began in 1978-81 with a cooperative venture between the Janesville School District, the ALS, and the JPL to provide library service to Janesville's southwest community through an experimental eight week summer opening of the Edison Junior High School Library. The project was an experiment to assess the need for and response to library service in that part of the city.<sup>20</sup> The JPL provided 300 duplicate copies of popular titles and 50 albums for weekly circulation, assistance with reference, special programs, and cooperative circulation.

In its first summer of operation, the Edison Branch circulated 505 items, 90 percent of which were juvenile materials. In 1979, the Edison attendance and circulation figures doubled over the previous summer's, but the patronage continued to be largely children. As a result of poor publicity and lack of appeal to adult readers, the JPL made only a minimal commitment to the mini-branch in the next two years and critically reevaluated the status of Edison as an adult borrowing site for JPL deposit items.<sup>21</sup> Subsequently, the Edison Branch Library was denied further funding from the School District and the success of the mini-branch library experiment was at best

only a qualified success. Still, interest in serving the Janesville community outside the main facility remained high, and new service concepts were explored by the staff.

Yet another mini-branch library proposal was developed from the JPL's participation in Energy Awareness Week at the Janesville Mall during the fall of 1980. An exhibit booth was erected at the Mall and staffed with librarians to enroll new patrons, to circulate energy-related titles, bibliographies, and other information to shoppers and browsers.<sup>22</sup> The Energy Exhibit Booth was moderately successful as a promotional venture and a worthwhile extension of library services, according to the Extension Librarian who recommended that further additional library exhibits tie-in with selected shows and expositions at the Janesville Mall. It was also suggested that other commercial areas should be explored as possibilities for library outreach projects.<sup>23</sup>

The JPL experiment with outreach service in city commercial and business centers gave rise in 1981 to a proposal to establish a satellite branch facility within the Mall in a Porta Structure or kiosk. The kiosk mini-branch option was a highly successful venture in many cities with large suburban populations, and it



was believed to be a viable alternative for library branch service in Janesville as well. The JPL mini-branch was proposed as a library capital improvement item for 1981 under a multi-purpose general obligation bond issue.

It was believed that a non-traditional satellite branch facility in a Porta-Boutique, kiosk structure located in the Mall would effect maximum circulation per square foot at a minimal cost per item.<sup>24</sup> The major emphasis of a kiosk "Books-in-Mall" Branch was to provide quick and convenient access to a variety of popular titles and how-to-books as well as a core ready-reference collection. A juvenile collection of 1500-2000 volumes was recommended by the librarian. The kiosk would house a total of 10-12,000 volumes accessible to the handicapped with circulation desk and security features. Daily delivery between the JPL and the mini-branch would be required to maintain the collection properly. Ideally, it was hoped the kiosk would serve as an access point to the entire collection and services of the JPL.<sup>25</sup>

Also proposed in the 1981 program budget was bookmobile service as an alternative method of providing community outreach to isolated members of the community. The bookmobile would have operated between the library and strategically selected sites

where "special users" could avail themselves of the resources. The bookmobile would in effect operate as a portable mini-branch facility with great flexibility in serving targeted areas. Typical routes suggested included nursing and retirement homes, churches, playgrounds, institutions, day-care centers, and other public sites. The bookmobile would have contained 1000 volumes and required book trucks or carts for wheeling volumes into the buildings visited. Adoption of the bookmobile proposal would have eliminated the system of deposit collections established at targeted sites and serviced on a regular rotating basis by staff and volunteers.

Both the kiosk and the bookmobile proposal were dropped from further consideration in the library's capital improvement program for 1981 in favor of concentrating financial resources on library automation.<sup>26</sup> A conscious decision was made then to postpone development of a city library branch system in favor of expanding and enhancing the present service level through library computer automation. Automation was a particularly important option for the JPL in view of its position as a resource center for the county library system. Library extension and outreach activities began receiving low priority in 1983 as the Extension Librarian was reassigned to coordinate and supervise the

automation project, and later appointed Acting Director and then Director of the JPL. Responsibility for most of the JPL's deposit collections was then transferred to the Arrowhead Library System for service continuity. Undoubtedly, the JPL's commitment to library extension and outreach remains, but resumption of a coordinated program of service must await internal reorganization or staff reassignment.

## Chapter 5

### Footnotes

1. Minutes of Board, JPL 19 January 1900, pp. 87-89.
2. Report of the Library Extension Committee for work in the factories, February 14, 1900.
3. Annual Report, JPL 30 June 1900, p. 141 of Minutes.
4. Minutes of Board, JPL 23 September 1903, p. 87.
5. John C. Colson, "Form Against Function: The American Public Library and Contemporary Society," Journal of Library History, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Spring 1983), pp. 131.
6. Minutes of the Board, JPL 15 October 1920, p. 221.
7. Ibid., 9 November 1923, p. 283, 10 February, 9 March, 13 April 1928, pp. 69, 72.
8. Ibid., 8 June 1928, p. 77; Janesville Gazette 23 February 1929.
9. Report of Librarian, JPL 10 January 1930, p. 97 of Minutes.
10. Annual Report, JPL 1959.
11. Minutes of Board, JPL 18 September 1931, p. 118.
12. Janesville Gazette 4 September 1930.
13. Ibid., 13 February 1932.
14. Minutes of Board, JPL 15 January 1974, 18 September 1979, Director's Report July 1980.
15. Director's Report, JPL February, March 1980, September 1981,

January, March 1982.

16. Rhea J. Rubin and Connie House, "Library Service in U. S. Jails: Issues, Questions, Trends," Library Journal, Vol. 108, No. 3 (February 1, 1983), pp. 173-177.

17. Director's Report, JPL October 1979, Report of JPL and ALS Service to Rock County Jail Inmates, 20 November 1979.

18. Director's Report, JPL August 1982; Janesville Gazette, 18 December 1979, 16 January 1980.

19. Minutes of Board, JPL 16 July 1980.

20. Director's Report, JPL May 1978.

21. Ibid., June, July, August 1979, March 1980, July 1981, January 1982; Proposal for Edison Mini-branch, 17 April 1979, 13 February 1981.

22. Director's Report, JPL July 1980.

23. Energy Exposition Exhibit Report and Evaluation, 12 November 1980.

24. JPL Program Budget 1981; JPL Capital Improvement Items 1981.

25. Ibid.

26. Minutes of Board, JPL 17 September 1980.

## Chapter 6

### The Role of the JPL in County-wide Library Service

Throughout the evolution of the public library movement in Wisconsin, service to rural communities with no public library or with inadequate library services was the special province of the State. A coordinated program of state-wide library service with programs directed specifically at rural users began in the late nineteenth-century in Wisconsin with the creation of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission (WFLC). Fundamental to the Free Library Commission was the Traveling Library Department and the Study Club Department which were primarily direct service organizations, supplying schools, clubs and small rural communities with single books and supplementary collections.<sup>1</sup>

The Traveling Library sent small collections of books, usually 50-60 volumes, from one community to another. Targeted communities were primarily rural farming villages and villages without public library privileges or villages with inadequate funding for library services. The prerequisite for state loan of

books to a community was the formation of a local library or library association through which library services could be inaugurated.<sup>2</sup> Wisconsin adopted this method of rural service in 1895 and was the the third state in the Union to employ the traveling library system. The system was dependent upon gifts of citizens and clubs until 1903 when the legislature established and funded a Department of Traveling Libraries under the WFLC.<sup>3</sup>

The Traveling Library program was an enormously successful mode of supplying library service to rural communities during an era in which many municipal libraries struggled to institutionalize their programs and services for a narrowly defined local constituency. Eventually, however, the imperative to serve rural outlying regions peripheral to municipal library service became a concern of public free libraries such as the JPL. The institutionalization of rural library service in a coordinated and systematic plan had to await articulation by the WFLC during the 1940s, and it was not until 1969 that a county-wide system of library services was instituted in Rock County. The county-wide system was short-lived, however, and funding by the Rock County Board of Supervisors was suspended until 1974. A revision in Wisconsin Statutes in 1971 permitted

state aid to partially fund counties meeting requirements. After another study committee, the newly organized Rock County Library System was born. Service has been continuous since then.

The JPL demonstrated a relatively early interest in extending library privileges to rural users during the first quarter of the twentieth-century. Implementation of this philosophy of equal access was initially limited to rural residents with a Janesville mailing address. It is important to note, however, that the principle was early established that rural residents deserved access to municipal library service, although on what terms this was to be so was subject to some debate. Statewide, the interest in extending service to rural patrons eventually evolved into a program of county or regional service directed by state guidelines on the formation of library "systems."

#### Rural Library Service by the JPL

The first definitive statement of JPL commitment to rural residential service was articulated in 1913 by Librarian Gertrude Cobb.

Believing that a city o [sic] this size and the country immediately about it are mutually dependent,



and 'that the library which serves well the residents of the surrounding rural communities is best serving the interests of the city itself,' I would be glad to have this library grant its privileges without cost to all those living on Rural Free Delivery routes whose post office address is Janesville.<sup>4</sup>

Miss Cobb noted that the additional expense of her proposal was negligible and that the incidence of such service was on the increase in Wisconsin; forty-four libraries across the state were reportedly extending free library service to 'country people.'<sup>5</sup>

The JPL Board declined Miss Cobb's generous offer of free library service to rural residents, but it did lower borrowing fees to \$1.00 per year (or \$.50 per half year) for country patrons.

It is advantageous to the rural people to have such a system, and it is hoped that they will take an interest in the proposition. The lower fee charged should induce more borrowers to draw books for home reading.<sup>6</sup>

By 1916, the Board reevaluated the fee levied on rural users and voted to rescind the charge, thus extending the same privileges and rules applicable to Janesville citizens to country patrons as well.<sup>7</sup> During this period, the JPL Board agreed in principle that country borrowers (meaning those with a Janesville address) were entitled to free use of the city library; in 1919 they voted to

extend free service to residents of Milton and Milton Junction and to request that the County Board of Supervisors be asked to help defray the cost of this 'country service' in the amount of \$500.00.<sup>8</sup> This is the first indication of interest in extending the JPL's service realm to the county at large, provided of course that the county contributed toward support of such a program.

Although the proposal to provide free rural library service was a laudable one, in fact the JPL was unable to maintain a "free" rural service until the adoption of the current county library system in 1974. During the 1940s and 1950s, for example, the Board reinstated a service charge for out-of-town library patrons to cover the cost of such a program.<sup>9</sup> The fees charged ranged from \$1.00 to \$3.00 at various times from 1948 to 1964. Interest in extending the JPL's services on a county-wide basis with the assistance of national library aid was mentioned in 1957 as a possibility by Bernice Colby, Librarian. The WFLC took the offensive in developing a set of goals for the Commission to extend rural service under provisions of the Library Services Act. The Commission was particularly influential in directing the course on which local libraries would embark in meeting the

state's objectives.

As a solution to serving the rural population either with or without public library service or with inadequate library service, the Wisconsin Free Library Commission recommended in 1957 creation of a library "system" which would allow small local libraries and rural folk to share the costs of library collections, services, and administrative and technical services.<sup>10</sup> The WFLC clearly articulated the necessity for drawing together local community libraries into voluntary, cooperative systems on a county-wide or regional basis in order to establish a new unit of library service useful to rural patrons as well.<sup>11</sup> The WFLC favored the formation of federations of libraries in which the institutional independence of libraries was maintained, but the effect of an organized county library was achieved; the establishment of additional county or multicounty libraries through allocation of grants as an incentive for legal establishment; and the development of contractual library services from urban libraries.<sup>12</sup>

The creation of a statewide "system" plan has continued to be a primary goal of the WFLC's successor organization, the Division for Library Services (DLS), and it is predicated on the

premise that all citizens of an area deserve equal access to local library resources.

System library service is an attempt to equalize the access to and availability of libraries for all residents of a county or region. Library system development is both a statewide and a national trend; its underlying philosophy is that 'all citizens of an area should have equal access to all library resources in the area' and it is the responsibility of governing bodies to make such access possible and equitable.<sup>13</sup>

### Creation of the Rock County Library System

The JPL Board in 1965 officially tackled the issue of county-wide service when a petition to the Rock County Board of Supervisors was presented on September 15th to establish a County Library Committee.<sup>14</sup> Eventually, by recommendation of the Rock County Library Study Committee, county-wide library service was established in 1969 through creation of a Rock County Library Board which was to contract with local libraries for the service to be made available to libraries and county residents.<sup>15</sup> The proposal nominated the Beloit and Janesville Public Libraries as central county resource centers for the county organization, a function for which they were to be compensated financially by the County Library Board for the use of their materials by county

residents and libraries.<sup>16</sup>

The fledging Rock County Library Services (RCLS) was summarily abolished in the same year it was initiated by the Board of Supervisors. Allegedly, the cooperative services system of 1969 failed because townships balked at paying for library service in those instances where more favorable financial arrangements had existed with local municipal libraries; the dispute over funding the county-wide service induced the Board of Supervisors to abolish the system.<sup>17</sup>

Proponents of the county-wide system, both at the JPL and elsewhere, did not abandon hope of reinstating the service. During 1970, seven public libraries, including Janesville, Beloit, Edgerton, Evansville, Milton, Clinton, and Orfordville, formed a Federation Advisory Committee. The purpose was to continue some of the services previously offered under the short-lived county cooperative services and to work for the reestablishment of county service. The JPL served as Federation headquarters during 1970, supplying reference and interlibrary loan as well as bulk loan collections and a delivery service to the other six participating member libraries. A second county-wide library service proposal was submitted to the Board

of Supervisors in October 1970 only to fail once again. As a result of the Board's action, the Federation terminated in March, 1971.<sup>18</sup>

The RCLS was revived as a federated library system by the Board of Supervisors in 1974 and has continued to operate since 1979 as the Arrowhead Library System (ALS).<sup>19</sup> Discontent continued to haunt some library system members over equalization of funding and the special resource center status of Beloit and Janesville libraries, but the system has demonstrated its strength and survivability in the past ten years. The system actively registered rural borrowers and established an exhibit at the Rock County Fair for additional publicity during 1974. By July 1974, it was estimated that 10 percent of all Rock County rural residents were registered library patrons; 1977 reports showed a total of 12,017 rural county borrowers enrolled in the county system.<sup>20</sup>

The RCLS expanded rapidly in the first four years of operation. In 1976 it entertained short-lived hopes of creating a multi-county library system consisting of Green, Rock, and Walworth counties. By 1977, Green County declined the invitation, and the RCLS more realistically opted for a

two-county system library through a merger agreement with Walworth County. The proposed new system was to be named the Prairie Lake Library System. Debates over funding and the status of the co-resource centers continued to cloud the merger issue, and finally in December of 1977, the Walworth County Board rescinded its decision to join Rock County in a library system.<sup>21</sup>

Since the inception of county-wide library service, the JPL has served along with Beloit Public Library (BPL) as co-resource center for the system. Both resource centers are "contracted" to provide to other system libraries and nonresidents of the cities resources and services, the use of their staffs, and space occupied by county services. One obvious benefit of this arrangement to the JPL, and presumably to the BPL as well, is the increased book and materials collections and expansion of services that accompanied the resource status of each library.

#### Impact of Arrowhead Library System on the JPL

The Arrowhead Library System has had a favorable impact on the operation and services of the JPL in the ten years following its establishment as a county library system. In 1975, Irene Blackford, Library Director, reported to the DLS the expected

surge of circulation and reader numbers after completion of the JPL's 1968 Main Street facility (Appendix D). Although the reasons for the accelerated growth rate were not discussed, an evaluator for the DLS believed the establishment of county-wide service was a substantial factor in the JPL's continuing growth rate.<sup>22</sup> As a resource center for the ALS, the JPL has certainly enjoyed increased circulation, inter-library loan and reference requests, growth of centralized technical services (CTS), expansion of some resource collections, library automation, and expanded services.

By agreement with the ALS the JPL became the Reference and Referral Center for Rock County in 1978. Previously, from 1974 to 1977, the Beloit Public Library (BPL) had also handled inter-library loan (ILL) requests before these activities were centered at the JPL. Member libraries now forward their reference and ILL requests to the JPL for processing via mail, telephone, or delivery, and in 1984, by computer. The agreement of course increased the staff's workload, but part-time Reference staff was appointed to help coordinate the Reference Department activities. Since the JPL's membership in the system, reference and ILL has demonstrated marked and sustained growth rates that are enviable in any municipal library.



The ALS and the JPL began intensive study and planning in late 1977 and early 1978 regarding the establishment of centralized technical service facilities to better serve the seven public libraries of Rock County. Technical services is the aspect of library operations necessary to acquire the library's collection, and to catalog, classify, process and maintain materials. With the assistance of a Library Services Construction Act grant (LSCA) and the initial commitment of the system collection and six of seven member libraries, the JPL established facilities to centralize processing of county library materials for system participants in 1979.

Centralization of technical services operations at the JPL had direct cost advantages for the participating libraries: higher discount rates; advantageous supply discounts; uniformity in cataloging; increased accessibility and resource sharing; and preparation for library automation.<sup>23</sup> By 1981, the Janesville School District had contracted with the JPL to supply CTS for all media and library operations, a service the JPL was happy to provide as it was consistent with increased state interest in the formation of multi-type library cooperatives. One useful feature of the CTS program is the JPL's link to the Online Computer

Library Center (OCLC--formerly the Ohio College Library Center), a national computerized data base for bibliographic control and card catalog production. Access to the OCLC via the JPL terminal greatly simplified complex catalog procedures for many documents and has ensured an element of catalog and classification uniformity among county library participants.

One direct outgrowth of the special resource relationship between the ALS and the JPL has been the development and installation of library automation at the JPL. The library automation project was proposed and funded as a capital improvement for the 1981 Multi-Purpose General Obligation Bond Issue. Although the cost of automation was borne by Janesville residents, the rationale for automation included the necessity for the JPL to keep pace with growing service demands in the face of shrinking municipal resources and the anticipated quality service which such a capital improvement would make available to local and county citizens alike. The project automated library circulation activities, and catalog and acquisition processes into an on-line system working from an integrated data base stored on an in-house minicomputer.

One aspect of automation included "elimination" of the card

catalog. The card catalog's alleged insufficiencies included limited cross reference to other JPL holdings; no uniform policies of entry and construction in past entries; an inability to interfile children's and audio visual catalogs into one source; and the increasing expense of maintaining a card catalog. An automated system, it was felt, would combine the card catalog and shelflist into one file with greater ease of use for both staff and patrons; it would facilitate internal processes of weeding, inventory and collection development with greater cost efficiency.<sup>24</sup> Access to the computerized catalog is now provided via several online terminals located conveniently for patron use as introduced in 1984.

The automation project elicited great interest from the JPL's co-resource center, the BPL. The BPL arranged to share use of JPL's central processing unit (CPU) in order to tie in with JPL's circulation and card catalog system. The electronic link between resource centers was hailed as an exemplary model of resource sharing with state wide significance.<sup>25</sup>

The general interest in and necessity for computerized automation of library services naturally led to interest in acquiring micro-computers for patron use. Nationally,

micro-computers have seized librarians' attention as no other technological innovation has ever before. Many public libraries are acquiring micro-computers, software, periodicals, and manuals for patron use under existing audio visual programs.<sup>26</sup> The JPL is no exception to the national trend. In 1982, the JPL negotiated with a local dealer (Team Electronics), for a basic, coin-operated Apple computer, monitor, disc drive and printer for patron use. In addition, an Atari 400 Color Computer was purchased and installed in the Children's Room where it met with great enthusiasm by children and adults alike.<sup>27</sup> Since making the commitment to provide micro-computers for patron use, the JPL has experimentally purchased computer software for library users, particularly public domain software which is accessible, affordable, and uncomplicated by copyright restrictions.

The JPL has benefited also from its county resource library status in acquiring certain services, programs and collections for which it might not have otherwise received funding. For example, audio visual materials, including 16mm films, film loops and viewers, super 8mm films, framed art and video equipment and tape collections have expanded at the JPL through association with the ALS which uses the JPL as a depository and distribution

center of these materials. Many of these items were acquired by the ALS through competitive grant funds allocated from state and federal sources. The JPL has participated with the ALS in a number of pilot projects, including educational toys and games, jail service library extension, and deposit collections established at the Rock County Health Care Center's Disturbed, Developmentally Disabled Unit, library care to health care institutions, and library service to the hearing impaired, to name only a few.

Demonstrably the JPL has profited from its alliance with the ALS by enhancing existing collections, creating new ones, and in the provision of library services county-wide through reference and ILL, CTS and library automation projects necessitated in part by continued growth in service.

## Chapter 6

### Footnotes

- 
1. John Van Male, The State as Librarian. Reprinted from The Library Quarterly, Vol. XIV, No. 1, January 1944, pp. 36-38.
  2. Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Traveling Library Circulars, Circular No. 1, n.d.
  3. Ibid.
  4. Annual Report of JPL 1 July 1912 to 30 June 1913 by Gertrude Cobb.
  5. Ibid.
  6. Janesville Gazette, 8 December 1914.
  7. Ibid., 16 August 1916; Minutes of Board, JPL 7 July 1916, pp. 119-120.
  8. Minutes of Board, JPL 9 May 1919, p. 179.
  9. Ibid., September 1948, 13 October 1950.
  10. Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Wisconsin State Plan for Further Extension of Public Library Services to Rural Areas (Madison, WI: WFLC, 1957), p. 297.
  11. Wisconsin Free Library Commission, The Wisconsin Wide Library Idea for Voluntary Education through Reading (Madison, WI: WFLC, 1948).
  12. WFLC, op. cit., 1957, pp. 299-302.
  13. Memo dated 11 November 1977 to Rock County Supervisors Representing Janesville from Dan Bradbury, Director of JPL.

14. Minutes of Board, JPL 10 September, 12 November 1965.
15. Rock County Library Study Committee, A Design for Public Library Development in Rock County prepared for the Rock County Board of Supervisors, revised May 1968, p. 17.
16. Ibid., p. 21.
17. Informal statement made by Jan Farley, Administrator of Arrowhead Library System, March 1984; Minutes of Rock County Board of Supervisors, 30 October 1969, pp. 88-89.
18. Carol Liddle, "Library Services," unpublished information, n.d.
19. See Minutes of Rock County Board of Supervisors, 19 July, 23 October, 29 November 1973, pp. 98, 133, 177-78.
20. Minutes of Board, JPL 16 July 1974, 16 August 1977.
21. Activity and Status Report, JPL September, October, November 1977; See also Minutes of Board, JPL 15 June, 17 August 1976.
22. Project Evaluation, Staff Report, Dept. Public Instruction, DLS dated 30 October 1975 by Dick Lederer.
23. Memo dated 6 March 1981 to JPL Board and ALS Board, Janesville School District, et al. from Dan Bradbury, Director of JPL.
24. Need and Cost Analysis of Automating Library Operations, JPL by JPL Staff, February 1981.
25. Director's Report, JPL January, April 1983; Minutes of Board, JPL 19 April 1983.
26. James M. Kusack and John S. Bowers, "Public Microcomputers in Public Libraries," Library Journal, Vol. 107, No. 20 (15 November 1982), pp. 2137-2141.
27. Director's Report, JPL August, October 1982, March 1983.

## Summary

This history of the Janesville Public Library has chronicled the initial development of the agency from private to public status during the years 1883-84. It has attempted to document the growth and development of the library in terms of its affiliation with national and state issues of central concern to the public library movement: the educational and cultural mission of the library in a community context and the library as a "community center" as well as an information and recreational center.

These concerns have continued to be of over-riding importance in the evolution of collections and the development of services at the Janesville Public Library throughout its one-hundred years of service to the Janesville community.



## Selected Bibliography

- Biggs, Mary. "Librarians and the 'Woman Question': An Inquiry into Conservatism," Journal of Library History, Vol. 17, No. 4 (Fall 1982), pp. 409-428.
- Blayney, Michael S. "'Libraries for the Millions': Adult Public Library Services and the New Deal," Journal of Library History, Vol. 12, No. 3 (Summer 1977), pp. 235-249.
- Bobinski, George S. "Impact of Carnegie Philanthropy on American Public Library Development," reprinted in Readings in American Library History, Ed. Michael H. Harris. Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971, pp. 163-171.
- Bode, Carl. The American Lyceum: Town Meeting of the Mind. New York: Oxford University Press, 1956.
- Borden, Arnold K. "The Sociological Beginnings of the Library Movement," Library Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 3 (July 1931), pp. 278-282.
- Casey, Genevieve M. "Cooperation, Networking, and the Larger Unit in the Public Library," Library Quarterly, Vol. 48, No. 4 (October 1978), pp. 447-462.
- Colson, John C. "Form Against Function: The American Public Library and Contemporary Society," Journal of Library History, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Spring 1983), pp. 111-142.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Newspapers, Civic Development and Public Libraries in Nineteenth-Century Wisconsin: Some Speculations on Institutional Relationships," Journal of Library History, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Winter 1978), pp. 11-36.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "'Public Spirit' at Work: Philanthropy and Public Libraries in Nineteenth-Century Wisconsin," Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. 59, No. 3 (Spring 1976), pp. 192-209.

- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Public Library Movement in Nineteenth Century Wisconsin," (1975) unpublished manuscript and revised version of Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 1973.
- Dana, John C. "The Children in the Public Library," The Outlook, Vol. 54 (1896), p. 555.
- Ditzion, Sidney. "Mechanics' and Mercantile Libraries," reprinted in Reader in American Library History, Ed. Michael H. Harris. Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971, pp. 72-82.
- Dunne, Finley Peter. "The Carnegie Libraries," Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. 59, No. 3 (Spring 1976), pp. 210-213.
- Fain, Elaine. "Manners and Morals in the Public Library: A Glance at Some New History," Journal of Library History, Vol. 10, No. 2 (April 1975), pp. 99-105.
- Fletcher, Doris M. "Read a Book and Sin No More: The Early YMCA Libraries," reprinted in Reader in American Library History, Ed. Michael H. Harris. Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971, pp. 83-85.
- Garrison, Dee. Apostles of Culture: The Public Librarian and American Society, 1876-1920. New York: Free Press, 1979.
- Guernsey, Orrin and Josiah F. Willard. History of Rock County and Transactions of the Rock County Agricultural Society and Mechanics' Institute. Janesville: William Doty and Brother, 1856.
- Hawks, Graham P. "A Nineteenth-Century School Library: Early Years in Milwaukee," Journal of Library History, Vol. 12, No. 3 (Fall 1977), pp. 359-363.
- Heisey, Terry M. "Early Catalog Code Development in the United States, 1876-1908," Journal of Library History, Vol. 11, No. 3 (July 1976), pp. 218-248.
- Hill, Agnes. "The Public Library and the People," Library Journal, Vol. 27 (1902), p. 13.
- The History of Rock County, Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879.

Holland's Janesville City Directory for 1870-71. Chicago: Western Publishing Company, 1871.

Janesville City Directory and Business Advertiser for 1866.  
Janesville: Veeder and Devereux, Book and Job Printers, 1866.

Janesville Public Library. Rules and Regulations of the Use of the Library. Janesville, 1884.

\_\_\_\_\_. Library Catalog, Janesville, 1890-94.

Joeckel, Carleton B. "The Public Library Under the City-Manager Form of Government," part I. The Library Quarterly, Vol. I, No. 2 (April 1931), pp. 121-151.

Kraus, Joe W. "Libraries of the Young Men's Christian Associations in the Nineteenth Century," Journal of Library History, Vol. 10, No. 1 (January 1975), pp. 3-21.

Kusack, James M. and John S. Bowers. "Public Microcomputers in Public Libraries," Library Journal, Vol. 107, No. 20 (November 15, 1982), pp. 2137-2141.

Lee, Robert E. "The People's University--the Educational Objectives of the Public Library," reprinted in Reader in American Library History, Ed. Michael H. Harris. Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971, pp. 117-124.

Long, Harriet. "The Beginning of Public Library Service to Children," reprinted in Readings in American Library History, Ed. Michael H. Harris. Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971, pp. 218-224.

Lopez, Manuel D. "Childrens Libraries: Nineteen Century American Origins," [sic] Journal of Library History, Vol. 11, No. 4 (October 1976), pp. 316-342.

Maack, Mary Niles. "Toward a History of Women in Librarianship: A Critical Analysis with Suggestions for Further Research," Journal of Library History, Vol. 17, No. 2 (Spring 1982), pp. 164-189.

Mickelson, Peter. "American Society and the Public Library in the

Thought of Andrew Carnegie," Journal of Library History, Vol. 10, No. 2 (April 1975), pp. 117-138.

Miller, Marilyn L. "Children's Access to Library Systems," Library Quarterly, Vol. 51, No. 1 (January 1981), pp. 38-53.

Monroe, Margaret Ellen. Library Adult Education: The Biography of an Idea. New York: Scarecrow Press, 1963.

Pryor and Company's Janesville City Directory, 1878-79. Janesville: Pryor and Company, 1878.

Rock County Board of Supervisors. Minutes, 19 July, 23 October, 29 November 1973, pp. 98, 133, 177-78.

Rock County Library Study Committee. A Design for Public Library Development in Rock County, prepared for the Rock County Board of Supervisors, revised May, 1968.

Rubin, Rhea Joyce and Connie House. "Library Service in U. S. Jails: Issues, Questions, Trends," Library Journal, Vol. 108, No. 3 (February 1, 1983), pp. 173-177.

Shera, Jesse H. "Causal Factors in Public Library Development," reprinted in Readings in American Library History, Ed. Michael H. Harris. Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971, pp. 141-162.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Expansion of the Social Library," reprinted in Readings in American Library History, Ed. Michael H. Harris. Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971, pp. 45-53.

Stearns, Lutie E. "An Innovation in Library Meetings," Library Journal, Vol. 31 (1906), pp. 55-57.

Thomas, Fannette H. "The Genesis of Children's Services in the American Public Library: 1875-1906," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1982.

Thompson, Charles Seymour. "For a Broader Culture: Athenaeums," reprinted in Reader in American Library History, Ed. Michael H. Harris. Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971, pp. 54-56.

U. S. Bureau of Education. Public Libraries in the United States of America, their History, Condition, and Management: Special Report, Pt. I. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office,

1876.

- VanMale, John. The State as Librarian, reprinted from The Library Quarterly, Vol. XIV, No. 1 (January 1944).
- Wagers, Robert. "American Reference Theory and the Information Dogma," Journal of Library History, Vol. 13, No. 3 (Summer 1978), pp. 265-281.
- Weber, David C. "The Changing Character of the Catalog in America," reprinted in Readings in American Library History, Ed. Michael H. Harris. Washington: Microcard Editions, 1971, pp. 225-231.
- Wisconsin Free Library Commission. Traveling Library Circulars, n.d.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Wisconsin State Plan for further Extension of Public Library Services to Rural Areas. Madison: WFLC, 1957.
- \_\_\_\_\_. The Wisconsin Wide Library Idea for Voluntary Education through Reading. Madison: WFLC, 1948.
- Woolard, Wilma L. B. Combined School/Public Libraries. A Survey with Conclusions and Recommendations. Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1980.
- Young Men's Association of Janesville. YMA Library Catalog, Janesville, 1875.

Unpublished Materials:

- Public Library Association of Janesville. Constitution and By-Laws of the PLA of Janesville, 1883.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Articles of Association (Certificate), 2 February 1883.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 7 November 1882 to 7 January 1884.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Report of Burr Robbins Entertainment Fundraiser by Chairman,

Mary M. Stevens, 7 May 1883.

- \_\_\_\_\_. Report of Committee appointed by the PLA Board of Trustees to audit accounts of entertainment given by Colonel Burr Robbins on 30 April 1884 for benefit of the library fund, 1883.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Various receipts and committee reports pertaining to business transactions of the PLA, 1882-83.
- Janesville Public Library. Minutes of the Board of Directors, 1884-1984.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Financial statements, reports, and bills of the Board of Directors, and some correspondence, various 1884-1984.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Meeting Notes, minutes, agendas, bills, financial reports, activities reports, departmental reports, and some correspondence, 1977-1983.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Scrapbooks. Newspaper publicity and articles of interest, 1912-1929; 1930-1937.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Janesville Public Library, South Main Street, across from Courthouse," unpublished typed one-page summary of JPL History in Janesville Room of JPL, n.d.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Janesville Public Library: Library Started after Civil War," unpublished typed two-page summary of JPL History in Janesville Room of JPL, n.d.

Newspapers:

Janesville Gazette, 28 November 1863; 1, 6, 19 December 1871; 8, 19 April, 8 May, 13 August 1872; 27 February, 5, 7, 9, 27, 28 March 1874; 12, 17, 24, 29 March, 25 April 1877, 8, 13, 23 January 1875; 12, 16 March 1881; 5 December 1882; 1 May 1883; 6, 27 April 1911, 29 March 1911; 30 July 1912; See Scrapbooks of JPL, 1912-1929 and 1930-1937; 5 June 1947; 20 June; 12 January 1973.

Janesville Daily Recorder, 8 July, 6, 15 September, 8, 10 December

1882, 27 March 1883; See also Scrapbook of JPL, 1912-1929.

Wisconsin State Journal, 23 August 1953.

APPENDICES

1882, 27 March 1883, See also Scrapbook of JPL, 1912-1929.

Wisconsin State Journal, 23 August 1923.

## APPENDICES

- 153 -



## APPENDIX A

### HIGHLIGHTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE JANESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1882-1984

- 1882 The Young Men's Association of Janesville (YMA) goes bankrupt and the Association's library is put up for auction. In response to the crisis, the ladies of Janesville organize the Public Library Association of Janesville (PLA) to rescue the YMA Library from sale and to preserve it as a "free" library.
- 1883 17 February. The PLA opens the library to the public as a "free" library and continues to work toward its assumption by the City as a free public library.
- 3 April. Janesville citizens vote 1,209 to 39 in favor of a free public library referendum.
- 1884 7 January. Sale of the PLA Library to the City of Janesville for \$1.00 on condition that it be operated as a free public library for the benefit of its citizens.
- 1887 Lease with A. P. Bennett terminated. The JPL moves from its quarters in Bennett's Block, now known as the Carle's Central Block at the corner of West Milwaukee and River Streets, to new rooms in the Phoebus Block, constructed by Pliny Norcross. The Phoebus Block is adjacent to Bennett's Block and is near the intersection of West Milwaukee Street and River Street.
- 1890 Adoption of the Dewey catalog and classification system.
- 1891 11 March. The JPL, represented by Board member, H. L. Skavlem, attends the First Annual Conference of the Wisconsin State Library Association.
- Begin use of the card catalog system.
- 1894 Loan privileges to children under 12 years old is rescinded by the Board because of alleged "abuses" by young patrons.

Cited were increased wear on books, and increased workloads on the already overworked librarian.

- 1896 Ten volumes destroyed because of exposure to households struck by the Diphtheria Epidemic.
- 1897 The need for new, more commodious library quarters within three years acknowledged by the Board.
- 1899 A series of recommendations offered by the Wisconsin Free Library Commission (WFLC) for improvements in library technical services and circulation are adopted and implemented.
- 1900 At the recommendation of the WFLC, a separate Children's Room and juvenile collection are established on the third floor of the Phoebus Block (Norcross) library quarters.
- In cooperation with a community-based Library Extension Committee, a deposit collection of books is placed at the Janesville Barb Wire Factory as an extension/outreach service.
- 1901 Receive \$30,000 from Andrew Carnegie for construction of a new library building on condition that the City furnish a suitable site and guarantee \$3,000 per year in support.
- 1902 Receive \$10,000 bequest from F. S. Eldred Estate for use in constructing a new library building. The funds were used to build a Children's Room.
- 1903 15 June. New Carnegie library building officially opens for business. An open-shelf policy established by the JPL.
- JPL begins to rent library rooms for use by community civic and educational clubs. A new era of community service begins.
- 1906 First telephone is installed at the JPL on a three month trial basis.
- 1910 JPL accepts the WFLC's offer for services of library students during a two month interim program. Student interns become an annual part of the library program.
- 1911 Creation of a Men's Reading Room to attract males to the

JPL.

- 1912 21-23 February. JPL hosts the 21st Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin State Library Association in Janesville. The Keynote topic: "The Library as an Educational and Civic Force."
- 1915 October. JPL holds an Open House to celebrate fifty years of service (1865-1915).
- 1917 War Service Library Fund Drive "Dollar Campaign."
- 1918 Public School Library Branches established in local schools. Collections are rotated regularly by JPL Librarian.
- 1926 A systematic record of reference requests and statistics to be compiled annually to illustrate what reference work entails.
- 1928 Dr. Palmer Medical Library donated by JPL to Mercy Hospital.  
Mercy Hospital Library Branch established. This is the JPL's longest-lived extension/outreach project.  
Richard Ellis Post of American Legion offered use of Library Hall for the purpose of establishing a public museum.
- 1930 An unfinished second floor room of the JPL is offered for use to the Janesville Little Theatre as a workshop.
- 1932 An auditorium with 295 seats is built as part of a library renovation project. The JPL thereby becomes a community cultural center through provision of this facility to community organizations.
- 1948 Patrons allowed to borrow phonograph records.
- 1960 First Library Book Sale held by the JPL to reduce inventory and to earn money for the library.
- 1965 JPL awarded \$142,002.00 grant under the Library Construction Act to build a new library building.
- 1966 2 May. The City Council votes to provide funds to build a

new library building.

- 1967 Regioscope (photographic) charge-out system introduced to the JPL.
- 1968 April. JPL moves to its new Main Street facility located just north of the Marshall Junior High School campus.
- 29 April. The library opens for business in its new quarters.
- 27 October. A Dedication and Open House is held to celebrate the official opening of the JPL at 316 South Main Street.
- 1969 Rock County Library Service created. The service is operable for only one year.
- The Wisconsin Library Association honors Janesville-Beloit headquarters, and Rock County Library Service as the Wisconsin Library of the Year.
- Began monthly case exhibits of artifacts, curios, art and literature.
- 1970 JPL served as a Federation headquarters and resource center for an interim Rock County Library Federation pending the outcome of County Board action on whether to reestablish county-wide library service.
- The Federation terminates when county funding for county library service is not approved.
- 1972 October. Free 16mm film loan service begins for JPL users. As a member of the WLFC, the JPL receives a new collection of 16 films every 5 weeks.
- 1974 RCLS and county-wide library service is reestablished by the Board of Supervisors. JPL becomes one of two system resource centers.
- May. Began Area Artists Exhibits to showcase the art of local artists in the library setting. Artists are selected for exhibition by a Library Art Committee appointed by the JPL Board.
- 1977 Checkpoint security system installed to reduce annual

loss rate.

- 1978 Children given access to all library services, materials and collections according to the Library Bill of Rights unless denied permission by their parents or guardians.
- JPL becomes an official U. S. Census Depository for selected reports and summaries of the Census Bureau.
- A Memorial Music Fund established by J. Harry Scidmore.
- Friends of the JPL organized.
- Edison Junior High School Library opened and operated as an experimental branch library each summer until 1980. The project was a cooperative effort between the JPL, the ALS and the Janesville School District.
- 1979 RCLS renamed the Arrowhead Library System (ALS).
- Centralized Technical Services facilities for the county library system is installed at the JPL.
- JPL obtain curatorial rights to the nationally significant Fulcher Music Collection.
- Library Volunteer Program developed and implemented.
- 1980 JPL Foundation, Inc. chartered to stimulate and encourage gifts of funds, books, collections and endowments and bequests to the library and to receive, hold, and distribute these assets.
- 1981 An annual all-time circulation record established at JPL with 501,691 volumes loaned to patrons.
- 1982 JPL and the City of Janesville agree to share the administrative services of Library Director, Daniel Bradbury, with City Division of Leisure Services. The administrative agreement automatically terminated in 1983 when Bradbury resigned as Library Director.
- 1983 Library computer automation project completed and on-line.
- A new Children's Storytelling Room constructed with funds

from the Woodruff Trust.

Administrative offices remodelled and expanded.

1984 7 January. JPL celebrates its centennial year of operation as a free public library at a rededication ceremony. A series of centennial observances are presented by the community between January 7, 1984 and January 7, 1985.

APPENDIX B

LIBRARIANS/LIBRARY DIRECTORS OF THE JANESVILLE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1882-1984

Louise S. Best	1882-1891 1893-1906
H. L. Skavlem	1891-1893
Gertrude J. Skavlem	1907-1910
Lydia E. Kinsley	1911-1912
Gertrude Cobb	1912-1914
Mary A. Egan	1914-1919
Fannie Cox	1920-1923
Jennie A. Hulce	1922-1923
Lydia Kingsley Cates	1923-1927
Emily Moeser (Minter)	1927-1934
Bernice E. Colby	1934-1964
David S. Donaldson	1964-1966
Irene Blackford	1966-1977
Daniel Bradbury	1977-1983
Joseph Accardi	1984-

APPENDIX C

GROWTH OF THE JANESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
1896-1983

Year	# Registrants	Volumes	Circulation
1896	--	10,358	29,261
1903	--	15,654	32,755
1913	4,107	18,280	60,868
1924	--	22,956	91,264
1933	11,265	32,410	246,473
1943	9,738	44,373	229,453
1953	9,629	53,296	252,806
1963	17,057	81,944	274,641
1973	26,929	100,108	280,041
1983*	17,397	166,581	496,245
1984**	22,073	169,705	190,967

---

Sources: WFLC Annual Report for Public Libraries, 1953, 1963; Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction, DLS Public Library Annual Report, 1973, 1983; Annual Reports of JPL.

Note: 1973 figures for number of registrants includes both city and townships and was compiled from Annual Report of JPL, 1973. The discrepancy between 1973 and 1983-84 registrants is attributable to library automation activities which required complete re-registration of all patrons.

\*Re-registration on automated system began in July, 1983.

\*\*Includes January to April 30, 1984 cumulative figures compiled from the Director's Report, May 1984.



APPENDIX D

FACILITIES OF THE JANESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1884-1984

The first quarters of the JPL (1884) were located in the building known at that time as "Bennett's Block." The free public library continued to use the rooms previously rented from Mr. A. P. Bennett by the Public Library Association of Janesville at the rate of \$120 per month. The rooms rented were the southwest corner room of the second floor and the two adjoining rooms on the north which had previously been occupied by the W. A. Sargent Post, Grand Army of the Republic.<sup>1</sup> What was then known as Bennett's Block is now called Carle's Central Block (27-29 West Milwaukee Street), and it is located on the corner of West Milwaukee and River Streets.

In April 1887, the JPL Board of Directors terminated their lease with A. P. Bennett effective March 25, 1887 and continued to rent the rooms on a month-by-month basis until more suitable and spacious quarters were located. In August of 1887, the JPL

moved to new quarters in a new building constructed by Pliny Norcross, just east of and adjoining the Phoebus block on West Milwaukee Street. The Phoebus Block of 1887 is now extensively remodelled, but it too is located very near the intersection of West Milwaukee and River Streets only one building east of the Bennett Block (now Carle's Central Block). The rent for the new library rooms in 1887 was \$250 per year, but the rooms were large enough to accommodate the growing needs of the municipal library.<sup>2</sup>

By 1897, the library had grown at such a rate that the JPL Board publically acknowledged the need for more spacious library quarters within three years. The need for additional space was even more acute by 1900 as the library rented additional rooms on the third floor of the Norcross building to house the Children's Room and juvenile collection. The campaign for funds began in earnest in 1901 under the direction of Board member, Judge Charles L. Fifield. On behalf of the JPL Board, Judge Fifield appealed to the generosity of Andrew Carnegie for funds sufficient to finance a portion of a new municipal library building. He promised that the City of Janesville would raise sufficient funds to purchase a lot and guarantee a yearly

appropriation of \$3000 for library maintenance.<sup>3</sup>

Shortly thereafter Judge Fifield received an official reply to the Board's request for funds. Andrew Carnegie agreed to donate \$30,000 for construction of a library building provided the terms of Judge Fifield's letter were met by the City.<sup>4</sup> The library also received a \$10,000 bequest from the estate of F. S. Eldred of Janesville for use in constructing the new library facility. The Eldred funds were used to finance the Carnegie Building's Children's Room which was named in honor of Mr. Eldred's daughter.

For \$17,000, the City purchased a lot from Dr. Woods located on South Main Street directly across from the Courthouse Park. The plans and specifications for the new building were drawn by J. T. W. Jennings, Superintendent Architect of Grounds and Buildings at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Construction began in the Spring of 1902 under the supervision of J. P. Cullen and Brother, local contractors who agreed to build the facility at a cost of \$35,000.<sup>5</sup> Interestingly, the Janesville Federated Trades Council requested that the construction contract specify that all work, materials, and union labor be employed from Janesville in so far as possible, but the Board declined to

stipulate these conditions to the contractor.<sup>6</sup>

After considerable debate, the library was designed as a two story structure with an English basement, partially exposed to the rear, and an unfinished second floor. J. P. Cullen agreed to finish three rooms of the second floor at a cost of \$1,935 if ordered to do so by the Board. In the meantime, the Board communicated with Carnegie once again to see if he would consider raising his gift by an additional \$5,000 so that the library might be completely finished; Carnegie, however, declined to raise his donation over \$30,000.<sup>7</sup> The second floor of the Carnegie building remained largely unfinished until 1927 when further construction and renovation was initiated, and again in 1932 when the library undertook a large renovation project that included construction of an auditorium on the second floor. The auditorium became a center piece of the JPL's community service to local organizations and groups until its final move in 1968, and it continued to be used by the Janesville Little Theatre until the 1982-83 season when enforcement of state safety codes prohibited its further public use.

After the JPL moved out of the 1903 building, it became known as the Crossroads Building, and it was used by various

agencies, including the City Recreation Department for a number of years. The Senior Citizens Center continues to use the ground (basement) floor and part of the main floor, and the Little Theatre uses the second floor for storage, set design and allied activities.

Much of 1961 was devoted to discussions by the JPL Board on the advisability of either expanding and renovating the Carnegie building to accommodate the growing needs of the JPL or the feasibility of constructing a new library building. James Angus, a Janesville architect, presented plans for remodeling and expanding the library out front as an alternate plan for library expansion, but no action was taken at that time.<sup>8</sup> The Board seemed to express a preference for expansion over construction of a new facility. On the 30 June 1961, the Board requested the City Council to give due consideration to library expansion as the library quarters housed 67,000 volumes and served 13,242 registered patrons. Library space was at such a premium that at least one staff member of the time remembers that patrons were informally "polled" to ascertain whether they were working on or reading materials in which use of the library was required.<sup>9</sup>

In November of 1961, the Library Director, Bernice Colby,

suggested that the Board discuss the feasibility of building a new library facility. The pace quickened and a library consultant was hired to give advice on the construction of a new library building.<sup>10</sup> It was not until 1965, however, that the Board officially went on record as favoring the construction of a new library building for the City of Janesville and petitioned the Council to acquire the proposed site at the north end of the Marshall Junior High School campus.<sup>11</sup>

In August 1966, the JPL was awarded a federal grant totalling \$142,002 under Title II of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA-Public Law 88-269) to assist the Janesville community in constructing a new library facility. The City of Janesville financed a bond issue of \$779,999.46 to finance the capital improvement. The total cost of construction was \$938,614.67.<sup>12</sup>

The library building was designed by Frelich-Angus and Associates of Janesville and constructed by general contractors, Severson-Schlitz, Inc. of Janesville. It is a single story steel frame structure over a basement and parking area of reinforced concrete. The JPL moved to its new building in April of 1968 and celebrated its opening with a Dedication and Open House on 27

October 1968. The new facility, located at 316 S. Main Street, consists of a main floor and a basement with a total area of 41,403 square feet in contrast to 12,000 square feet of total area in the older Carnegie building. The main floor contains 28,167 square feet, 1,080 square feet of which is allotted to library meeting rooms. The basement contains 13,236 square feet.

## Comparison of 1968 and 1903 Building Facilities

	1968 Library	1903 Library
Total area	41,403 sq. ft.	12,000 sq. ft.
Book stack area	5,100 sq. ft.	2,240 sq. ft.
Book capacity	122,000 volumes*	49,000 volumes
Children's area	4,860 sq. ft.	1,728 sq. ft.
Adult area	6,708 sq. ft.	1,728 sq. ft.
Work area	1,896 sq. ft.	1,728 sq. ft.

---

\*49,000 volumes additional capacity with double stacking.

Source: Janesville Public Library. Dedication and Open House Brochure, 27 October 1968.

The main floor of the building is large, spacious and very open in contrast to the 1903 building. The room is subdivided into user areas by strategic placement of bookshelves, desks, and arm chairs. The community meeting rooms and the Children's Room and Storytelling Room (built in 1983) are separate rooms from the main library collection.

Until recently, the JPL had no immediate need for the basement space. Soon after construction, the library provided basement storage space for the Janesville Public School District



as well as office space for the elementary school supervisors of art, music, physical education, and speech correction. In 1974, part of these basement quarters were leased to the Arrowhead Library System, and another portion of this area was devoted to Centralized Technical Services (CTS) in 1979. The building was projected to house 122,000 volumes and by 1982, the library already exceeded this capacity by 25% (152,000 volumes). The need for expanding services and programs and collections to the basement area became absolutely essential in 1982 as the library bulged at the seams.

In 1982, the Library initiated a renovation project at a cost of \$35,004 to convert 3,816 square feet of unfinished area on the lower level to usable space. The audio visual collection, including the art replica collection, government document serials, periodical and storage files are currently housed in this refurbished area of the library. The lower library level continues to house CTS as well as the minicomputer which is the center of library automation activities. The move downstairs of audio visual materials allowed the circulation and reference areas upstairs to expand accordingly. This renovation project was key to providing the quality service and collections which the Janesville community has come to expect.

## Appendix D

### Footnotes

- 
1. Lease between A. P. Bennett and the PLA of Janesville, 18 December 1882.
  2. Minutes of Board, JPL 16 April 1887, 6, 11 July 1887, pp. 103, 108-109; Notice of termination of lease with A. P. Bennett by the JPL Board, dated 23 February 1887 and signed Sarah Little, President and William McKey, Secretary.
  3. Draft of letter to Andrew Carnegie dated 19 February 1901 from Charles L. Fifield, Judge, Janesville, WI.
  4. Letter to James Bertram of New York City from "M.G." of Janesville, WI dated 10 March 1901.
  5. The Uniform Contract between J. P. Cullen and Brother and the City of Janesville through the JPL Board, 19 March 1902; Minutes of Board, JPL 19 March 1902, pp. 26-27.
  6. Minutes of Board, JPL 3, 19 March 1902, pp. 20, 28.
  7. Ibid., 7 April, 5 May 1902, pp. 29-30.
  8. Ibid., 12 May 1961.
  9. Informal conversation with Joyce Duckert, March 1984, JPL Circulation Department.
  10. Minutes of Board, JPL, 10 November 1961, 9 February, 16 March 1962.
  11. Ibid., 5 March 1965; Janesville Gazette 22 November 1965.
  12. Auditor's Report, Reilly, Penner and Benton, January 1, 1965 to December 31, 1968.

APPENDIX E

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES OF THE  
JANESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, SELECTED  
YEARS, 1882-1984

Board of Directors, PLA 1882-83:

Mrs. A. H. Sheldon	Mrs. L. S. Best
Mrs. W. D. Hastings	Mrs. Sarah F. C. Little, President
Mrs. C. B. Conrad	Mrs. S. C. Guernsey, Vice President
Mrs. A. D. McHenry	Mrs. Hamilton Richardson, Treasurer
Mrs. G. W. Hawes	Mrs. H. S. Hogoboom, Secretary

Board of Directors of JPL:

Mrs. Sarah C. Little	1883-1890
Mrs. S. C. Guernsey	1883-1887
Mr. George G. Sutherland	1883-1889
Mrs. Hamilton Richardson	1883-1886
Mrs. C. B. Conrad (Minnie S.)	1883-1891
Mr. E. M. Hyzer	1883-1894
Mrs. A. H. Sheldon	1883-1887
Mrs. H. S. Hogoboom	1883-1885
Mr. Stanley B. Smith	1883-1887
	1894-1906
Mr. W. D. McKey	1885-1889
Mrs. Catherine Woodruff	1886
Mrs. A. P. Lovejoy (Julia S.)	1886-1929
Miss Mary W. Pease	1886-1894

Mr. John M. Whitehead	1887-1893
Mr. Horace McElroy	1887-1915
Mr. Victor P. Richardson	1889-1893
Mr. A. M. Valentine	1889-1890
Mr. H. L. Skavlem	1890-1910
Miss Belle A. Rolston	1891-1893
Mr. George L. Carrington	1891-1896
Mrs. W. C. Butler	1891-1898
Mr. William Bladon	1893-1910
Mrs. Ogden H. Fethers (Frances C.)	1893-1911
Miss Gertrude Cobb	1893-1903
Mr. Orrin W. Bemis	1894-1899
Mr. Charles C. Russell	1896-1900
Mr. D. D. Mayne	1897-1901
Mr. Charles L. Fifield (Judge)	1898-1925
Mr. Michael Hayes	1900-1915
Mr. H. C. Buell	1901-1915
Mr. H. L. McNamara	1903-1907
Miss Gertrude Skavlem	1904-1910
Mr. Miltimore	1904-1905
Mr. Wilson Lane	1905-1910
Mr. C. S. Cleland	1910-1915
Mr. F. A. Capelle	1910-1930
Mrs. Nolan	1911-1912
Miss Lydia E. Kinsley (Librarian)	1910-
Mrs. J. G. Rexford (Belle R.)	1911-1940

Board of Directors of JPL, 1915-1984:

1915:

Mrs. J. G. Rexford (Belle R.)	Mr. Cummings
Mr. Charles L. Fifield (Judge)	Miss Mary Eagan (Librarian)
Mr. H. L. McNamara	Mr. H. C. Buell
Mr. F. A. Capelle	Mr. Michael Hayes
Mr. Henning	Mrs. A. P. Lovejoy (Julia S.)
Mrs. Sherer	Mr. Horace McElroy
Mr. Haggart	Mr. C. S. Cleland
Mr. Clemons	

1920:

Mrs. A. J. Lovejoy (Julia S.)  
Mr. Charles L. Fifield (Judge)  
Mr. H. H. Faust  
Mr. J. E. Auten  
Miss Fannie Cox (Librarian)  
Mr. H. S. Haggart  
Mr. Lucius A. Markham

Miss Elizabeth Paterson  
Mrs. J. G. Rexford (Belle R.)  
Mr. F. A. Capelle  
Mr. Clemons  
Mr. George J. Sennett  
Mr. Frank Holt

1925:

Mr. Henry Traxler (City Manager)  
Mr. Clemons  
Mr. George J. Sennett  
Mrs. A. P. Lovejoy (Julia S.)  
Mr. Stephen Bolles  
Mr. Frank Holt  
Mr. Frederick C. Burpee  
Mr. Charles L. Fifield (Judge)

Mr. F. A. Capelle  
Mr. Lucius A. Markham  
Mrs. Lydia Kinsley Cates (Lib.)  
Miss Elizabeth Paterson  
Mrs. J. G. Rexford (Belle R.)  
Mrs. George A. Jacobs

1930:

Mr. Henry Traxler (City Manager)  
Mrs. J. G. Rexford (Belle R.)  
Mr. F. A. Capelle  
Miss Emily Moeser Minter (Librarian)  
Mr. Lester Creutz  
Mr. Stanley G. Dunwiddie

Miss Elizabeth Paterson  
Mr. Frederick C. Burpee  
Mr. Charles M. Olson (Reverend)  
Mrs. George A. Jacobs  
Mr. Stephen Bolles

1935:

Mr. Henry Traxler (City Manager)  
Mr. Stanley G. Dunwiddie  
Miss Bernice Colby (Librarian)  
Mr. Elmer R. Larson (Reverend)

Mr. Stephen Bolles  
Mr. F. A. Capelle  
Mrs. J. G. Rexford (Belle R.)  
Mr. Vernon Klontz

Mr. Paul Grubb  
Mrs. George A. Jacobs

Mrs. M. H. Fitzgerald (Chloris)

1940:

Mr. Henry Traxler (City Manager)  
Mrs. George A. Jacobs  
Mr. Stanley G. Dunwiddie  
Mr. Elmer R. Larson (Reverend)  
Mr. Vernon Klontz

Mrs. J. G. Rexford (Belle R.)  
Dr. William Clark  
Miss Bernice Colby (Librarian)  
Mrs. M. H. Fitzgerald (Chloris)

1945:

Mr. Henry Traxler (City Manager)  
Mr. Herbert C. Kimmel (Reverend)  
Mr. George Kalvelage  
Mr. Paul Grubb  
Mrs. M. H. Fitzgerald (Chloris)

Mr. Stanley G. Dunwiddie  
Mrs. George A. Jacobs  
Miss Bernice Colby (Librarian)  
Dr. William Clark

1950:

Mr. Henry Traxler (City Manager)  
Mr. Paul Grubb  
Mr. Herbert C. Kimmel (Reverend)  
Mr. Vernon Klontz  
Miss Bernice Colby (Librarian)  
Mr. David E. Williams  
Mr. Elston Loofboro

Dr. William Clark  
Mr. George Kalvelage  
Mr. Stanley G. Dunwiddie  
Mrs. Robert Bethards (Sarah)  
Mrs. George A. Jacobs  
Mrs. M. H. Fitzgerald (Chloris)  
Mr. Forrest Palmer

1955:

Mr. Stanley G. Dunwiddie  
Mrs. Robert Bethards (Sarah)  
Mr. Herbert C. Kimmel (Reverend)  
Mr. George Kalvelage  
Miss Bernice Colby (Librarian)

Dr. William Clark  
Mr. David E. Williams  
Mrs. M. H. Fitzgerald (Chloris)  
Mr. Hyde (City Manager)  
Mr. Vernon Klontz

1960:

Dr. William Clark  
Mr. David E. Williams  
Mr. Herbert C. Kimmel (Reverend)  
Mrs. M. H. Fitzgerald (Chloris)  
Mr. Fred Holt

Mr. George Kalvelage  
Mrs. Robert Bethards (Sarah)  
Mr. Stanley G. Dunwiddie  
Mr. Joseph Lustig (City Manager)  
Miss Bernice Colby (Librarian)

1965:

Mr. Herbert C. Kimmel (Reverend)  
Mrs. M. H. Fitzgerald (Chloris)  
Mr. Stanley G. Dunwiddie  
Mr. George Kalvelage  
Mr. David S. Donaldson (Librarian)  
Mr. Moreth

Mrs. Robert Bethards (Sarah)  
Mr. David E. Williams  
Mrs. Clayton P. Stockwell  
Mr. Joseph Lustig (City Manager)  
Mr. Fred Holt

1970:

Mr. Theodore Kinnaman  
Mr. Roger E. Axtell  
Mr. David E. Williams  
Mr. Karl Samek (City Manager)  
Mrs. Alfred Diotte

Mrs. Norman L. Carle  
Mr. Herbert C. Kimmel (Reverend)  
Mr. Joseph Lustig  
Miss Irene Blackford (Librarian)  
Mrs. Walter Nickol

1975:

Mrs. Alfred Diotte  
Mrs. James Brennan (Mary)  
Mr. David E. Williams  
Mrs. George Gutmann (Eleanor)  
Mrs. Jane Cullen  
Mr. Igor Mamantov  
Mr. James Stauff

Mr. Porter  
Mr. Roger E. Axtell  
Mrs. Albert Hough (Lois)  
Miss Irene Blackford (Librarian)  
Mr. Robert Bailey (City Manager)  
Mr. George McKilligan  
Mr. Karl Samek

1980:

Mr. George McKilligan  
Mr. James Berg  
Mr. William Bessire  
Dr. Charles Violin  
Mr. Larry Fladhammer  
Mrs. Theodore Kinnaman (Jan)  
Mr. Philip Deaton (City Manager)

Mr. John Scott, Sr.  
Mrs. Susan Keeney  
Mr. Albert Kempfer  
Mr. Richard Kingsley  
Miss Cecelia Howe  
Miss Sophia Furman  
Mr. Daniel J. Bradbury (Librarian)

1984:

Mr. Clarence Hammarlund  
Mr. William Lee  
Mr. Tom Hulick  
Mrs. Theodore Kinnaman (Jan)  
Mrs. Virginia Krohn  
Mr. Joseph Accardi (Librarian)

Mr. R. Alan Bates  
Mr. Albert Kempfer  
Mrs. Sima Wexler  
Mr. Larry Fladhammer  
Mr. Philip Deaton (City Manager)

Note: This partial listing of JPL Board members, 1883-1984 has relied primarily on Minutes of the Board of Directors and Annual Reports for the period covered. Because of the scattered nature of the record and the painstaking work involved in compiling a complete list of members and dates of service, a "sampling" of JPL Board members is listed for the years 1910-1984 by five year intervals.



APPENDIX F

POTENTIAL DOCUMENTS AND MATERIAL FOR USE IN AN  
HISTORIC EXHIBIT OF THE JANESVILLE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Constitution of the Public Library Association of Janesville (PLA), circa 1883 with a list of members.

By-Laws of the PLA, circa 1883.

Certificate of Articles of Association issued to the PLA by the State of Wisconsin, dated 2 February 1883.

Minutes of the PLA, 3 November 1882 to 7 January 1884.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the PLA, 7 November 1882 to 7 January 1884.

Committee on Rooms Report of PLA, n.d. but circa 1883.

Conveyance agreement of Young Men's Association of Janesville (YMA) to the PLA upon payment of \$141.33 indebtedness of YMA, n.d., 10 November 1882?

Receipt for \$141.33 received of PLA in full payment of the indebtedness of the YMA of Janesville, 10 November 1882.

Lease between A. P. Bennett and PLA for library rooms in the building known as the Bennett Block, 18 December 1882.

Receipt of \$4.00 payment to J. B. Doe, Jr. for drawing the Articles of Association, certificate and recording fee on behalf of the PLA, 3 February 1883.

Report of Burr Robbins Entertainment Fundraiser by Chairman, Mary M. Stevens of PLA, 7 May 1883.

Report of Committee appointed by the Board of Trustees of the PLA to audit accounts of entertainment given by Colonel Burr

Robbins on 30 April 1883 for benefit of library fund, n.d.

Publicity flyer, The Faust Advance Courier, for Benefit of a Public Library Fund, Myers' Opera House, Friday and Saturday, 15 and 16 September 1882. Featured performance by Minerva Guernsey. (RCHS-IFA-242).

Bill of Sale of PLA Library to the City of Janesville, dated 7 January 1884.

Inventory of furniture and books belonging to the PLA and conveyed to the City of Janesville, 7 January 1884.

YMA library table, stool and two chairs (owned by Mrs. Joyce Duckert, JPL Circulation Dept.).

Photograph of the Angle Worm Club room, circa 1880s (RCHS).

YMA Library Catalog, Janesville, WI - 1875.

YMA Library Catalog. Janesville: Recorder Printing Co. Handwritten, n.d.

Rules and Regulations of the Use of the Library, 1884.

Library Catalog, JPL. Janesville: Recorder Printing Co., 1888, 1890.

Circulation statistic ledger books of JPL:

1900-03; 1903-07; 1909-10; 1911-12; 1912-13; 1913-14;  
1914-15; 1915-16; 1916-17; 1917-18; 1918-19; 1919-21;  
1921-23; 1923-24; 1926-27; 1930-31; 1932-36; 1937-41;  
1942-46; 1968-69; 1970-71; 1972-73; 1974-75

Circulation statistic ledger books of Children's Room, JPL:

1903-08; 1907-09; 1910-11; 1918-19; 1925-26; 1928-29

School Circulation Record, JPL 1934-38

Fines Record, JPL 1925-30

Library Committee Report to the President and Board of Directors of the JPL, 4 January 1884.

Notice of termination of lease with A. P. Bennett by the Board of Directors of the JPL, 23 February 1887.

Rental receipts received from JPL in amount of \$20.83 per month from 1 February 1889 to 1 June 1891 (various months missing).

Report of the Library Extension Committee for work in the factories presented to the Board of Directors of the JPL, 14 February 1900.

Various receipts received of Librarian, L. S. Best, for library fines paid to the City Treasurer and for library cataloges, dated variously 1884, 1885-87, 1888-90.

Receipts for coal and wood delivered to JPL between 23 September 1887 to 15 March 1888 from Blair and Gowdey.

Draft letter to Andrew Carnegie from Charles L. Fifield of Janesville, WI requesting funds for a Carnegie Library Building, 19 February 1901.

Letter to Mr. James Bertram of New York City regarding Carnegie donation, 10 March 1901.

Letter to A. E. Badger of Janesville, WI from J. Bertram regarding the proposed ordinance for yearly financing of a Carnegie library building, 25 March 1901.

Agreement between J. T. W. Jennings, Architect of Madison with Janesville regarding construction of a public library building in Janesville, June 1901.

Letter to Andrew Carnegie from Charles L. Fifield of Janesville, WI requesting \$200.00 for architect fees, 1 November 1901.

Draft of letter to Andrew Carnegie requesting an additional \$5000.00 donation for library construction plans, n.d.

Letter to Charles L. Fifield of Janesville, WI by R. A. Franks of Home Trust Company regarding installment payments from

Carnegie, 19 May 1902.

Letter of approval from Mrs. F. S. Eldred on library construction plans freeing the \$10,000 bequest from her husband, 28 September 1902.

Uniform contract between J. P. Cullen and Brother and the City of Janesville, 19, March 1902.

Plans and specifications and changes to same for JPL Carnegie Building, 1903 (set of 4).

Blueprints of JPL Carnegie building (RCHS).

Newspaper publicity scrapbooks of JPL, 1912-1929, 1930-1937. Interesting library publicity advertisements of potential use as well as flyers and programs of the 1912 conference of the Wisconsin State Library Association hosted by the JPL.

Collection of photographs of City of Janesville, various from circa 1870s to 1950s (JPL).

Print or photographic block of JPL building of 1903.

Collection of photos and postcard memorabilia of JPL:

Arbuthnot Dairy advertisement with 1903 building.

2 postcards of library

Ottman collection

Child reading

Visit the Library Good Book Week

Holiday Greetings Bulletin Board

China Book Week

Various photos of 1903 library building:

Children's Room Plaque dedicated to Adah Eldred

Ten Years Growth in library volumes and circulation, 1924-1934, 1922-1932

Postcards of library building and Courthouse Park

Interior photos, including children reading

Some exhibits of JPL, circa 1930s-40s.

Collection of Photographs of 1968 library facility soon after opening:

Children at work  
Microfilm machine  
Record player facility  
Current Reading  
Library Board members  
Circulation

Blueprints of 1968 Library Building

Remnants of the Skavlem bird collection once displayed prominently in the Children's Room, 1890s-1928 (RCHS).

Filipino weapons collections, once a library exhibit, 1912 (RCHS).