

HISTORICAL

At a regular meeting of the City Council of DeKalb, held April 1st, 1893, Alderman Everett presented a request from a number of ladies of the city that the council grant the use of the present council chamber for the purpose of a reading room and library. This request was granted by the council and in addition they agreed to furnish heat and light and to put the room in proper condition for library purposes. This motion was finally amended so that the room now occupied by the library was fitted up and placed at the service of the ladies.

At a regular meeting of the Council, held July 1, 1893, an ordinance was passed establishing a Public Library. At an adjourned meeting of the Council, held September 11, 1893, the Mayor appointed the following directors of the DeKalb Public Library: J. M. Everett, A. W. Sprague, John G. Lundberg, M. J. Henaughan, S. P. Bradshaw, N. Ben- nor, Mrs. H. O. Smith, Mrs. S. W. Patten, Mrs. E. B. Murray. Having no funds to work with, it was decided to circulate a subscription paper to solicit funds to purchase periodicals for the Reading Room. This Reading Room was conducted from 1893 to 1896, being in charge of a regular attendant with a salary of three dollars a week. The funds obtained for periodicals from May 25, 1893, to June 1, 1897, were as follows:

General subscription.....	\$243.50
Dues from directors.....	1.80
Proceeds of ice cream social.....	10.00
Total	\$255.30

A record of the attendance at the Reading Room was kept. The following gives this by months for 1897:

January520	July214
February504	August310
March573	September280
April404	October367
May312	November318
June254	December382

At a meeting of the Council April 18, 1896, a tax was levied to the amount of \$500 for library purposes.

The Library Board issued a call to the public for donations of books to start the library. In response to this about 600 volumes were obtained. After revision it was found that 461 books were in good condition and they were placed upon the shelves for circulation. This was the real beginning of the DeKalb Public Library. Since then the Library has had many generous donations. Among these may be mentioned The Library Whist Club, who in April, 1900, donated 100 new books and since that time have regularly added to this list, so that up to date over 900 books have been donated by this club. The Maurine Circle, employes of the Leonard Shoe Factory, donated 67 books. The DeKalb Woman's Club donated 49 books.

The late Mrs. Clinton Rosette in her will bequeathed to the Library nearly 800 volumes.

In June, 1900, the Library Board purchased its first consignment of books. In August, 1901, Miss Jandell was employed to catalogue the 900 volumes then constituting the Library. Since then the Library has steadily grown until now we have 7,587 entries on our accession book. In fourteen years 487 books have disappeared, as follows: Two hundred and eleven have been worn out, 24 lost by contagion, 252 lost by patrons failing to return what they had borrowed. Probably some of these will be returned.

Miss Cole has just completed a card catalogue of all the books in the Library according to the A. L. A. system of classification. This puts the Library in the best shape for use possible. During the past year up-to-date library furniture has been added for the convenience of library patrons.

Respectfully submitted,

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P. N. Joslin
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Mrs. Mary E. Boardman
Mrs. H. W. Fay
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