



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Waukesha Co
Eagle

William C. Kahl
State Superintendent

Archie A. Buchmiller
Deputy State Superintendent

REFERENCE AND LOAN LIBRARY
Box 1437
Madison 53701 (TWX-910-286-2768)

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES
3030 Darbo Drive
Madison 53714

DIVISION FOR LIBRARY SERVICES
W. LYLE EBERHART, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
WISCONSIN HALL, 126 LANGDON STREET
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53702

July 17, 1972

Miss Alice Baker
Eagle, Wisconsin 53119

Dear Miss Baker:

Your letter of July 4 to the University Extension has been referred to our Division as the state agency for public libraries. We are very pleased to learn of your interest for public library service in Eagle.

Within the next month, the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, headquartered in Waukesha, is publishing their four-year study of library service in the seven southeast counties of the state. Waukesha County is one of the counties included. This study will have recommendations for the development of public library services in Waukesha County.

In addition, the Waukesha County Board has appointed a county library planning committee, and their work is just getting under way. They will consider the southeast planning commission's recommendations and will be recommending to the County Board the establishment of some form of countywide library service. The whole idea of all this is to make library service as accessible as possible to all the residents of the county and all libraries backed up with greater library resources than their own holdings. This may well mean that in the southwestern part of Waukesha County there will be new libraries, or branches of a county library, set up.

So from this, you see, we are concerned about the people in both the village and town of Eagle having library service. As the public library consultant for Waukesha County for many years and the one working with both the planning commission and Waukesha County Library Committee, I am interested in your concern.

However, our recommendation at present is that Eagle hold back on library establishment until the county library planning committee has progressed further in its plans. I will call your letter to the attention of the committee.

Now, brief answers to your questions:

1. What is the salary of a fully trained librarian? A fully trained librarian, without experience, has a beginning salary of \$8,500 or more. Eagle's population does not require the services of a professional librarian, but a person with some library training.

Miss Alice Baker

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2. What should a building incorporate? It is not necessary in a community the size of Eagle to have a separate library building. It can be in a community building such as the village hall. In such a case, it needs well planned, separate quarters. In small communities, if the library is not located in a community building, often it is in a former store building.
3. What connection with the town and village government should exist? If an independent library is established (not a branch of a county library), the town and village could jointly agree under state library law to establish it and each board appoint members to a joint library board which would govern the library.
4. Should there be a library board? Yes, if an independent village/town library. If a branch of a county system, the county library board would govern it.
5. What sum should a trust fund be to guarantee perpetuity? This is a very difficult question. First, library service is not cheap, and, second, during this period of inflation it is hard to place a dollar amount because what today may be adequate tomorrow may not be. Library service is a public service and, as such, should be tax supported. However, many libraries do have trust funds which are used in addition to the public funds. These private funds are administered by the library board and are used to provide an enrichment for the library to make it a better library than it would be with just public funds.
6. Please give any information about such a project that I need. Some material is being sent under separate cover. Much of it refers to library systems, which is the current trend of public library organization--libraries working together and sharing services in order to give better service to people in both communities with and without a public library, and all political units within the total system area contributing to the support of the library service.

If you would like to have me stop to see you sometime when I am in Waukesha County, I will be happy to do so. Please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ione A. Nelson
Public Library Consultant

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