

Waukesha Co

September 22, 1966

Mr. La Verne Mann, Chairman
Library Committee, PTO
Eagle, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Mann:

Your letter of September 13 to the Reference & Loan Library has been referred to me for reply.

We were happy to hear of the success of your summer library program for children.

You ask if the State offers advisory service on starting a library. Our Field Services section gives this type of service. If my memory serves me correctly, Eagle has been interested in local library service for a number of years. We, too, are interested in people having easy access to public library service. However, as you indicated in your letter, starting a library is expensive. It is also expensive to maintain if it is to give the service that is demanded in today's world. In order to do this, there must be both a good population and tax base. Our agency is not encouraging the establishment of small, independent libraries such as yours would be. We are, however, encouraging the development of library systems, e.g., county or multicounty libraries. If Waukesha County developed a county library system, your community could perhaps have a branch library to serve the village and town. Both the national and state library standards are based on library systems only.

You may be interested to know that at the present time a library survey is in the planning stages for the seven southeast counties, with the object of producing a pattern for library development in this large metropolitan area. The Southeastern Library Association has requested it be done. The Southeast Planning Commission, the State Department of Resource Development, and our agency will be involved in this undertaking, as well as the library association. This survey may take two years as it will be very comprehensive. All of Waukesha County will be included. So, before going ahead with any library plans for your village, it may be wise to wait and watch the progress of the survey and participate, if possible, in some of the implementation as it goes on.

You also asked if there were any collections that could be borrowed from us to help start a village library. Due to the changing character of our library, this is no longer possible. The emphasis placed on collections now is that of an overlending library to libraries--holding those books that individual libraries find they have not enough call for to warrant their purchase or are too expensive. When you borrowed the children's collection

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this summer, you were probably advised that we were discontinuing our children's and young people's books, because we feel these should be held locally and in the library systems. Our fiction collection is being reduced, and for many years we have not held westerns, mysteries, or light love and not best sellers unless they warranted adding on merit.

We do use federal funds under the Library Services and Construction Act for assistance in organizing and developing library systems but not for establishing or developing independent libraries.

This all sounds discouraging, I am sure, but, if your efforts are directed toward developing a library system in your area, your community would in the end receive far superior service to that which you could have with just a village library. You may wish to contact the Waukesha Public Library, Mr. Edward Lynch, librarian, to see if, at least during an interim period, your village could contract for book collections.

Under separate cover, we are sending you a copy of A Design . . ., our Wisconsin library standards. If you have any questions on it or the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to ask. If ever you come into Madison, we would be most pleased to have you stop at our office at 3030 Darbo Drive near the Highway 30 intersection as you come into town. It would be well to call before coming in to make sure I am in. My telephone number is 266-3765.

Sincerely,

Ione A. Nelson
Coordinator of Field Services

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U.S.C.