

# 1995 Publicity Scrapbook Summary

## System News:

A \$26,000 state grant provided for the installation of personal computers online with the Hennepin County library system in non-library sites. The computers were directly linked to the suburban library system's computer network. The network included the library system catalog from which users could reserve books and have them delivered to the site. The effort was targeted toward people who lack transportation or rarely make it to the library. (Bloomington Sun. Current 5/10/95)

Patti Baskin wrote an opinion piece for The Sun.Current (4/5/95) on National Library Week, a time when libraries across the nation celebrate the life changing power of public libraries. The year's theme was "Libraries Change Lives".

Hennepin County Commissioners gave MCN equipment from the library's TV studio at Ridgedale to furnish the regional cable channel's 1400 square foot studio space . The library discontinued its TV production unit, that for years taped the book-related cable programs "A Discussion with..." "Northern Lights and Insights" and "All about Kids". MCN will keep those series going but its grander plan is to produce local public affairs programs. (Star Trib 12/29/95)

## Assistive technology:

Open Book Machine (OBM) is a computer system able to scan almost any printed material and read it back to the user, including magazines, newspapers, books and printed letters. OBMs are found in the Brooklyn Park, Rockford Road, Southdale, Ridgdale and St. Louis Park Libraries. OBMs can be operated easily by the blind or computer illiterate. (Sun.Current 9/27/95)

## Youth Services:

The library proposed charging a replacement fee for puppets destroyed or not returned. Formerly a flat fee of \$5.25 was charged. (Star/Trib 10/22/95)

Libraries were reaching out to teens with books that are diverse and speak to problems teens faced in the nineties. Ward Hill Press published books about American Indians, African Americans, the poor and violence. (Star/Trib 3/30/95)

Barbara Burckhardt, Richfield Library clerk, wrote in an opinion piece in the Star Tribune (1/21/95) that "A computer's not the best place to learn to read". Her concern reflected the installation of CD-ROM terminals in the children's areas.

## Individual libraries:

### Champlin:

Tax officials recently honored more than 300 public libraries throughout Minnesota for their "continuing participation in the federal and state tax forms distribution program". Champlin Library was included on the list of honored libraries. A lot of people find it easier and more convenient to come to a nearby library to get tax forms. In this way libraries play a vital role in making our (tax) system work better, said John Dalrymple, director of the IRS in Minnesota. (Champlin/Dayton Press 5/16/95)

Champlin Library is the only library that features stained glass windows. Ruth Stephens donated money for the first of four windows over the library's main entrance depicting the seasons of the year. A committee selected Dawn Purtle of Coon Rapids as artist for the project. Purtle has her own in-home company, First Glass Act. (Champlin/ Dayton Press 11/7/95)

A library display case was dedicated to the memory of Gudrun Greenfield on April 29 at the library. Greenfield was a creative and energetic community activist. (Champlin/ Dayton Press 4/25/95)

### Eden Prairie:

The Eden Prairie City Council approved plans for the expansion of the Eden Prairie Library during the May 9 council meeting. Construction is expected to begin in mid-July and be complete by the end of the year. During the construction the library will close for two to three weeks halfway into the project and reopen when the finishing touches are made. People will notice a lot more space in the children's area. There will be a larger reference collection as well. The expansion will create the library's first young adult area, including a lounge for teens. A new community meeting/training room is part of the plan too. (Eden Prairie News 4/13/95)

### Excelsior:

The Excelsior Sun.Sailor (12/27/95) featured Helen Malby in their "Spotlight" column. Helen shared her favorite books, hobbies and traveling.

## Long Lake:

Long Lake moved to its new home in the Town Square Shopping Center in May of 1995. Officials taking part in the ribbon-cutting were Long Lake Librarian Judith Bortscheller, County Commissioner Penny Steele, County Library Board President Patti Baskin and County Library Director Charles Brown. (Wayzata Weekly News 5/4/95) The Town Square Center is at the intersection of Highway 12 and Brown Road which is controlled by a traffic signal, making access easier for both adults and children. (Sun.Sailor 4/12/95)

## Maple Grove:

Expansion of the Maple Grove Library was well underway in October. 5,000 square feet were added with the new space primarily devoted to the reading room and a quiet study area. Contractor was TCM of Minneapolis. The project also included remodeling the staff work room and relocating the circulation desk. Accommodations were made so the library would meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. The parking lot had an additional 11 spaces. Total budget was \$1,150,000. (Osseo/Maple Grove Press 10/4)

Winners of a Short Story Writing Contest for junior and senior high school students were announced at a reception on April 25. Kirsten Bergh won first place in the Junior High division. The Senior High division was won by Nate Ochs. ( Osseo/Maple Grove Press 5/10/95)

## Osseo:

A library online catalog was installed in the lobby of Osseo City Hall so people can look up information at times when the library is closed but the city hall is open. (Osseo Maple Grove Press 8/9/95)

## Penn Lake:

Principal librarian Ann Eccles was appointed community librarian at the Penn Lake Library. She replaces Roseanne Byrne who was promoted to co-manager for public services for the suburban Hennepin County Library system. (Bloomington Sun. Current 11/15/95)

## Plymouth:

Studs Terkel, Pulitzer Prize winning author, was the keynote speaker at Plymouth's grand opening. (Plymouth Sun. Sailor 9/13/95)

Milo H. Thompson of the architectural firm of Bentz, Thompson and Rietow, Inc. designed the new Plymouth Library. The E.F.H.Co of Burnsville is the general contractor. (Sun. Sailor 6/21)

### Rockford Road:

A remodeling and renovation project worth nearly \$1 million was approved for the Rockford Road Library. Included in the plan is a new meeting room, handicapped accessibility upgrades and a renovation of the building's exterior. The library was built in 1973 (sic) and has undergone no major renovation since that time. Portions of its brick exterior were beginning to crumble. (Sun.Post 4/26/95)

Juanita Foster was selected for the 1995 Newbery Award committee. The committee reads from 150-200 books during the course of the year. A geographically representative mix of public and private librarians is sought to serve on the committee. (Sun.Post 11/29/95)

### St. Anthony:

Former mayor Sally Haik, who was mayor during St. Anthony's 25th anniversary celebration recalls the efforts of residents to keep St. Anthony Library open. She felt that it was so important to have books available in the community. (The Bulletin 1/25/95)

### Southdale:

Officials of the Hennepin County Library system announced they were closing their media lab and selling the equipment to Edina Art Center for \$8000. The lab was closed in September after 22 years, saying the lab's budget of \$150,000 a year could be better spent on more "core" library activities. (Star/Trib 11/16/95) The media lab controversy even rated a cartoon in American Libraries, 10/85.

### Westonka:

In a nationwide promotion Microsoft agreed to contribute a multimedia encyclopedia for use on the library's computer to libraries that submit 25 or more letters from the public about how libraries have made a difference in their lives. Local letter writers met the challenge and Westonka Library got its computer encyclopedia. (The Laker 3/20/95)

compiled by Eileen Cavanagh 10/2013