

1996 Publicity Scrapbook Summary

System News:

The Hennepin County Library System introduced a new, do-it-yourself method of renewing checked-out materials and placing reserves. It's an online catalog system that went into service January 2. It allows library patrons to renew checked out materials or reserve other materials by using their library card. (Eden Prairie News 1/18/96) New loan periods went into effect January 2 on videos and high demand items. The loan period for all videos is one week, compared to the previous loan periods of three weeks. Also beginning in 1996 videos maybe reserved and renewed. (Osseo Maple Grove Press 12/26/96)

Three articles this year focused on accessible subject headings, especially those provided by Sanford Berman, head cataloger. In "The Odd Man Out" Minnesota Women's Press (2/21/96) praises Sanford for petitioning the Library of Congress to change antiquated subject headings to more current usage. The Twin Cities Reader (12/11/96) noted that The Hennepin County Library system appears to be the only major academic or public library system in the country that recognizes "lookism" or discrimination against the unattractive, as a catalog subject heading. In Booklist's The Manley Arts column (5/1/96) Will Manley picked Sanford Berman as "best author". Manley adds, " The American Library Association should designate Sanford Berman an endangered species and should do everything to protect this man so that he can continue to propagate his wonderfully diverse library science writings."

The "Too Hot to Hold On to" project encouraged people to donate bestsellers to the public library. It hoped to alleviate one of the biggest challenges all libraries face: how to get bestsellers to readers as quickly as possible. (St. Paul Pioneer Press 6/16/96) The library provides a receipt for tax deduction purposes. (Star Trib 4/6/96)

There was an 8% increase of borrowing library materials in 1995. 9.7 million items were borrowed. (Annual Report 1995)

Pat Quinlan wrote in the Sun Current (5/3/96) about the pleasures of wedding coffee shops to libraries. Sanford Berman supplied him with printouts from nearly 50 states demonstrating that libraries all over the land had pre-discovered his idea.

During Banned Book Week Hennepin County Library discussed its decision to withhold two purchased copies of Death Scenes. Instead the library obtained copies from the interlibrary loan system and will continue to do so for patrons requesting the title. (Star Trib n.d.)

The theme for National Library week, April 14 through 20, celebrated the changing role of libraries with the message, "Libraries Change Lives. Call. Visit. Log on." Nationally only about one in five public libraries offered public access to the internet. The article

by Betty Turock of the ALA insisted that our communities, states and federal government must invest in libraries as centers for information in all forms. (reprinted in Osseo Maple Grove Press 4/14/96)

Beginning February 1 overdue fines increased 5 cents a day on adult materials; the fines on children's materials remained the same. Patrons can renew materials by phone or computer or in person. (Eden Prairie News 1/11/96)

The Star Tribune noted a creative partnership to preserve service and cut costs: Three noncommercial shows that had been a fixture on Metro Cable Network/Ch 6 faced the chopping block: "Northern Lights and Insights" about Minnesota authors; "A Discussion With..." interviewing authors from around the country; and "All About Kids". The officials at Channel 6 suggested a better idea: Donate the used TV equipment and we'll produce the shows for a minimum of 18 months. This kept a public service alive in the face of a tight government budget. (Star Trib 1/11/96)

Library use rates in the Twin Cities suburbs in 1996 were among the highest in the country. (13.1% per capita in Hennepin County compared to 7.6% in national libraries of the same size.) (Star Trib 1/28/96)

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Individual Libraries:

Champlain:

Champlin Library and Oxbow Creek School received an award for collaboration from Metronet. Gail Mueller, children's librarian at Champlin says the collaboration has resulted in more effective and increased use of the library's resources. (Champlin Dayton Press 7/2/96)

"Ethnic Pride" was the topic of the Minnesota Community Conversations dialogue exploring local community life today, yesterday and in the future. The discussion will focus on contributions of diverse cultures and how ethnic pride impacts our community. Additional conversation topics were : "Strengthening Communities" and "Summing it Up" (Champlin Dayton Press 4/9/96)

In October Champlin Library hosted a touring exhibit on women's right to vote.. The exhibit traces the nations' women's struggle for the right to vote. A special opening presentation by Hennepin County Commissioner Penny Steele was at the library on October 12. (Champlin Dayton Press 10/8/96)

Eden Prairie:

Lois Langer was named the new senior librarian at the Eden Prairie Community Library. She succeeds Marge McPeak who recently retired as the Eden Prairie facility's senior librarian. (Eden Prairie News 8/1/96)

Based on last year's success the Eden Prairie Library will once again present a panel of well-known mystery writers. The program, "More... Mystery Writers Tell All" was held on October 14. (Eden Prairie News 10/10/96)

Eden Prairie News (3/28/96) devoted a large article to Marge McPeak's retirement (in April(?). In her 14 years with Hennepin County Library Marge saw libraries organized by card catalog, book catalog, microfiche and new computer. She and her husband will move to their lake home near Tower, MN.

The "Because We Care" program provided 1000 Minnesota Twins baseball tickets for distribution through the suburban Hennepin County Library System, including the Eden Prairie Branch (Eden Prairie News 7/25/96)

Eden Prairie celebrated its 10th anniversary and newly renovated and expanded community library on April 20th during an open house. (Eden Prairie Sun Current 4/24/96)

Hopkins:

Take Home Kits were available to be checked out for three weeks to keep kids busy during long trips on vacation. The free kits were custom designed to meet the child's reading level and interests based on information provided to the librarian who selects the materials for it. (Hopkins/St. Louis Park Sun Sailor 7/17/96)

Long Lake:

In a "Letters from Readers" segment a Long Lake patron tells about the value of interlibrary loans. He wrote the letter to tell other readers about the " vast nationwide library resources available through each branch library thanks to the new computer system and the nationwide library net." (Pioneer 3/23/96)

Maple Grove:

Winners of the 1996 short story contest sponsored by the Friends of the Maple Grove Library were announced in November at a reception at the library, attended by more than 300 participants and family members. Students competed in four categories based on grade level. A \$25 first prize and two \$10 runner-up prizes were presented in each category. Twelve winners were selected. (no source 12/4/96)

A grand reopening celebrated the expansion and renovation of the Maple Grove Library. The recent expansion of the library enlarged the building by 5000 square feet to a total of 15,000 square feet. The architect was Bernard Jacob Architects Ltd.,

Minneapolis. The construction project also upgraded safety features in the building and improved accessibility for patrons with disabilities. (Osseo/Maple Grove Press 5/16/96)

The library is among 15 Hennepin County Libraries making a special effort to create an area specifically dedicated to teenagers. They have established a separate area where teens find comic books, college guides, videos and specially selected paperback fiction. (Osseo/Maple Grove Press 11/13/96)

Maple Plain:

Maple Plain Library was closed from July 19 for three to four weeks while it was renovated. (Laker 7/6/96)

Plymouth:

A thousand people gathered for the opening of Plymouth Library. Author Studs Terkel, the guest of honor, said he'd never sold so many of his books in a single sitting. (Star Trib 1/28/96)

Plymouth Library celebrated its first anniversary with a month's worth of special events including Minneapolis author Faith Sullivan who discussed her books on September 17. (Plymouth Sun-Sailor 9/11/96)

Ridgedale Area Library:

The Minnetonka City Council granted final approval for an expansion of the Ridgedale Library that would expand the library by 61,379 square feet and increase parking from 373 to 500 stalls. The expansion would double the size of the library, providing for a larger collection of materials and add public conference and meeting rooms. A used bookstore and expanded space for study was included. (Minnetonka Sun-Sailor 11/27/96)

Rockford Road:

From mid-December to the end of February 1997 was one of the longest check-out periods in library history. On December 14 the Rockford Road Library closed for construction and renovation. (Crystal Robbinsdale Sun Post 11/20/96)

Online computer services for public use, an improved book collection and a facelift were in store for Rockford Road Library. Built in 1972 it was designed for a staff of 10 to handle an annual circulation of 200,000. By 1996 the 26 member staff handled a circulation of 600,000. An April starting date was slated for a \$965,000 construction

and renovation project at the library. By November they hope to open a larger newly improved library to the public. (Crystal Robbinsdale Sun Post 1/3/96)

Southdale Area Library:

The last remaining equipment from the closed Southdale Hennepin Area Library media lab found a home. The Hennepin County Board approved the sale and transfer of the equipment in December. In November the Edina Art Center bought some of the equipment that it plans to make available for direct public use. (Sun Current 1/3/96)

compiled by Eileen Cavanagh 8/2013