Worthington Public Library

1803 - - 1953



James Kilhourne Memorial Building

Granville Road and High Street

WORTHINGTON, OHIO

WORTHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY

Summer 1803 — The Scioto Company agreed before leaving Connecticut to appropriate two dollars from each subscriber's fund for the purchase of books for a public library in the Northwest Territory.

December 23, 1803 — Dr. Jonas Stanberry and other settlers brought together a small collection of books and formally established the Stanberry Library in Worthington.

1839 — Colonel James Kilbourne introduced a bill in the Ohio Legislature establishing a group of persons as a body politic to be known as "The Worthington Literati" for the purpose of establishing a library and lyceum in the town of Worthington.

1854-1860 — The library was sponsored by the school board.

- 1870 A People's Library issued by Harper Brothers and containing about 200 volumes was located in the Post Office where the books were issued by the postmaster, F. W. Bishop.
- 1898 The Worthington Reading Room Library Association was formally opened with Dr. James Canfield, president of Ohio State University and father of Dorothy Canfield Fisher, giving the dedicatory address.
- 1903 The Fortnightly Club, a women's Shakespeare study club, opened the Worthington Reading Room on the south side of the original Kilbourne home.
- February 15, 1908 The Worthington Public Library Association was incorporated and books were placed at each of the township schools by means of a traveling library system.
- 1909 and 1916 The Carnegie Foundation refused financial aid because "so small a community could not support a library."
- April 13, 1925 The Worthington School District Public Library was organized.
- 1927 Mrs. Elizabeth Jones Deshler of Columbus presented the central portion of the present building in honor of her grandfather, Colonel James Kilbourne.
- 1931 Mrs. Elizabeth Jones Deshler presented the north and south wings on the present building which were dedicated to her grandmother and mother respectively. The library's official title became THE WORTHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, JAMES KILBOURNE MEMORIAL BUILDING.

- 1937 The first trained librarian was hired.
- 1940 The first trained children's librarian was employed.
- 1943 A children's room was opened in the basement of the building.
- 1945 A trained specialist in young people's work was employed and a young people's division was established.
- 1953 The National Eclectic Medical Association dedicated a plaque to the Worthington Public Library which now stands where the first Eclectic Medical College in the Middle West was established as a part of the Worthington College.

FACTS AND FIGURES

This is a school district public library supported by the tax on intangibles in Franklin County. Any resident within the county may use the library free of charge.

Most books are issued for two weeks and are renewable by telephone. Books and magazines in demand are not renewable and are limited to a 7 or 14 day loan.

THE WORTHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ALSO SERVES...

- by reference questions answered at the library and by telephone
- by interlibrary loans

- by work with schools and teachers through class room loans, regular class visits and story hours
- by instruction to students in the use of books and libraries
- by book talks, reviews, bibliographies, exhibits, reading lists, magazines, pamphlets and club program planning
- by special departments for children and young people
- by a ceiling projector for the bedfast.

CIRCULATION	BOOK STOCK		
Adult, 52.4%	Adult		
Total	Total		
Total. 4.746			

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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HOURS

Monday	through	Friday	12:00	- 8:-
turday		9:00	A.M.	- 8:

17/11/

PHONE — FRANKLIN 2-5361

The librarian and staff welcome you most cordially to the library. Please feel free to recommend books for purchase or to make suggestions for improving our service.

We hope that you will use the library to make your work more efficient and your leisure more enjoyable. Members of the library staff are here to help you.