

2003

Carnegie Library Buildings in Iowa Today

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to present the history of four Iowa Carnegie Library buildings: Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, West Liberty, Iowa, and Eldon, Iowa. These four building histories were selected because together they represent the common fates of such buildings, not only in Iowa, but across the country. The Carnegie Library in Eldon remains much the same as the day it opened in May 9, 1913 with many original features intact. The West Liberty Carnegie Library building has been renovated to retain the Carnegie appearance. Cedar Falls had renovated its Carnegie library building with no regard for aesthetics and is now demolishing the entire building. Cedar Rapids built a new facility for its library and now uses the original Carnegie building as an art museum.

An important part of library history in the United States is told through the public library buildings erected through the generosity of Andrew Carnegie. Communities such as Eldon, Iowa and West Liberty, Iowa, should be applauded for maintaining this architectural record.

Carnegie Library Buildings in Iowa Today

A Research Paper

Submitted to the

Division of Library Science

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

In Partial Fulfillment

Of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

By

Terri Hudachek

September 5, 2003

This Research Paper by: Teri Hudachek

Titled: Carnegie Library Buildings in Iowa

has been approved as meeting the research paper requirements
for the degree of Master of Arts.

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The purpose of this study was to present the history of four Iowa Carnegie Library buildings: Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, West Liberty, Iowa, and Eldon, Iowa. These four building histories were selected because together they represent the common fates of such buildings, not only in Iowa, but across the country. The Carnegie Library in Eldon remains much the same as the day it opened in May 9, 1913 with many original features intact. The West Liberty Carnegie Library building has been renovated to retain the Carnegie appearance. Cedar Falls had renovated its Carnegie library building with no regard for aesthetics and is now demolishing the entire building. Cedar Rapids built a new facility for its library and now uses the original Carnegie building as an art museum.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

“The liberality of Mr. Andrew Carnegie in erecting library buildings, both in this country and abroad, has undoubtedly given an impetus to the library movement that it might not otherwise have had. While the public library would without doubt have grown in strength because of its recognized service to the community in the higher development of the people, nevertheless the proffer of a building for housing the library serves as an incentive in many communities to establish a library” (Biennial report of the Iowa Library Commission, 1900-1903, p. 14).

Background

In the 1700s colonists created private libraries where members paid dues to read books. The dues were used for buying new books. In 1833, one of the first free tax-supported libraries was established in Peterborough, New Hampshire (*World Book*, 2001, p.261). Public libraries did not have their true origin until states allowed towns to establish and maintain libraries through taxes. The first state that passed this law was Massachusetts in 1851 (Bobinski, 1969, p. 5). During the late 1800s, several changes took place in the United States to increase the demand for libraries.

Immigrants flocked to the United States. Many people moved to cities to find work in factories and others settled in the West. People turned to libraries for education and entertainment. (p.261). As a result of states allowing towns to pay taxes to support and maintain public libraries the number of public libraries increased. Between 1848 and 1875, there were 188 public libraries. By 1887, there were 649 public libraries in the twenty states (out of the then 45 states) having public library enabling laws. In 1896, 474 out of the 971 public libraries were in five New England states. The eleven Southeastern states had just twelve public libraries (p.22). There were only 46 public libraries west of the Mississippi River and 18 of these libraries were in California

(Jones, p. 15-16). Iowa became a state in 1846. Years later the first library was established in Iowa in 1853.

Table 1: Early Public Libraries in Iowa

<u>Date Founded</u>	<u>Town</u>
1853	Fairfield
1873	Washington
1875	Osage
1876	Cedar Falls
1877	Charles City
1878	Newton
1882	Council Bluffs
1882	Des Moines
1884	Indianola
1885	Boone
1885	Burlington
1886	Cherokee
1888	Mason City
1892	Hampton
1892	Winterset
1893	Fort Madison
1893	Nevada
1893	Rock Rapids
1893	Waverly

(Iowa Library Commission 1910-1912, pp.30-33).

The reason for the small number of public libraries in the Iowa in the late 1800s and early 1900s was the lack of funding for creating libraries and that most towns did not have an adequate building in which to house the library collection. Iowa communities found that libraries took a lot of money to get started and some people felt that a library in their communities was not a necessity. Some communities housed their libraries somewhere in the city hall, some used rented rooms in a commercial block, a room in the school building, or a room in the county courthouse (Van Slyck,

1995, p.128). Some unique places where libraries were located included a public auditorium, a YMCA, a church basement, and on the shelves of a drugstore (p.128).

Towns needed to have public library buildings for their growing library collections. Andrew Carnegie, the philanthropist, changed the way the public views libraries and their establishment across America by providing funding for library buildings. Carnegie-funded library buildings can be found across the United States. It was “Carnegie public library benefactions in this country that provided the greatest impact on our library development and on American history” (Bobinski, 1990, p. 296)

This is true for Iowa. Fairfield, Iowa, was the first town west of the Mississippi to receive a library building grant from Carnegie. Eventually there would be 101 Iowa towns receiving funding. In 2003, 94 of these buildings are still standing and 54 are used as public libraries (Carnegie libraries in Iowa, 2003, www.silo.lib.us/for-ia-libraries/library-construction/carnegie-libraries-in-iowa.htm). The disappearance and discontinued use of these buildings have resulted in a loss of a significant amount of the state’s history. This research will investigate the physical condition of four Carnegie library buildings in Iowa that have had different outcomes to the overall use and design of the buildings. “It is crucial for individuals and communities deciding the future of Carnegie libraries to remember that the destruction of Carnegie library buildings literally chip away at the hope and legacy” of the past and what they represented (Walker, 1994, p.11).

Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, on November 25, 1835. As a young boy Carnegie borrowed books from Colonel James Anderson in an attempt to

become more educated. Colonel James Anderson personally opened his library of 400 volumes to boys (Carnegie, 1920, p.45).

Andrew Carnegie first funded library building was in his hometown of Dunfermline, Scotland. This experience based upon his early childhood with Colonel James Anderson had a major impact on Carnegie and later encouraged him to help communities build libraries across the United States (Jones, 1997, p. 4-5).

Andrew Carnegie and his family left Dunfermline, Scotland, when Andrew was thirteen years old. The family left Scotland because trade for small manufactures grew worse (p.25). Carnegie started his working career in the United States as being a telegraph operator with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and was later appointed superintendent of the telegraph department (Carnegie, 1920, p.64, 69). Carnegie made his first investment in Adam Express stock and later invested in sleeping cars (p.80, 88). In addition to investing his money, he was promoted in the Railroad Company to manager of the Pittsburgh Division (p.91).

After the Civil War in 1866, Andrew Carnegie and Thomas Miller organized the Pittsburgh Locomotive Works (p.115). Carnegie offered Col. John Piper to come to Pittsburgh to create a company for building bridges (p.116). This company expanded to furnishing steel across the country. In 1900, Carnegie declared "I resolved to stop accumulating [wealth] and begin the infinitely more serious and difficult task of wise distribution. Our profits had reached forty millions dollars per year and the prospect of increased earnings before us was amazing" (Carnegie, 1920, p.255). In 1901, Carnegie and his partners sold out to the United States Steel Corporation. Carnegie spent his remaining years distributing his wealth to different causes. Carnegie had two main

reasons for donating money to build libraries. Carnegie believed that libraries “added to the meritocratic nature of America. Anyone with right inclination and desire could educate himself” (Lorenzen, 1999, p. 75). Second, Carnegie believed that libraries allowed immigrants to acquire cultural knowledge of the country (p. 75).

Grants.

One of Andrew Carnegie’s causes was giving grants to American communities for public library buildings. Carnegie would give grants to towns with a populations of more than one thousand people. The people of the town had to be willing to provide a site for a library building and “to tax themselves at an annual rate of 10 percent of the total gift, the funds to be used to maintain the building, to buy books, and to pay the salaries of the library staff” (Van Slyck, 1995, p. 22).

One way for communities to get a grant from Andrew Carnegie was for the mayor or the municipal council to write a request. Then Bertram (Carnegie’s secretary) would send the applicant a questionnaire. Following are some of the items found on the questionnaire:

Town Population Have a library at present Amount of taxes paid by the Community Is requisite site available Amount now collected toward building

(Bobinski, 1969, pp.203-204)

If a community met the rules or standards set by Carnegie or Bertram, the community would receive a letter stating that the grant had been approved (p. 205). If the community agreed to the grant then the person who requested the grant would fill

out a pledge to Carnegie or his secretary. By 1917, “Carnegie had promised 1,679 libraries to 1,412 towns at the cost of well over \$41 million (Van Slyck, 1995, p.22).

Architecture of Carnegie Libraries.

Carnegie library buildings tended to have “children’s room, reference rooms, and lecture halls” (Van Slyck, 1995, p. 34). Not all of the 1,689 public libraries funded by Andrew Carnegie are of the same architectural style. Many of the Carnegie buildings reflect the choices of the local builders and the communities’ needs (Jones, 1997, p. 53). Carnegie himself

never issued working blueprints and never promoted a favorite architectural style. Although his secretary, James Bertram, prepared a 1911 pamphlet on library floor plans and reviewed all building blueprints after 1904, his goal was to ensure functional library layouts and avoid waste. (Jones, 1997, pp. 53-54)

One of the most important things after a community received a grant, therefore, was to decide the architecture of the building. The style of the building was usually decided by a committee or by polling the community (Jones, 1997, p. 61). One functional plan was to build a rectangular-shaped building with a basement and one floor. Carnegie felt the main floor (12 to 15 feet high) should accommodate book stacks, “the circulation desk area, and suitable space for reading by adults and children” (Bobinski, 1969, p. 58). In addition, “rear and side windows were to be about 6 to 7 feet from the floor, thus permitting shelving all around” (p. 58). The basement was to be about 9 to 10 feet high. This area was to be used for storage, work, lecture rooms, and restrooms (p. 62).

One of the main things that was discouraged when building a Carnegie library was putting in a fireplace. Carnegie felt that a fireplace would rarely be used and a fireplace would take up space for 500 to 600 books. The Wisconsin Free Library Association had in their pamphlet a ten-point list of library design factors influenced by the American Library Association.

This list included that the site should be large enough to provide for future growth; the building should be designed so that it could be completely supervised by the fewest number of people; in reading rooms no decoration should be designed so that that might attract sightseers and disturb readers; no shelf should be out of reach of the average patron; and stairs should be straight, not circular. (Jones, 1997, p.57)

The library buildings that were constructed in the late 1800s were “either designed as tall, multistoried buildings for vertical book storage or as long, horizontal buildings divided into small rooms or alcoves by subject matter” (Jones, 1997, p.55). The vertical storage required patrons to climb stairs to retrieve books. And the horizontal buildings did not allow for growth and a change in the collection (Jones, 1997, p.55).

Over 75 percent of the Carnegie Libraries built in the United States had the architectural design of Ecole de Beaux-Arts. This architectural design includes “entrances within monumental arches; stone exterior walls with either invisible or exaggerated horizontal course lines” (Jones, 1997, p. 64). This design might also have ornamented pair columns (p. 64).

Public Libraries in Iowa

Settlers in Iowa were eager to establish libraries even before Iowa became a territory or a state (McGuire, 1938, p. 22). By 1839, the Iowa territory had a law stating that “any city, town, village, or neighborhood, in the Territory was authorized to assemble for the purpose of holding a library election whenever the community had subscribed one hundred dollars for a public library” (McGuire, 1938, p. 23). This money was obtained by selling shares.

The first public library in Iowa was in Fairfield, located in Jefferson County, in 1853 (McGuire, 1938, p. 24). At this time the Fairfield Library had 527 books on the shelves (p. 24). In 1893, the Fairfield Library moved to a new location with the help of the United States Senator James F. Wilson. Mr. Wilson was able to obtain a grant from Andrew Carnegie in the amount of \$40,000 (p. 25). This was the first Carnegie grant to be given to a community west of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, and the first with which Carnegie had no personal or business ties.

By 1903 there were 44 public libraries building built with Carnegie money in Iowa. This number increased to 83 Carnegie libraries in 1913 and by 1934 there were 101 public libraries built (McGuire, 1938, p. 66). The total cost of the Carnegie grants for Iowa was \$1,900,000 (McGuire, 1983, p.66). Alden, Iowa was the smallest town in the country to get one of Carnegie grants. This library was built in 1917.

Some communities voted against a Carnegie grant in Iowa because some people felt that Carnegie was only looking out for himself. For example, it was reported in the Guthrie Center newspaper that

By the activity of a majority of our people, Carnegie, the steel king, with his tainted money, has been thwarted in his efforts to build a public library in Guthrie Center, that would be, as was claimed, a menace to the morals of our town. By their actions Carnegie has been made to understand that the people of Guthrie Center are not paupers. They declare in unmistakable terms that no gift from him will be accepted to build a public library. Guthrie Center is the only town in the state that has refused a gift for a public library, and its grounds of refusal has not been to its credit as a moral and public spirited community (Martin, 1993, p. 118).

The Passing of Time for Carnegie Libraries in America

In 1918 the conservation and treatment of Carnegie library buildings as a limited resource began (Walker, 1994, p. 10). Some of the Carnegie library buildings are recognized as architectural and historic landmarks. There were 1,689 Carnegie buildings constructed; of these 772 still function as libraries and about 350 are being used in other ways (Jones, 1997, p. 105). The Cedar Rapids Carnegie Library is now an art museum. Many of these Carnegie libraries were razed because they were too small some of them even before the doors opened to house books.

These buildings “are often the first buildings in their towns salvaged in the name of historic preservation; some 377 Carnegie libraries are listed on the National Register of Historic Places today--more than any other type of building. Unfortunately, another 276 have been razed or destroyed by fire or other natural disasters” (Jones, 1997, p. 105).

Andrew Carnegie and his secretary James Bertram calculated the grants based upon the size of the community and did not take into consideration that the communities would grow (Jones, 1997, p. 106). Carnegie also gave out remodeling grants to communities who outgrew their present facilities. These grants were very rare because Carnegie's secretary felt that some communities did not use their libraries appropriately, for example, Fort Worth, Texas was refused a grant because this library also housed a large art gallery (p. 106).

When some of the Carnegie Libraries were done, some of the communities used the basement as a school. Other people used the basement for moneymaking purposes. The librarian would rent out the basement to local Girl Scouts.

After 1945 most of the Carnegie Libraries that were renovated did not match the architectural design of the first structure. A good example of this is in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, where in the early 1960s the community decided to create an addition to the current Carnegie Library. The architectural firm used an International Style.



Fergus Falls Public Library (Jones, 1997, p. 108).

This style structure gave the old library more room and lighting, but ruined the outside appearance of the old Carnegie library (Jones).

A closer example of this in Iowa is the Cedar Falls Public Library.



Cedar Falls Public Library (Safford, 2002)

Some Carnegie libraries were, however, renovated in the Carnegie way, for example, West Liberty Public Library.



West Liberty Public Library (Hudachek, 2002)

In the 1970s there was a movement to raze or destroy the Carnegie Libraries and build new libraries on the same land. Natural disasters have caused some of the Carnegie libraries to be destroyed. For example, in 1906 earthquakes in California destroyed many Carnegie libraries.

The Passing of Time for Carnegie Libraries in Iowa.

Over the last hundred years, “many of the Carnegie-endowed structures across America [and Iowa] have been lost to the ravages of time and the elements.

Community development has often led to changes in the original structures, sometimes at great cost” (www.fairfieldpublicaccess.org/carnegie.htm). As a result of trying to meet the needs of the Fairfield community, the library board felt that it was best for the community to build a new building.

Other communities in Iowa have decided to add on to their Carnegie libraries in the same architectural design as the original structure. At Ames, Iowa the Carnegie library has been added onto twice. The first addition was in 1940 with an extension



Ames 1903 (Hudachek, 2002)



Ames 1940 addition (Hudachek, 2002)



1985 addition (Hudachek 2002)

on the back with a new entrance. The second was in 1985 with a larger extension beside the other two.

Based upon Bobinski's survey (*1967) and (*1992) and the Iowa State Library's Survey (**2001), Iowa had 101 Carnegie library buildings:

Table 2: Carnegie Library Buildings in Iowa

Iowa Carnegie Libraries	1967*	1992*	2001**
still used as public library	96	74	54
original structure in use	83	21	
original building expanded	13	21	
not in use as public library	2	18	26
demolished	1	3	5
no report	3	6	

Problem Statement

Carnegie library buildings are an important part of Iowa's heritage. As pressures build to destroy these architectural treasures, Iowans need to be reminded of how they contributed to the state's intellectual and social history.

Research Questions

1. Have Carnegie libraries changed since they were first built?
2. What changes have been made in these buildings?
3. Were there any additions or renovations to these libraries ?
4. Have some of the communities built new buildings?
5. Have the Carnegie Libraries been abandoned or used for non-library purpose?

Purpose Statement

This research will describe the destinies of four of Iowa's Carnegie libraries. West Liberty Public Library underwent renovation to keep the original appearance. Cedar Falls Public Library has been remodeled but not in the Carnegie way. Some libraries have not been changed since their construction such as Eldon Public Library. Many Carnegie libraries now serve other purposes because their communities have abandoned them for a more modern facilities, such as Cedar Rapids.

Definitions

Carnegie libraries- Libraries that were established with grant money given by the philanthropy Andrew Carnegie.

Grant- Money given to a community to build a library building.

Subscription library- a person had to pay a fee to use the library

Mill- one tenth of a cent

Assumptions

The four Carnegie Libraries being studied will have the necessary resources on these Carnegie Libraries were created and maintained. The resources will be accurate and enhance the history of Carnegie Libraries in Iowa.

Limitations

Some of the limitations to this historical studied are the original people who constructed these buildings are dead and limited resources. Also, the researcher is focusing on four Carnegie Libraries in Iowa, instead of 101, so that generalizations cannot be assumed.

Significance

The Midwest benefited the most by Andrew Carnegie grants for library buildings with 633 by 1923; whereas the Northwest had 252, the Far West 180, the Northeast 173, the Southeast 112, and the Southwest 61. Two hundred Midwest communities did not have any public library before the Carnegie grant (Bobinski, 1969, p.195).

The significance of this paper is to encourage the preservation of the Carnegie Libraries' and thus the preservation of American library history. With each passing day and year the number of Carnegie Libraries is dwindling and or disappearing. Perhaps by describing how four communities Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Eldon, and West Liberty; other communities can make better decisions on what to do with Carnegie library building.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

This research will describe the destinies of four of Iowa's Carnegie library buildings. West Liberty Public Library underwent renovation to keep the original appearance. Cedar Falls Public Library has been remodeled but not in the Carnegie way. Eldon Public Library has not been changed since its construction. Cedar Rapids Carnegie Library now serves another purpose because the community abandoned it for a more modern facility.

Carnegie library buildings are an important part of Iowa's heritage. As pressures build to destroy these architectural treasure Iowans need to be reminded of how they contributed to the state's intellectual and social history.

This chapter is going to review historical studies of the New York Public Library, Boston Public Library, Chicago Public Library, and the Minneapolis Public Library. Similar historical studies have been done about Iowa libraries. This literature review will discuss three of those studies. Research about Andrew Carnegie provides insights into his character and his philanthropy. Historical research about Carnegie Libraries in general is quite common and the various studies provide models for others doing this kind of study.

Historical Studies of Libraries

New York Public Library.

Dain (1972) studied the New York Public Library and had free access to all records. Dain was also influenced by the volumes of Harry Miller Lydenberg's *History of the*

New York Public Library Public published in 1932 (p.xvi). Dain wrote that

Lydenberg's volume

contains much useful and indispensable documentary and statistical data on the predecessor libraries and corporations of the New York Public Library and the Public Library itself from 1895 to 1920. The Carnegie gift and the Circulation Department are covered sketchily, however, and the 1911-1920 years are treated briefly. The entire work, though based on extensive research, is generally not documented in detail. (Dain, 1972, p.xxvii)

Dain's work is a narrative that explores much of the same ground as Lydenberg but in more detail and with more varied sources such as: official documents, minutes, reports, published materials, The New York Public Library's archives, the Manuscript Division, newspapers and periodicals, and library scrapbooks of press clippings which provided much information on the topic. (pp. xvii, xviii).

The researcher's first volume of "[the] comprehensive history of The New York Public Library, is an analysis of the decisive first years of that institution, both Reference and Circulation departments, viewed against the history of New York City and its library conditions" (Dain, 1972, p.ix). Dain presented the New York Public Library in a variety of contexts (p. xvi). The period covered in her study is from the 1890s to approximately the end of the Dr. John Shaw Billings' administration in 1913 (p. xvi). Dain ended her history here because of changes introduced a more modern administration and newly trained professional librarians (p. xvi).

Dain writes about the merger of the New York Public libraries, and details planning and constructing of its library buildings. When the New York Public Library was

established in 1901, there were eleven branches plus a Traveling Library Department. In 1900, “Carnegie told Mayor Billings that he would never give a dollar to a rich city like New York with so many wealthy men who could and should meet its educational needs” (p.211). A year later, he changed his mind and on March 12, 1901, Carnegie gave his first big library gift of \$5,200,000 to sixty-five library branches in Greater New York (p. 211). New York City decided that they would build fifty libraries with Carnegie’s money at a cost of \$80,000 each (p. 244). The city ran into problems when some of their buildings cost more than \$80,000. By 1914, only thirty-seven library buildings were completed (p.244).

The New York Public Library: A universe of knowledge.

Dain’s second volume (2000) focused primarily on the years after 1914 to the end of the century.. The year 1914 was the end of the Billings’s administration. In this volume Dain does not address the sources of her information. The researcher at the end of the book does have a bibliography of credits and permissions but most of these were for photographs and pictures. This brief volume consists primarily of illustrations, and is not the kind of scholarly study as her earlier work,

History of the Boston Public Library.

Whitehill (1956) wrote an historical study of the Boston Public Library. Whitehill became a librarian of the Boston Athenaeum in 1946 (Whitehall, 1956, v). Whitehill was encouraged by an old friend and a request of the trustees to write the history of the Boston Public Library.

Whitehill’s sources were “the reports and other official records of the library itself, supplemented by the manuscript “Annals of the Public Library of the City of Boston

from the year 1848 to its removal to the new edifice in Copley Square” by William Whitewell Greenough, a Trustee from 1856 to 1888. (Whitehill, 1956, vii).

George Ticknor, Smith Professor at Harvard College, was elected as a trustee for the Athenaeum in 1823 (Whitehill, 1956, p. 2). Ticknor had a plan to unite all the public libraries in Boston. His plan did not succeed. In 1841, Alexandre Vattemare attempted to unite all the Boston Libraries into one institution. He was not able to get this accomplished (Whitehill, 1956, p. 5). John Prescott Bigelow (mayor) proposed in 1850 a sum of \$1000 be contributed to a fund for the projected library. With this funding available, Boston Public Library opened its doors in the spring of 1854 (Whitehill, 1956, p.1).

The Chicago Public Library.

Spencer (1943) wrote an historical study of the beginning of the Chicago Public Library. The Chicago Public Library was opened in April 1841, in a room over a barber shop (p. 56). The Chicago libraries were wiped out with the great Chicago Fire of 1871 (Spencer, 1943, p. xv). This incident caused many individuals and organizations to recongize the need for library facilities (p. xv). “ but the present study discovers evidence to show, and consequently maintains, that certain great decisive forces that had previously been and were still at work in Chicago, in the state at large, and even throughout the entire country bore a share of major importance as fundamental cofactors in the creation of the new institution” (p. xvi). The sources that Spencer used were newspapers and magazines, reliable histories of early Chicago, records of any society or organizations that had libraries after the great Chicago fire, interviews, letters, and surveys (Spencer, 1943, p. xvii). Some of the history of the

early libraries are incomplete because of the Chicago fire. Second, “the study attempts to analyze all such available data with purpose of discovering the chief factors that contributed to the inception of this library” (p.xvii).

Minneapolis Public Library.

Benidt (1984) wrote an historical study of the Minneapolis Public Library from 1885 to 1995 to celebrate its 100th anniversary (Benidt, 1984, p.vii). Benidt and other librarians felt that a book would be an appropriate “tribute to our past and a look into our future” (p.vii). Kimbrough (Director, Minneapolis Public Library) wrote that “the Minneapolis Public library has a proud history and a rich tradition. Benidt, the author hired by the library, has captured that spirit admirably, retelling the story of Minneapolis from a perspective unlike any we have been afforded before” (Benidt, 1994, p.vii).

Benidt does an excellent job of combining the history of the Minneapolis Public Library and the history of Minneapolis and Minnesota. Benidt was able to get permission from the Minneapolis History Collection and *Minneapolis Star and Tribune* to use their photographs. The photographs give the reader a visual picture of the public libraries and the city. The reader is actually able to see how the architectural structure of the public libraries in Minneapolis have changed in the last 100 years.

In 1850, L. W. Stratton developed the first store that included books and a small circulating library (Benidt, 1984, p. 10). The history of the Minneapolis library began in 1859 as the Young Men’s Library Association. In 1860, this association changed its name to Minneapolis Athenaeum, and Thomas Hale Williams was chosen as librarian. Dr. Kirby Spencer (1870) left his estate to the Minneapolis Athenaeum with the

requirement that “only serious books should be bought. He didn’t want popular fiction purchased with his money nor, since he was an agnostic, books on religion and theology” (p. 230).

Histories of public libraries have not been written only about big metropolitan libraries, but about small rural libraries across America. Some of the histories are about Iowa libraries as well.

Histories of Iowa Libraries

St. Ansgar Public Library.

Chancellor’s (1993) historical study is about the Nissen Public Library of St. Ansgar, Iowa. Chancellor used the general studies of major libraries to compile “a list of headings suitable for the project of writing the history of St. Ansgar’s public library, the Nissen Public Library” (pp. 14-15). The areas the researcher focused on were “the building, personnel, finances, programs, and policies” (p. 15). Chancellor also added photographs to make the information seem more realistic. The researcher collected this information from library board minutes, other documents, and interviews with librarians. Chancellor was able to write in great detail about the history of Nissen Public Library.

The St. Ansgar library originated on February 1872 by the St. Ansgar Norwegian-English Library Association (Chancellor, 1993, p. 17). St. Ansgar was able to construct a library building with money left by Karen Nissen in the sum of \$5,000.00 (p. 20). She wrote that the city would lose this money unless a site would be established and would be located on the “principal” business street from the present location (p.21).

The building had to be built three years after Nissen's death or the town would lose the money (Chancellor, 1993, p.21).

Cedar Rapids Public Library.

Brown (1997) wrote an historical study of the Cedar Rapids Public Library covering its first 100 years from 1896 to 1996. The researcher had many volunteers who went through stacks of records, photographs, investigated documents, and verified facts (p. viii). The researcher also used *The Gazette* the city newspaper to find history about the library.

The Cedar Rapids Public Library started on March 3, 1896, "the proposition to levy a tax for a public library to be maintained in the city of Cedar Rapids carried yesterday by the narrow margin of 59 votes" (p. 1). The public was admitted to the Free Library on January 14, 1897 (p. 10).

History of the Northwood Public Library.

Stehn (1978) wrote an historical study on the Northwood Public Library. The researcher's purpose was to focus on and carry out an in-depth study of the local public library. The researcher used *The Northwood Library Association Record Book, 1907-1932, List of Membership, 1907-1925* (listing of library members and books and magazine subscriptions). The researcher was not able to locate any of the people who worked at the library during this time, but was able to talk to some non-staff people (pp. 4, 5). The Northwood Public Library was founded on January 29, 1907 with the first meeting of the Northwood Library Association (p.21).

Andrew Carnegie

Although not all the above libraries were Carnegie buildings, none the less the greatest influence on the American public library movement was Andrew Carnegie. When Andrew Carnegie was asked what is the best gift to give to a community, his reply was “a free library occupies the first place, provided the community will accept and maintain it as a public institution, as much a part of the city property as its public schools, and, indeed an adjunct to these.” (Koch, 1917, p. 8). Andrew Carnegie felt that if a community was willing to support a library building that people would be willing to use it. When the community would accept a grant, the community had to provide a site for the library building and agree to supply a yearly maintenance fund of at least ten percent of the amount of the gift (Koch, 1917, p. 11).

Another reason why Carnegie gave money for libraries was

because the library gives nothing for nothing, because it helps only those that help themselves, because it does not sap the foundation of manly independence, because it does not pauperize, because it stretches a hand to the aspiring and places a ladder upon which they can only ascend by doing the climbing themselves. (Koch, 1917, p. 8)

A library allows people, no matter what their age, to increase their knowledge and read about things that they are interested in. Andrew Carnegie felt that people would be more willing and encouraged to read if they had a place where they could browse the book shelves and have a place to read. As a result, Carnegie gave money to cities across America and around the world to build libraries.

Carnegie realized that some cities did not put their grant money to good use. Some of the waste of money was the use of space in the library and the outside architecture of the library.

The building should be devoted exclusively to a) housing of books and their issue for home use, b) comfortable accommodation for reading them by adults and children, c) lecture room, when introduced as a subordinate feature and not adding disproportionately to the cost of the building, d) necessary accommodation for heating plant and service, without which the building could not be used. (Library Journal, 1915, p. 244)

The early public libraries of the 1880s were built using the H.H. Richardson Romanesque structure. This design led to a waste of space, difficulty in heating, damage to book binding, and difficulty of enlargement or rearrangement (Wheeler & Githens, 1941, p. 4). There have been studies specifically about Carnegie library buildings in the United State.

Carnegie Libraries: Their history and impact on American public library development.

Bobinski (1969) developed an historical study of the Carnegie libraries across America. The researcher chose this topic because as the Carnegie landmarks begin to disappear, “there still exists no documented history of the Carnegie library philanthropy and no detailed evaluation of its influence upon the history of the United States public libraries. It is to be hoped that this study will, at least part, help fill this vacuum in library literature” (vii). Bobinsk’s major source of information for his book was the Carnegie Library Correspondence Collection in New York, which is

made up of correspondence files dealing with Carnegie public library grants. There was a file on each community that requested a library grant. These files consisted of letters, applications and questionnaires, newspaper clippings, pictures and drawings of libraries, building dedication programs, and copies of annual reports (p. viii). The researcher also included books, unpublished materials, articles and periodicals.

Carnegie libraries across America: A public legacy.

Jones (1997) created this book to recount the histories of Carnegie library buildings and answer the following questions:

Why did Andrew Carnegie give away libraries? Why do so many people think they look alike? How many are still standing? By telling how communities responded to Andrew Carnegie offer, it will become clear how monumental this program was and the impact it had on a still-young nation. (p. ix)

Jones's resources included the work of many previous Carnegie library researchers such as Bobinski. The researcher also contacted library postcard collectors who had pictures of the original Carnegie libraries and hundreds of historical organizations and librarians. The researcher also used books, articles and periodicals, and unpublished material.

Jones's book goes into detail about Andrew Carnegie's life, the building of the public library system, Carnegie library grants, the architecture of these buildings, and how these libraries had changed one hundred years later.

Georgia's Carnegie Libraries.

Walker's (1994) study concentrated on the history and the existence of the remaining Carnegie libraries in Georgia. Walker focused mostly on the architectural

style of the existing buildings and suggested how to conserve the existing library buildings. The researcher used books, articles, and architectural sources to create his study.

The researcher started his study by discussing who Andrew Carnegie was and his library program. Next, the researcher looked at Georgia's existing Carnegie Libraries, how they were first built and their current condition. Walker's final chapter focuses on three levels of conservation: renovation, rehabilitation, and restoration.

Summary

This historical research paper would not be possible without the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, who gave millions of dollars throughout America and around the world to construct library buildings. The historical research studies of the four major libraries (Dain, 1972 and 2000; Whitehill 1956; Spencer 1943; and Benidt 1984) present a model for the description of how public libraries buildings originated and expanded throughout their first years. Likewise, the studies of Iowa libraries are useful for suggestions of local resources.

This researcher, while writing a comparative study of one aspect of four Carnegie libraries, was able to use these historical studies to provide a framework for the current study. Jones (1997), Bobinski (1969), and Walker (1994) provided more direct models for a general comparative study.

Chapter 3

Methodology

The Carnegie library buildings from the early 1900s are slowly disappearing and these buildings are important in the history of the development of the public library. Bobinski's exhaustive survey of the remaining Carnegies "shows that of 1,681 built [in the United States] between 1889 and 1923, only 911 of those responding are still used as libraries. In 1967 that figure was 1,348 Carnegie libraries still being used. This survey also reveals that only 276 of those remain unaltered. Another twenty-four stand vacant. The rest have been razed or remodeled, in many cases without regard for architectural integrity" (Kniffel, 1992, p. 268).

The researcher investigated and recorded the fates of four Iowa Carnegie library buildings. The researcher identified an Iowa Carnegie library that fits each of these four categories: an example of an excellent renovation is the West Liberty Public Library and a bad renovation is the Cedar Falls Public Library. A Carnegie library that is used for other purposes is the Cedar Rapids building and a library that has remained virtually untouched and is on the National Historic Register is Eldon Public Library.

The methodology the researcher used was historical research. This meant that the researcher needed to identify published histories and lists of events that influenced the history of the Carnegie libraries in Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Eldon, and West Liberty (Busha & Harter, 1980, p.99).

Historical information about these libraries was found in primary and secondary sources. Primary sources are original materials such as official or personal documents,

which are records containing first hand information. Primary sources of information contain eyewitness testimony, which enhances the validity and value of history (Busha & Harter, 1980, p. 101). Examples of primary sources the researcher will look at are local newspapers, board minutes, and individual library archives.

Secondary sources are “records or accounts prepared by someone other than the person, or persons, who participated in or observed an event” (Busha & Harter, 1980, p. 102). The secondary sources the researcher used to evaluate the library histories are books (histories of the towns) and interviews with current librarians and citizens. Appendix A is the list of interviewees and Appendix B is the documentation to used to communicate with them.

When historical researchers look at information they need to look for external criticism and internal criticism (Busha & Harter, 1980, p. 102). The researcher applies external criticism when questioning whether a document being used was actually written and distributed at the time and place the event took place (Busha & Harter, 1980, p. 102). The researcher applies internal criticism when judging the accuracy of the information within the document (Busha & Harter, 1980, p. 102). The writer might have been making up some of the information or distorting the numbers.

Procedures

The researcher investigated each library and a narrative was drafted for each library. Data from the investigation of the four libraries was organized and arranged so that histories was told in parallel fashion so that comparisons were made and conclusions reached. The narrative focused on four the Carnegie library buildings comparing and contrasting them. The areas covered are changes in library construction

of these buildings; changes in communities and other uses of these library buildings (what other events are held in these libraries), and the outlook or future of these library buildings.

Chapter 4

The History of Four Iowa Carnegie Library Buildings

Introduction.

The Carnegie libraries buildings across Iowa have changed in many ways. Some of these buildings don't even exist today, some are not being used as public libraries, and some Carnegie libraries have been renovated so they do not look like the original structure. Some communities have kept the Carnegie structure alive by renovating in the Carnegie way. Very few have kept their Carnegie Library exactly the same as it was originally.

The Cedar Rapids Public Library.

The early years.

Cedar Rapids had many libraries after the early settlers arrived around the 1840s. The first library was the Cedar Rapids Lodge in 1856 (*Gazette*, February 16, 1905, n.p.). In the seventies, a subscription library opened in the town with books from the Young Men's Christian Association. This subscription library only lasted a few years because of a lack of funds. The books were given to the Y.M.C.A. (Brewer, 1911, p.250). By the 1890, citizens of Cedar Rapids could borrow books from the Masonic Library, the Coe College Library, the local high school, and the Y.M.C.A., but still a public library did not exist (Brown, 1997, p.3).

Ada Amanada Fitch Van Vechten, whose husband was an insurance agent, was president of the City Federation of Ladies Literary clubs in 1895. Ada and her group of women were very involved in the movement for a public library. They

campaigned, had dinners, and other money raising activities to help their cause (Clements, 1967, p.105).

A men's organization called the Good Government Club supported the proposal in *The Gazette*. The men said

a free public library is one of the city's greatest needs. This is a city over 22,000 people with no library belonging to all the people for the free use of all the people. A library of this kind would be of a great moral and intellectual help. Several Iowa cities, not large as ours, years ago took advantage of their right and founded free libraries. Cedar Rapids stands almost at the head of Iowa cities in many other things. Why should she lag behind most of all in this one thing? (*Gazette*, December 10, 1895, p.8)

The vote for a public library was held on March 2, 1896. The public library passed with only 59 votes and only half of the voters (women could not yet vote) came to the polls on the issue. The vote was yes 1,105 and no 1,046. This issue would not have passed if the women had not gone around the city and promoted the library (Clements, 1967, p.105).

The beginning of the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

After the election, Mayor Lincoln had Van Vechten and the City Council appoint the first Board of Trustees in June 1896. At the July board meeting, it was decided that the library would be located in a rented room. This room was located on the second floor of the Granby Building in the Granby Block. The Cedar Rapids Public Library officially opened on January 14, 1897. The residents of Cedar Rapids displayed obvious enthusiasm for the library. During the first two weeks, patrons

borrowed 1,523 books even though the library owned only 1,325 volumes (Murray, 1950, p.161).

After a while the noise of the children's area sometimes conflicted with the quiet elsewhere in the library room. The noise and physical space limitations was the result of the popularity of the library, but made library use more difficult. The library board decided to find a place with more space and a central location in 1900. The place was the Dows auditorium, on the northeast corner of Second Avenue and South Third Street. The library leased the space for \$1250 per year (Clements, 1967, p.105)

The Cedar Rapids Public Library and Andrew Carnegie.

In late January of 1901, the library sent a letter to Andrew Carnegie. Luther Brewer, a library board trustee, had initially approached Carnegie by letter on December 29, 1899. Thomas Simmons, a lawyer, sent another letter to Carnegie in January 1901. In his letter, he emphasized the facts that Cedar Rapids had about 26,000 people, paved streets, and four railroads. In response to Simmons' letter Carnegie sent an inquiry about the existing library costs. Simmons' answered this question on February 16, 1901 (Brown, 1997, p.16).

Bertram, Carnegie's secretary responded

Yours of 16th received. If Cedar Rapids will pledge itself by ordinance of its council to support a library from taxation at a cost of not less than \$5,700 a year, and provides a suitable site, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to give \$50,000 for a building. (p.17)

A special committee of library trustees was arranged to discuss the problem and some of the committee hoped a person would donate land. One site that was

considered was May's Island in the Cedar River. As a result of this site, the City Council had investigated purchasing the island. One of the problems the library board had with this site was the possibility of floodwater (p.17).

In June, Carnegie was contacted about the possibility of building on the island by a letter. This letter also included that if the city provided \$7,500 to maintain the library, would Carnegie be willing to give \$75,000 for the library building Carnegie agreed to the plan if the city could raise the money (*Gazette*, November 4, 1973, p.8A).

When the Cedar River flooded in the spring of 1902, the island site lost its appeal. As a result of this flooding, Van Vechten wrote to Carnegie and said that the city was not going to be building on the island site, but would it be possible to still receive \$75,000. Carnegie responded that he would still give Cedar Rapids \$75,000 as long as the city secured a site and would get \$7,500 annually for maintenance (p.8A).

In October 1902, the library board contacted Carnegie and told him they had secured a site. The site was located on the northwest corner of what was known as the Ely corner. The City Council recommended lots 6 and 7 on October 7, 1902. Twenty days later the library board asked the City Council to levy a tax to buy the site. The City Council condemned the land and provided the funds to purchase the site. A court decided that the site was worth \$16,250 (*Gazette*, March 26, 1903, p.2). This plan was not going to be simple.

Two men who owned lot 7 refused to accept the amount; whereas Mary Ely who owned lot 6 agreed to take the money. In November 1903, the board offered the two men an additional \$325 for their property. One owner refused to take the money. Finally, the matter was settled in court with the owner receiving an additional \$455

(Brown, 1997, p.20). The city paid Mary Ely \$8350, C. Magnus \$4000, and G.C. Bliss \$3900 (*Gazette*, March 26, 1903, p.2).

In the May 4, 1903 issue of *The Gazette* it was announced that the library board selected Henry S. Josselyn from the architectural team of Josslyn and Taylor of Cedar Rapids to make the plans for the public library. Josselyn and his committee visited some of the other libraries around the west. They studied plans, building materials, heating, lighting, ventilation system, and other things (p.5).

The library building plans were adopted in early January 1904 for the two-story building. The library would face Washington Square. The measurements of the building were 108 by 80 feet (*Gazette*, January 1, 1904, p.16). In April, the excavation was completed and the foundation was ready to be laid. On April 14, 1904 the last of the concrete footing were installed, which formed the base of the stone work (*Gazette*, April 14, 1904, p.9).

On May 10, a tin box was placed in a repository under the cornerstone. The tin box contained copies of library's reports, local newspapers, a World Fair postage stamp, and small 1904 coins (*Gazette*, May 10, 1904, p.2).

By September, the cornice stones were put into place, roof construction began and the first floor walls were plastered. The terrazzo floor was laid in November. By the end of November \$41,000 had been paid out to contractors and \$11,000 remained on hand (Brown, 1997, p.22).

The children's reading room was located on the left side after entering the building. The other reading rooms had bookcases, each one was six feet in height. Each of these rooms was very opened and allowed for growth of patrons. The second floor of

the library building consisted of an auditorium that could seat about 500. The auditorium was 36 by 59 feet. The art gallery stretched about 30 feet across and twice as long with outside lighting from skylights. In the basement were janitor rooms, toilet rooms, and storage rooms (*Gazette*, January 1, 1904, p.16).

Mr. Joesslyn had a short list of the expenditures of the new library building:

Building, including walks, curbs, etc.	\$61,950.00
Heating	\$ 3,250.00
Plumbing	\$ 2,400.00
Lighting fixtures	\$ 1,100.00
Hardware	\$ 450.00
Decoration	\$ 500.00
Plans and supervision	\$ 4,600.00
Furniture	<u>\$ 750.00</u>
Total	\$75,000.00

(*Gazette*, June 24, 1905, p.9)

The dedication of the library was on Friday, June 23, 1905.



Cedar Rapids Public Library 1905 (Brown)

The twenty-five years after the dedication (1905-1930).

In 1908, the library attracted readers by having the library opened every day from 9 AM to 9 PM. In 1909, the library board president wrote that the north wall be removed so the addition would give the room more space (*Gazette*, October 2, 1983, p.26A).

Many changes took place during 1911. The library's walls and ceilings were redecorated. A 60-drawer card catalog cabinet and improvement in lighting (tungsten burners replaced the building's original Nernst lights) were made (Brown, 1997, p.29).

In 1913, the library was redecorated at a cost of \$1,500. The funds were accumulated by library's rental fees and not from a tax levy. The library new color scheme was of light colors. Also in 1913, the library board declared its greatest need to have more shelf room and promoted the option to remove the library's north wall, which had been extended to the rear of the building (p.30-31).

By 1922, the library needed more books and space. The population of Cedar Rapids was about 50,000 (p.36). Brewer decided it was time to remove the library's temporary wall and extend the building into the alley. The library board debated on moving the reading room or children's department to the upper floor, which would abolish the popular auditorium (p.36).

In 1923, the reading and reference rooms were crowded with book stacks, the auditorium had been made to serve temporarily as a children's room, and the art and music department were moved upstairs (Murray, 1950, p.162).

In 1926, Ms. Hagey, the librarian, reported the urgent need for space. She said, “the transfer of the juvenile department to the second floor in 1923 afforded temporary relief but the congestion is now embarrassing. The shelves are overflowing, it is difficult to keep books in their proper places” (Brown, 1997, p.37).

The second twenty-five years (1931-1955).

During the 1950s the library need to add room because of lack of space. The additions that were made during this decade were:

Mezzanine	20' x 38'	760 sq. ft.
First addition	36' x 40	2880 sq. ft.
Office, Boys and Girls Room		
Second Addition	40' x 52'	4160 sq. ft.
Adult department and garage		
Rest Room Addition	11' x 13'	286 sq. ft.

The construction costs of this addition were \$179,223.08 (Wezeman, 1966, p.9).

In 1952, funds for the first addition came from a tax levy of three-quarters of a mill by a state law for library building and sites. This levy was used for the first time in the library's history and provided more than \$58,000 (Brown, 1997, p.46).

A second addition took place in 1953. The library board decided not to tear out the temporary wall and build out into the alley; instead they put an office wing on facing *The Gazette* on Fifth Street. The first floor contained the children's room and the second floor contained the office area, catalog room, new reference department, and storage rooms. A four-stall garage for the mobile branches was built on the ground floor (Richardson, 1996, p.7).

The third twenty-five years (1956-1980).

Richardson mentioned there were many different levels to the library:

...Because of these two wings that were put on. The elevator was on the ground floor with the offices of that new wing. But see, there was no elevator on the reference wing and the elevator was added when the remodeling was done, there hadn't been an elevator until then. But there were several levels in the main building that the elevator did not meet either. It didn't go to the basement, there were about four or five steps and see that was a problem with the book return because you get all the thousands of books coming in and you can't roll them on to the elevator and then roll them down to wherever they went. You had to carry them up these four or five steps to get them on the elevator. (p.9)

When Elaine Bradow started working at the library entrance the check-out desk was inside the main entrance and the library had "low, three-shelf-high counters" (Bradow, 1996, p. 32). As the shelves became more crowded they were replaced with higher shelves. The basement became a storage room for books (p.32).

Bradow also mentioned that most patrons did not realize the library had a fireplace. The fireplace was covered up by reference items. She said the library was ready for a new building because of all the different heating systems (p.32,33).

In 1966, Fredrick Wezeman analyzed the problems of the main library. Some of the problems were: inadequate book stack space, not enough space for other library materials, the children's room needed three times the space, and handicap accessibility (Wezeman, p.5-7). In 1967, the architectural firm of Brown, Healey and

Bock reported the library's structure was basically sound, but the rigid design made the necessary additions and remodeling more expensive than the construction of a new building (*Facts and Questions*, 1983, n.p.).

By 1969, 100,000 people lived in Cedar Rapids. The number of books in the library exceeded more than 150,000 and the library was crowded. The library building was stretched to its limits by the growth of books, publication collections, and library activities (Brown, 1997, p. 56). When the library was crowded, patrons could hardly walk around. Only 56 chairs were available for adults, 20 for children. Every week 5,000-6,000 people visited the library (*Gazette*, April 26, 1964, p.6A).

The library asked the citizens of Cedar Rapids, in 1969, to vote on a bond issue that would enlarge the library by constructing a 62,000 square foot building between the old Carnegie building and fourth street. This bond issue had to pass by 60 percent and did not passing (*Gazette*, December 7, 1969, p.1A).

Over the 12 years from the first bond proposal vote in 1969, until the fifth vote in 1981, over 50 percent of the voters approved the library issue. But 60 percent majority vote necessary to pass the bond issues remained out of reach. Beginning with the third vote, the library proposed that, rather than remodeling, a new structure be approved and built. That request upset some loyal library patrons who treasured the Carnegie building and did not wish it to be abandoned or, worse, razed. (Brown, 1997, p.58)

The fourth twenty-five years (1981-1992).

On June 27, 1981, the fifth bond issued failed. This bond was for \$7.9 million

and the Hall Foundation of Cedar Rapids offered the city \$2 million of that amount (p.59). The library realized that it needed another generous benefactor for the new library.

In 1981, the Hall Foundation announced a grant for \$6.8 million to build a new library, if the community came up with a million dollars. On February 17, 1985, the new Cedar Rapids Public Library was opened at First and Second Street SE and 4th and 5th Avenue SE (Smith, 1998, p.36)

The Carnegie Library is now an art museum.

After the Cedar Rapids Public Library moved to its new location, the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art moved into the Carnegie building. The city thought about tearing down the Carnegie building, but the Art Association had an interest in the building. Now, the Art Association has a 200 years lease and pays one dollar a year for the building (C. Faurot, personal interview, July 23, 2003).

This building was renovated, a three-story addition was constructed, and a parking lot was added. The museum project cost \$6.5 million. \$2.5 million of this money came from a grant from the Hall Foundation, \$1.25 million came from the city, and the remaining money came from private donations (*Gazette*, October 1, 1986, p.1B).



Cedar Rapids Art Museum (Hudachek, 2003)

The original fireplace and the pillars are still in the building. Also, the staircase on the North side is an original. When the Art Association took over the building, the skylight was uncovered and new stain glass windows were put in. The area where the periodicals use to be located is now a catering service and kitchen. The first floor also has the gift shop and reference books from the original library.

The basement has the original boiler room, what use to be the women's restroom now houses transformers, and there are a couple of classrooms for teaching art.

The upper floor has the auditorium and offices. The original library had used the auditorium to store books. The floor of the auditorium was tiled and later carpeted. The Art Association decided to tear out the carpet, tiles, and refurbished the original flooring. One problem with the auditorium is there is only one exit in case of a fire. As a result, there is a limit to the number of people who are allowed in auditorium (C. Faurot, personal interview, July 23, 2003).

Cedar Falls Public Library

The early efforts to begin a library in Cedar Falls.

The Cedar Falls Public Library first originated with the Cedar Valley Horticulture and Literacy Association on February 18th 1858. The association was located in Charles Overman's business office. The society was able to accumulate a library of about 500 books (Melendy, 1893, p.30). This association ceased in 1865, giving all its books to the Library Association of Cedar Falls. After this organization took over, it was able to raise \$100 dollars to buy new books. These books were destroyed in a 1871 fire. In 1871, the library was incorporated again by Mayor Melendy with a petition of 54 names (Eblen, 2001, p.5). This library was located in Dr. Begum's office

and he was also the librarian. He acquired the books that were saved from the Overman Block fire and purchased a library collection from M. W. H. Chase costing \$300 (p.5). In six years, the association added over a thousand volumes. The library was moved to a building that was later occupied by State Bank (p.5).

In the fall of 1877, W.C. Bryant moved to secure a vote from the city to make the library free forever and to be controlled by the city. In May 1878, the association turned over its books and other materials to the city of Cedar Falls. The City Council appointed the first board of directors (Melendy, 1893, p.30)

Creation of the Cedar Falls Public Library.

The Cedar Falls Public Library started in 1878 and was located in the Union block on Main Street. The library had about four thousand volumes and was supported by a tax of 1 mil on property in the city (Hartman, 1915, p.281).

Towards the end of Mayor Melendy's term in office, he sought to secure a gift for a building from Mr. Carnegie, but it remained for the administration of L. Q. Robinson and Rev. Richmond Smith to fulfill this pledge. The Rev. Smith received a letter from Bertram, Carnegie's secretary. The letter stated:

If the city of Cedar Falls pledges itself by resolution of council to support a Free Public Library at a cost of not less \$1500 a year and provides a suitable site, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to furnish \$15,00 for erection of a Free Public Library Building (History of the Cedar Falls Public Library, 1934, n.p.)

After the Rev. Smith received the letter, the City Council went to work holding a meeting to make necessary arrangements. The only thing that the City Council needed was to secure a suitable site.

The following letter was presented to the City Council on March 27, 1902.

To the Hon. Mayor and Council of the City Cedar Falls, Ia.

Gentleman:-

Whereas, the city of Cedar Falls has been presented by Andrew Carnegie the sum of \$15,000.00 for the purpose of a free library building upon the condition that the City Council furnish a site and proper maintenance, therefore I make the following proposition:

That I will purchase and donate to the city the lot located on the corner of 6th and Main streets now occupied by the Farmers' Home, on the following conditions:

(1) That the said lot shall be forever kept and used solely as a site for a free public library.

(2) That when the building is erected, the corner stone shall bear a suitable inscription to be approved by myself, showing the gift, and in whose memory made by me.

Sarah M. Dayton

(History of the Cedar Falls Public Library, 1934, n.p.)

The City Council approved of this gift.

In July 1902, architect W.A. Robinson was commissioned to do the plans for the new structure. For doing this he received \$600. On August 4, 1902 the contract for the building was given to Arthur Watson for \$12, 400 and work on the excavation began.

The cost of the building was:

Contractor Watson	\$12,400
Extra stone work foundation	\$272.50
Heating contract	\$1,043.00
Electric lighting wire	\$70.00
Gas	\$40.00
W.A. Robinson	\$600.00
City for stone	\$41.00
Excavating	\$89.75
Total	\$14,556.25

(History of the Cedar Falls Public Library, n.p.)

Later the total cost was increased to \$17,062.25 because of fixtures, book stacks, and other furnishing. When the library was dedicated there was still more work to be done. (n.p.)

In order to support the new library, the tax levy went from 1½ mills to 2 mills making the new income for the library \$1,800 annually. The Cedar Falls Public Library had 7,556 books by 1902. The circulation of the books was about 15,000. It was also one a few libraries across the United States where the Carnegie donors permitted a second name to appear (n.p.). The library was dedicated on September 24, 1903 (n.p.).



Cedar Falls Public Library 1903 (post card)

The first twenty-five years.

In 1925, Vesta A. Bryant gave the library \$2,000 to buy fine books that the library could not otherwise afford (n.p.). In 1929, the Cedar Falls Historical Museum opened in the Cedar Falls Public Library. The library also consisted of many items dated before the civil war era. Most valuable of these items were the files of the Cedar Falls Gazette from 1860-1903. The museum was housed in a first floor room. Also, the museum consisted of photographs of pioneers, views of old-time Cedar Falls, and diaries and letters from Civil War day.

On one of the walls, was an American flag that was presented in 1862 to the soldiers of Company B by the ladies of the city. This flag was carried through many battles of the Civil War. Also, on the north lawn of the library was an old French Buhr mill stone. The relic of an industry important in the development of Cedar Falls it is hoped that when an addition is built to the library this old stone can be preserved in the wall of the new building.

As the decades went by more patrons began using the library, as a result, space became an issue. In 1931, Miss Mary Stuart, the current librarian at the time told the newspaper:

At the time that Carnegie donated library buildings, experts estimated that all such libraries would need enlargement in ten years. And our building was built with that fact in mind. We have, however, made the building serve for more than thirty years, but the increasing congestion is limiting the service to quite a large extent. If the present demand, both in the line of school service and the reading public is to be met, there must be additional room furnished for work (*Daily Record*, 1931, p.n.).

This was not the only newspaper article published in 1931 about the crowded condition of the library. A newspaper article titled "Library Here Badly in Need of Space-Addition to Building Required Soon-Patronage Doubled in Last Decade" was also published.

The trustee of the library asked the town people for their help in supporting a new addition. The trustees mentioned that the reference room would seat eleven people, but often there would be four or five times that number.

In 1919 the circulation of books was 22,104 and in 1929, the number increased to 51,407. The number of volumes had also doubled within these last ten years. The library was adding 100 books each month, which meant three or four shelves needed to be added each month (*Daily Recorder*, 1931, n.p.).

The trustees also brought up the fact that most cities the size of Cedar Falls required an entire millage, whereas Cedar Falls residents had to pay only about 3 mill tax, and most of the time only asked for $2\frac{1}{2}$ or $2\frac{3}{4}$ (*Daily Recorder*, 1931, n.p.).

The trustees said that the library needed a new children's department because the current one was over crowded and all the rooms need a ventilation system. The trustees

felt an addition on the East side of about two-thirds the current building size would be appropriate. The ground floor would be used as a children's department and the second floor would be used for stock rooms, reference rooms, and adult reading rooms.

In March 30, 1930 there was a bond issue asking for \$18,000 dollars. This bond issue did not pass. The city would go about another 20 years before the trustees were successful (*Daily Recorder*, 1931, n.p.)

There was an article in the *Daily Recorder* that read "Library Board Lacks Adequate Funds to Build New Addition". This article mentioned the library had advertised for bids for the construction of an addition to the library after the front pillars were removed. The board mentioned that the lowest bid was \$13,410 above the amount of money the board had available. The bid was for \$56,410 (*Daily Recorder*, September 15, 1959, p.2). The bid had to be accepted or rejected by September 29. The City Council agreed to work with them on the problem.

The 1960s.

The decade of the 1960s was an important decade for the Cedar Falls Public Library. During this decade, the library had three additions. The City Council reported that

A \$50,000 addition to the west end of the building was completed in 1960. Funds for this addition were provided by the C.W. Wyth Memorial Library Fund plus additional funds allowed by the City Council. A \$102,000 addition to the east end of the building was completed in 1966 utilizing matching City

and Federal funds. Still another addition and a parking lot were added to the east end of the building in 1969. (*Cedar Falls City Directory*, 1991, p.IX)



Cedar Falls Public Library 1960 (p.IX)



Cedar Falls Public Library 1966 (post card)

In 1964, Leona Funk, the current librarian, mentioned it was a “banner year” for the library. “Circulation jumped 10.8 percent over the previous year. The gain over the 10-year period has been a whopping 409 percent. The 1965 looked even better as 69.2 percent of all residents made the Cedar Falls Public Library their head-quarters for their reading needs (*Daily Recorder*, June 11, 1965, p.1).

The 1980s.

The 1980s, brought a recommendation from the library committee for a renovation project. The Cedar Falls Public Library published a newsletter in August/September

announcing a Library Fund Drive. The fund drive would provide for remodeling and reorganizing the library. The renovation would help alleviate the lack of space and accessibility problems. "The planned renovation will allow better use of space, more patron seating, and permit more effective staffing patterns. There will be a significant increase in the amount of usable space by 2,500 square feet" (Hawkins, 1981, p.1).

The renovation pinpointed the solution of many of the library's problems stated by Waterloo architect Daryl Anderson. The circulation desk would be moved to the youth collection and the youth collection would be moved to the space now being occupied by the garage and the extension room (*Courier*, March 10, 1981, p.28). The space between these two buildings would be raised to make the library accessible to people with disabilities. This was one main reason the board decided to renovate was to be in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (J. Devin, personal interview, June 18, 2003). The main entrance would be on Sixth Street. The estimated cost of this project would be \$54,000. In addition to this amount new shelving and furniture at \$20,000 each, new signs, paint and graphics at 18,000, new carpeting \$20,000, and roof and masonry repair at \$18,000. Anderson mentioned these repairs and items would meet the needs of patrons for only a few years and then a new building would be necessary. In 1981 it was estimated that 70 percent of the population had a library card. Anderson estimated by the 2000, the library would have to have 22,800 square feet of usable space. This project increased the space from 13,834 square feet to 19,000 feet (*Courier*, March 10, 1981, p.28).

The total cost of renovations according to the Cedar Falls library board was \$184,400. A portion of this money, \$96,000, was made through public contributions,

\$40,000 was from a city general obligation bond issue that was to be repaid through property tax, and private contributors contributed \$97,531 (p.28).

The construction work began on the eastern portion of the library that holds the new youth collection. There would now be only one circulation desk instead of two. The new renovation also added two entrances accessible to the handicapped, one at the southeast corner leading into the youth department and another at the main entrance.

Today.

The 1982 addition to the library was projected to accommodate growth for only ten years. There are many problems with the existing library: no storage space, the inefficient and out of date cooling and electrical systems, and not enough quiet reading space. This is why the Cedar Falls Community is today building a new library (Building Fund Campaign, 2003, www.cedar-falls.lib.ia.us/cfpl.html).



Cedar Falls Public Library (Safford 2002)

West Liberty Public Library.

The early years.

During the 1880s, the town of West Liberty had a branch of the Young Women's Christian Temperance Union. This organization's goal was to abolish the evils of

drinking by promoting the reading of good literature. This organization asked community members for money and books. West Liberty had another organization called Independent Order of Good Templars which consisted of both men and women. This organization had a small library of temperance books. This group contributed their library to the Y.W.C.T.U. when they disbanded in 1890 (Hise, 1938, p.80).

Even though the Y.W.C.T.U. later also disbanded, seven members kept the books circulating. These members kept the name of Y.W.C.T.U. and had a constitution. In 1895, this group turned the books over to the People's Library Association, membership was obtained by paying a fee of \$2.00 (Hise, 1938, p.80)

In 1900, there was an election to determine whether West Liberty should have a free public library that was supported by a municipal tax. The voters were for the library. The library was now free and the usage doubled (*History Free Public Library*, 1925, n.p.)

The Carnegie years.

In 1904, Mayor McIntosh wrote to Andrew Carnegie asking him if he would give money to the community for a library building. Mr. Carnegie wrote that he would give the town \$7500 to build a library if the town would secure a site. The City Council found \$2100 for a site. They bought the corner block at North Spencer and Fourth Street (n.p.).

After McIntosh heard from Carnegie, a committee was formed to visit Tipton, Grinnell, and Muscatine to look at their library buildings. The committee decided on fine pressed brick for the wall, preferred cork carpet to a hard wood floor, and oak

instead of pine for the interior. They hired the architectural firm of Patton & Miller of Chicago.

The library committee saw an architectural plan that Mr. Miller had brought with him of other Carnegie libraries. The library committee found one they like by Mr. Miller, but this library was built with a budget of \$10,000, whereas West Liberty had only \$7500. The committee recommended the architects follow that plan but decided to leave out the reference study, leave two basement rooms unfinished, and reduce the size of the library (*History Free Public Library*, 1925, n.p.)

The committee opened bids for construction on July 20, 1904. The committee hired Marcus M. Hall from Cedar Rapids at a sum of \$6865. In order to get this amount the committee had to: eliminate a card cabinet case, a desk and chair for the librarian, and some other minor changes. This amount also did not included light fixtures, decorations, tables, chairs, and window shades (n.p.)

The balance sheet of the library (*The Index*, 1904, January 13, p.8)

Receipts

The gift of Andrew Carnegie	\$7500.00
From the balance of site fund	\$ 372.45
From recent subscription	\$ 31.00
Library Trustees	\$ 25.00
Total	\$7928.45

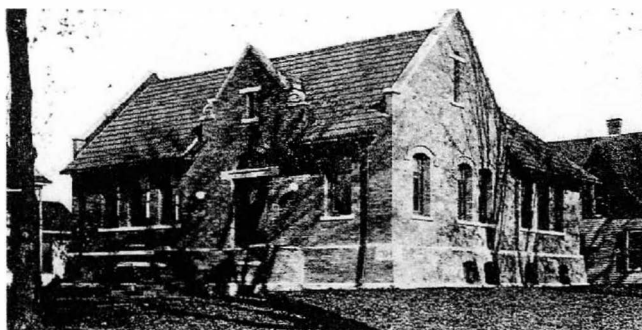
Expenses

M.M. Hall, contract	\$6865.00
M.M. Hall inscription of stone	\$ 10.00

M.M. Hall extra on counter	\$ 19.50
Less rebate on hardware	\$ -25.00
Less rebate on cistern top	\$ -2.50
Total	\$6874.20
Tables	\$ 178.00
Chairs	\$ 71.00
Decorating	\$ 200.00
Light fixture	\$ 125.00
Window shades and wax	\$ 14.50
Tablet	\$ 25.00
Patton & Miller	\$ 357.00
Advertising	\$ 6.00
Extra Heat	\$ 11.35
Extra plumbing and wiring	\$ 7.90
Sundry expenses (stamps)	\$ 43.85
Total	

Balance \$14.15

The following years.



West Liberty Public Library (Hise, 1938, p.80)

In the following years, improvements were made to the West Liberty Public Library. In 1951, a new cork floor was installed and in 1952, new blonde furniture was purchased for the main floor. Also in 1952, the group Ci Mota, (self education for the promotion of all endeavors in art, science, literature, industry for human life), redecorated the South basement room to be used for group meetings and story hour space for pre-school children (*Moving Ahead with West Liberty Bicentennial Year*, 1976, p.13).

A gas furnace was installed and new sidewalks from the steps to the curb were laid. In 1962 new Rusco windows were installed, and in 1963 the first air conditioner was put in (p.13).

The children's room saw a lot of changes in the 1970s. The entire children's room was moved to the south basement room. This room received new wall paneling, shelves, desk and carpeting. In 1971, new railing and steps were put in at the front entrance, the bricks at the side of the library were repaired, and new carpet was put in on the main floor. The door previously used for delivery of coal was permanently closed and Sam Grassklaus of Muscatine painted some areas of the building (West Liberty Index, June 10, 1971). The north basement room was paneled and the floor was refinished in 1975. Also in that year, more shelves were added to the children's room. In 1976, the old tile roof that was 72 years old was repaired at a cost of \$4000 rather than replacing it with a new roof that would have cost \$28,000 (*Moving Ahead with West Liberty*, 1976, p.13). In 1985 and 1986, the roof was repaired and redecorated with the need to preserve the architectural design because the library is listed as a State Historical Building (*Sesquicentennial July 1-2-3-4*, 1988, p.19).

The total building renovation and addition.

The West Liberty City Council expressed their approval for a proposed building and time line for the renovation and addition to the West Liberty Public Library on December 16, 1998 (*West Liberty Index*, 1998, January 8, p.1). The Public Library surveyed the community, and an overwhelming majority wanted the structure to stay the same (McMahon, personal interview, November 27, 2002). The West Liberty Public Library Building renovation had some unique characteristics. The renovation project took five years to plan and one year for construction. During the time the library building was under construction, part of the collection was kept in storage and the other books were moved to a building downtown (*West Liberty Index*, 1998, January 8, p.1)

The library board wanted to comply with the wishes of the community to keep the Carnegie building the same. As a result, they hired the architectural firm of OPN and Brown of Cedar Rapids to study the original design of the building and to extend the same design to the new section. The addition required the removal of two houses one on the east side and one on the north side. The total cost of the library renovation was \$1,623,000 (Green, 2000, March 16, p.A8)

The early Carnegie library building featured a red tile roof, iron spot brick, and customized furniture designed by the original architects. The construction team of Frye Builders & Associates Inc. of Muscatine was hired to preserve the original library building. The original building contained about 3500 square feet and the new addition added other 8000 square feet. The library board was able to save \$6000 by using tile for the roof found in storage, buying some used furniture from Ottumwa,

and having the Iowa Penitentiary refinish the library's furniture. (Gysi, 1999, September 2, pp.1,12). Funding raising drives collected over 1.1 million dollars (Gysi, 1999, March 18, p.20).

Some of the costs of renovating and adding the new addition (McMahon, 2002, n.p.):

Cost of Construction	\$1.6 million
Light fixture over Carnegie (picture)	\$350.00
Strip/Stain finish furniture (old)	\$7,632.00
Countertops	\$6491.44
Two small end tables	\$270.00
Shelving	\$29761.00
Rocking chair	\$700.00
One mission style cube chair	\$800.00
One side chair	\$207.00
One table	\$622.00
Architect fee	\$112,635.00
One Tiffany style lamp	\$250.95

The library's main entrance moved from the old building to the new addition. The new entrance has high open ceilings and staircases to the main library and the lower level. The elevator is installed at the main level. Some of the bricks from the old building are visible from the inside of the Carnegie library entrance and the opposite wall was made to look similar (Gysi, 1999, March 18, p.1,12).

“The new library is a blending of old and new. The seamless addition recreates some of the original flavor in woodwork and design. Exterior brick walls remain and are part of the new interior. The original furniture sits side by side with newly acquired antiques and antique reproductions of the Mission period “(*West Liberty Index*, 2000, March 16, pp.1, 8).



West Liberty Public Library (Hudachek, 2003)

When the builders were removing the corner stone, they found the time capsule. This time capsule was there for 94 years. The items that were found in the capsule: course study for public schools, 1904 West Liberty Fair catalog, 1904 telephone directory, information on lodge organization, a list of people who helped purchased the land for the library, and stationary for every business in town (Gysi, 1999, March 18, p.7).

The West Liberty High School students decided to create another time capsule for the renovation. The students put in a set of coins dated 2000, photos of the schools, map, and telephone directory (p.7)

There has been an increase in usage and patrons since the library has been remodeled. The library director increased the number of computers which have the Internet. The library now has an ICN room that people in the community can use for classes (R. Janney, personal interview, December 16, 2002)

There has been an increase in the number of people using the genealogy room to research family history. Before the new addition, the library did not have a nice place to store the materials or a place to look at it (R. Janney, personal interview, December 16, 2002).

Eldon Public Library

The early years.

On November 16, 1906 the citizens of Eldon, Iowa met to discuss development of a Library Association. This new association held an election on December 12, 1906 to determine if the community of Eldon wanted a free public library. The issue passed. The library was named the Eldon Public Library Association with dues to be twenty-five cents for each member (*The Eldon Forum*, 1977, April 19, p.5). The library's reading rooms were opened on January 1, 1907 in the Barley building (Sterling, 1986, p.357).

The Carnegie years.

On August 12, 1910 the library board which was led by Mrs. Varmum looked for suitable sites for a new library because they needed a larger space. In September of that year, the President of the library board read a letter from the state librarian, Miss Tyler, regarding Carnegie and library buildings. On December 13, 1910 a letter was read from the Carnegie secretary about the requirements to fund a library building. On

April 3, 1911, the town people voted on a .001 mil tax for the maintenance of the library (*Eldon Forum*, December 19, 1912, p.n.). Also, at this board meeting it was announced that the library board president had been in contact with Carnegie people regarding a library building for Eldon and had determined that the tax would be sufficient for a \$5000 building (*At the gentle bend of the river*, 1989, n.p.) The mayor accepted the proposition and the resolution was adopted that the town should build a Carnegie library. On June 27, 1911, Father Hogan mentioned that the Catholic Church had some lots that the city could buy. The library committee asked the residents of Eldon for donations for purchasing a suitable site for the library. On January 1, 1912 the site that used to belong to the Catholic church was paid for. On March 12, 1912, Andrew Carnegie gave the library committee the sum of \$5000 (which was later increased to \$7500) to build a library provided that a suitable site could be found and \$500 a year for the support and maintenance was given (*At the gentle bend of the river*, 1989, n.p.). The town having already met these requirements, the work on the Carnegie library began on August 13, 1912.

The contract was awarded to Guthie & Holst. Who signed the following contract:

We, the undersigned propose to furnish all material and perform all labor necessary to erect and complete the Carnegie Library building according to the plans and specifications prepared for as the said plans and specifications are intended tolerate to the general contractor for the sum of 7390.

- A. If the exterior walls are made of concrete 18 inches thick to with 2 inches of finished grade and the balance of the basement above grade faced with relative stone as specified.

- B. If proposition "A" is used except brick is used for facing above grade add \$150.
- C. Price for excavating per cu. yd
- D. Price for extra concrete per. Cu. yd.
- E. Price for extra brick work per laid in the wall, counting 221/2 brick per cu ft. \$1300

The owners to furnished water to use in construction. If wiring is omitted deduct \$125.

Certified check for \$400 enclosed.

Yours Very Truly

Guthrie & Holst (Guthrie & Holst, letter, August 1912)

The following are the cost for the building:

General Contractor Guthrie & Holst	6,275.00
Eldon Furniture and Hardware	722.50
C.A. Flint (wiring of light fixtures)	230.50
Wetherell & Gage Architects	272.00

(Eldon Public Library, May 9, 1912, p.n)

The cornerstone was laid and dedicated on November 23, 1912. The formal dedication for the library was held on May 9, 1913 at the Christian church (National Register of Historic Places, May 30, 1996, p.4).



Eldon Public Library (Hudachek, 2003)

Changes to building after the Carnegie library was built.

Board records indicate that maintenance of the building over the years involved only minor enhancements.

During the 1910s and 1930s.

The library board purchased shades for the front windows. The chair in the basement was repaired (Eldon Public Library, January 13, 1914, n.p.). Electric lights were put in front of the library and the cost of each light was \$3.00 by Mr. Humel (Eldon Public Library, January 9, 1917, n.p.) A flag was purchased for the building and a screen wire (Eldon Public Library, July 10, 1917, p.n).

The front door was replaced and put in good condition (Eldon Public Library, June 8, 1920, n.p.) The library board put in cellar door (Eldon Public Library, October 7, 1920). During this decade, the library was also painted at a cost of \$45 by Hamer (Eldon Public Library, February 9, 1921).

The 1940s and 1950s.

The library was painted again at a cost \$127.00 (Eldon Public Library, August 3, 1943, n.p.). A new door was ordered to replace the existing front door (Eldon Public Library, February 5, 1946, n.p.)

The Mayor attended the library meeting to discuss plans for general repairs to the library and redecorating (Eldon Public Library, May 2, 1950). The library was closed for a day so these repairs could take place (Eldon Public Library, August 1, 1950, n.p.).

The board decided to have a bulletin board placed in the entrance. The board also purchased a solid card catalog cabinet in light oak from special funds. The board also felt that the library needed a book dispenser. In 1953, a gun rack holding three guns be purchased from special funds at \$3.34 and bought a cabinet for the basement (Eldon Public Library, December 1953, n.p.)

The 1970s, 1980, and 1990s.

The library board proceeded with painting of the basement floor and purchased of handrail for \$17.95 (Eldon Public Library, March 3, 1970) The board also purchased an air conditioner for \$278.95 and installation cost \$28.38 (Eldon Public Library, July 7, 1970, n.p.) The library purchased two electric space heaters for cool days (Eldon Public Library, September 3, 1974, n.p.).

The city electrician advised the board, the pipes to the radiator would not last more than a year, and advised planning for electric heat. (Eldon Public Library, January, 3, 1981, n.p.).

The Eldon Carnegie Public Library has brought educational and recreational growth to Eldon in the early 20th century. "The library is one of the buildings that has remained basically unchanged since it was built in 1913. It was placed on the National Register on May 30, 1996 (Around the gentle bend, 1999, p.21)

Today.

During the past five years, there have not been many changes to the Eldon Carnegie Public Library building. The library board wants to keep it in the Carnegie style because it is on the National Register. In the last year, new glass windows were cut and placed in the old frames. The inside of the library has been painted white and new blinds have been added to the windows. The furniture, the lamp fixtures, and the magazine rack are the originals (G. Potts, personal interview, June 2, 2003).

The Eldon Carnegie Library has thus remained almost completely the same in appearance as the day it opened on May 9, 1913.

Eldon Public Library Interior



(Hudachek, 2003)



(Hudachek, 2003)

Chapter 5

Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendation for Further Study

Summary

The purpose of this study was to present the history, uses, and renovations of four Carnegie libraries buildings in Iowa (Cedar Rapids, Cedar Falls, West Liberty, and Eldon). Each of these Carnegie library buildings has had a different fate since it was built. The outcome of these buildings depended upon the community, how many patrons used it, and the costs of renovation.

These library buildings would not even exist if it were not for the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, who spent millions of dollars to build public library buildings across the United States. Some of these buildings are still being used as libraries today and many are placed on the National Historical Register. As the years progress, more of these buildings are being used for other purposes, abandoned, or demolished.

Carnegie library buildings across Iowa and the United States have had many different outcomes. Some of these library buildings have been demolished or razed, others have not been added on in the Carnegie way and some have been renovated in the Carnegie way, other libraries have outgrown its facilities, and very few remain untouched.

Cedar Falls Public Library has been renovated three times, none of the renovations in the Carnegie way. Now the library is running out of room again and as a result a new building will be built in its place and the original Carnegie building will be demolished.

West Liberty Public Library has been renovated in the Carnegie way. The town people were surveyed and a majority of the community wanted to keep the history of the Carnegie library building history alive, even though that increased construction costs.

Cedar Rapids outgrew its library facility and with the help of a grant the community was able to build a new building. The city of Cedar Rapids thought about tearing down the Carnegie library, but the Art Association stepped in and saved the building and put it to a new use as an art museum.

Eldon Public Library has basically remained untouched since its completion in 1914. Eldon has not grown and no new demands have been put on this original building. The changes that have taken place have been so subtle that nobody knows the difference. As a result, this library is on the National Historical Register.

Conclusion.

There are detailed records about establishing Carnegie library buildings, but there is hardly any information on up keep or renovation of these buildings through the years. The records are brief or nonexistent. Many of the people who knew anything about the origination of these buildings have been deceased for many years. The staff and patrons who are still around do not know much about the construction or renovations of these builds. There is not much documented on this area in newspapers or in board minutes. Growth in communities and new demands for library services have resulted in changing in the buildings.

Some communities have abandoned their Carnegie buildings because it cost too much to meet federal regulations to keep the architectural structure the same. Now

libraries have to be wired for Internet access and as the population ages, more libraries will need to be handicapped accessible.

As time goes on, if the trend continues in Iowa, the existing Carnegie library buildings will not be used as libraries, but for other purposes. Even though many communities are abandoning their Carnegie buildings, a majority of the ones that are still standing are on the National Historical Register and may be protected.

Recommendation for Further Study

How many communities have kept their Carnegie libraries the same in Iowa and across the country? In fifty years, will there be any Carnegie building left unchanged? How many communities will keep using their Carnegie buildings as libraries? Will the trend continue with more buildings being used for other purpose or being demolished. As citizens of these communities, we should keep the Carnegie legacy alive for future generations, so that people realize sometimes one individual giving away money can impact millions of people in a positive way.

Historians hope more states will start preserving the legacy of these buildings because if it were not for Andrew Carnegie the library movement would not have been such a substantial force in communities across the country. Hopefully, in the future people will remember Andrew Carnegie. Or will they say “who was he?”

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Appendix A

People interviewed for the history of Carnegie libraries.

1. Jewel Devin, Cedar Falls Public Library, Reference Librarian
2. Carlis Faurot, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Facilities
3. Richard Janney, West Liberty Public Library, Volunteer
4. Carol Johnson, Cedar Falls Public Library, Library Director
5. Janette McMahon, West Liberty Public Library, Library Director
6. Gail Potts, Eldon Public Library, Library Director

Appendix B

Dear [interviewee]:

You have been suggested to me as a person who may have substantial information about the construction and renovation of the old Cedar Rapids Carnegie Library Building. I would like to arrange an interview with you.

I am currently working on my Masters of Arts degree in the School of Library Media Studies Program at the University of Northern Iowa. The interview questions will enable me to complete the work on my research paper, which is a study of four Carnegie library buildings in Iowa.

Your interview will complement and confirm the information I have found in textual records. Interviews will be audio taped. Your name will be credited in my paper for new information you provided; if you prefer, however, your contributions will remain anonymous. Likewise, with your permission, the interview tape and transcriptions will be given to the appropriate library for archival materials, or if you prefer, the tape and transcriptions of your interview will be destroyed. The interview will take approximately 30 minutes, at a location convenient for you.

Your voluntary contribution to my paper will help other communities make better choices about preserving their historic buildings. If you have any questions regarding the interview please contact me at (319) 627-2072 or thudachek@Lcom.net or my faculty advisor, Dr. Barbara Safford at (319) 273-2050. You can contact the office of the Human Participants Coordinator, University of Northern Iowa, at (319) 273-2748, for answers to questions about the rights of research participants and the participant review process.

I will be in touch with you within the next ten days to ask if you are interested in participating and to set up a time and place for the interview.

Your help in completing this project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Terri Hudachek
SLMS Graduate Student
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 52553

University of Northern Iowa

Department of Curriculum and Instruction
 School of Library Media Studies
 Terri Hudachek
 Carnegie Libraries: Buildings in Iowa Today

Agreement:

I am fully aware of the nature and extent of my participation in the research about the construction of the Cedar Falls Public Library as stated in the cover letter. I hereby agree to participate in this project. I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the letter of explanation. I am 18 years of age or older.

_____ Yes _____ No _____
 (Signature of participant) (Date) (Quoted by name) (Initials)

You have my permission to donate the audiotape of my interview to the Cedar Falls Public Library Yes _____ No _____

_____ Yes _____ No _____
 (Printed name of participant) (Recording donated to library) (Initials)

 (Signature of investigator)

 (Date)

 (Signature of instructor/advisor)

 (Date)

3. Telephone contact protocol

Investigator: Hello. My name is Terri Hudachek. I am a graduate student in the School of Library Media Studies at the University of Northern Iowa. I am calling to see if you have received my letter about obtaining information on _____ Carnegie Library.

If you have received my letter would you be willing to be a participant in my study. If you have not received my letter, may I have your address to send you another letter about the project I am conducting on Iowa Carnegie libraries?

If you are willing to participate what day, time, and location would be most convenient for you.

Thank you for your time and participation in this project.