

www.rapidcitylibrary.org

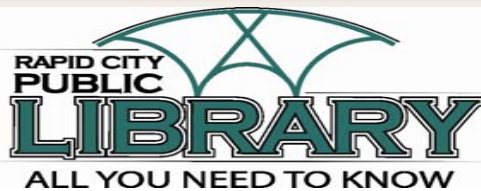
In the fall of 1998, the library joined the World Wide Web with the launch of its own web site. Originally a site providing basic information about the library and limited catalog information, the library web site has grown to provide a large variety of information and services online:



- Reserving, renewing, and requesting materials
- Information on events and programs at the library
- Access to databases such as EBSCOhost, ProQuest, Infotrac, SIRS Researcher
- The ability to ask questions of Reference librarians through "Ask a Librarian"
- "May We Suggest?" webpage to help you find your next book
- Homework help for students—and many more student resources
- Library information at our MySpace, YouTube, Flickr, LibraryThing and del.icio.us sites
- Wireless access to the internet and library website throughout the building
- Links, links, links to information on every topic imaginable!

Rapid City Public Library

1879 to the Digital Age



RCPL Downtown
610 Quincy St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 394-4171

RCPL North
10 Van Buren St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 716-4098



"The love of books, the golden key that opens the enchanted door."

Andrew Long

Located above the back door of the Rapid City Library's former Carnegie Building

"A great library contains the diary of the human race."

George Mercer Dawson, 1848-1901

Located in the foyer of the Rapid City Public Library

In accepting this building, we feel that the giver and beneficiary have been alike enriched; that these books ... bear ideals that ... insures to rich and poor, high and low, justice and equality of opportunity..."

W. G. Miser in February, 1916

Part of the dedication address of the Rapid City Carnegie Library

"There's more to libraries than lending books."

Rapid City Journal, April 17, 1983

Chronology

1879: Located in the Sweeney Building, a volunteer reading room was organized by community women with \$45, donated books and periodicals, and a free subscription to the Minneapolis Journal.

1881: Newly chartered by the territorial government, the Rapid City Library Association built Library Hall on the corner of 6th and Kansas City Streets on land donated by John Brennan. A finance campaign raised the \$600 seed money to begin the project in February; the flag pole was erected in March.



The Storyteller

The Storyteller, by Ed Hlavka, is a life-size bronze depicting an older woman reading to several children. The statue was donated by Dr. Edward and Margaret Seljeskog in January of 2002 as an addition to the new building expansion project.



Central High School Art Club Mural

Central High School Art Club Mural was created out of dimensional lumber and plaster by Weston Cole, Monica Dahl, Luke Gorder, David Grieser, Brandin Matthew and Terri Wangness during the 2000 - 2001 school year. Under the supervision of instructor Jeff Gulbransen, the club proudly installed it in the Youth Services Department in April of 2001.



Laura Ingalls Wilder Family

The Fortnightly Club commissioned a hand-carved Ingalls Family display for the library in the 1970s. Carved by Harvey Hulquist, **Laura Ingalls Wilder Family** is a memorial to the Lyndell Petersen family.

1903: Members of the Currents Events Club (still active today) proposed a tax levy to revive library services and to ultimately pave the way for a Carnegie Library. A letter to the editor that year compared the tax per citizen equal to the value of two cigars. In a municipal vote of 115 to 88, a one mill levy was passed and free library services were then offered in a succession of rented locations. The 6th and St. Joe corner room of the Flormann Block was rented for \$15 a month and Miss Rose Bower was appointed librarian. John C. Bower, her father and president of the Rapid City Free Library Association, maintained an apartment behind the library room for Rose and her sister Laura.



Library Hall 1881

Library Hall was a 32' x 85' wood frame building for use as a reading-room, library, and theater. It featured a 25' stage, seated 450, and its bookcases were furnished with 500 purchased volumes of biography, poetry, science, and fiction. Its librarian, Lida Mitchell, earned \$5 a month. The reading room was open six hours a week, and only one book could be checked out at a time.

Membership was limited to 100 persons for a \$12 share plus a \$9 initiation fee and \$4 annual dues. The Association was free of debt by 1887. Until the turn of the century, Library Hall served the community, not only as a library, but as the Methodist and Congregational churches, as civic center for social, political, and civic activities, lectures, concerts, ballroom dances, and funerals.

1904: Rose Bower resigned, passing the librarian job to Laura Bower.

1905: 169 new books were purchased with \$30 from the library fund and \$70 raised from a talent show benefit play called *Captain Racket*.

1909: It is believed that the library moved next door into what was the Toddan-Worth Building on 6th Street and then back again into the Flormann Building. Laura Bower married Claude C. Van Nuys - whom she met at the library. Their son, Maxwell Van Nuys, later wrote, "Lillian Nyswanger wanted the librarianship at the same time and resented it going to Laura, who had been her friend, and never forgave her. (Thereafter, Lillian could never pass my mother in the street without making a face.)" Lillian Nyswanger, to whom legend assigns a quick temper, finally became librarian. Several histories claim she was forced to resign after throwing a book at a patron. In 1973, Laura Van Nuys told interviewer David Super that Lillian Nyswanger was "one of the few people in those days that had read every book we had in the library...she had a different personality, but was certainly not given to such brash actions as (throwing a book at a patron)."

1910: Leora J. Lewis was appointed librarian.

1912: The library moved into a corner room in the Elks Building for \$60 monthly rent - which was later reduced to \$35.

1914: The Library Board, which was by that time appointed by the city according to state law, formally applied to Andrew Carnegie for a grant. \$12,500 was granted.

1917: The new Carnegie Library opened its doors.

The Rapid City Carnegie Library

In 1914, the Library Board, which was by that time appointed by the city according to state law, formally applied to Andrew Carnegie for a grant. The ensuing process to meet requirements resulted in a site dispute which was ultimately settled in State Supreme Court. Library Hall was removed to make way for the new Carnegie Library on the NW corner of 6th and Kansas City Streets.



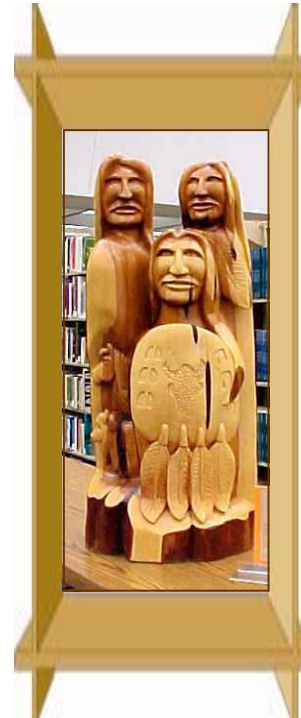
The new library was built in 1915 with a \$12,500 Carnegie grant. The Journal wrote of the opening ceremony, "... all expressed themselves as being pleased with everything from the large library room with its many shelves, books, drinking fountain, chairs and tables, to the conveniences below including the charming little assembly room for the use of clubs and committee meetings.

1918: Leora Lewis moved to Pierre to become the State Librarian and was eventually replaced by Marjorie Smith, who held the position until her death in 1956.

1921: The library report showed a collection of 4120 volumes and 16,974 loans. The assistant's monthly salary was raised to \$75 and Marjorie Smith's to \$100. Smith continued to managed the Library until 1956 when she was succeeded by Helen Hoyt.

1930s: The Carnegie Library underwent a WPA project expansion.

1965: Discussion began about replacement of the Carnegie Library due to lack of physical space, increased population and needs of the community.



Buffalo Hunters

Buffalo Hunters by Charles McLaughlin was donated anonymously to the library in the fall of 1999 as a contribution of regional art. A member of the Standing Rock Reservation of North Dakota and self-taught artist who uses many natural materials in his works, McLaughlin carved this piece from cedar.

Pinocchio

Pinocchio serves as an official greeter, welcoming children of all ages to the Youth Services Department. He stands as a memorial to Marjorie Smith, Library Director from 1918 until her death in 1951. Carved by John "Stan" Eng in pine and standing 4 1/2 feet tall, **Pinocchio** was commissioned by members of Miss Smith's family as representing one of her favorite children's book characters.



Fine Art On Display

Bluestem Woman

Commissioned by the Rapid City Civic Library Building Corporation in 1974, **Bluestem Woman** is a life-sized representational piece depicting a frontier woman. Funds to purchase the sculpture were made available through a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kroc.

Cast in bronze and materials sculptor Dale Lamphere found on the prairie, the artist created the skirt from "the prairie wind and a collapsed barn...a bucket half buried and canvas that sheltered new lambs were also heavily touched by nature." Explaining the title, Lamphere says, "The sculpture was well underway when an emptiness began to surround her... she was a spirit detached from a sense of place. One day while walking on the edge of the Black Hills... a discovery... An elegant tall grass known as Big Bluestem, one of the most dominant plants in the early tall grass prairie foothills... she had found her place."



The Horse House at Bay

The Horse House at Bay by Roy de Forest is a brightly colored polymer varnished oil painting purchased with funds donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kroc. Their gift was part of a \$50,000 gift towards furnishing the then-new Library in 1972. Mrs. Kroc, the former Joan Smith of Rapid City, served as a Library Board Trustee from 1963 to 1967, and personally selected the piece for the Youth Services area.



October 24, 1972: Doors opened at 610 Quincy Street to serve Rapid City library patrons. Rapid City Public Library Board of Trustees members were Faye Crawford, James M. Kuehn, Curtis D. Ireland, Beverly Linderman, and William G. Porter. Serving along with the trustees on the Rapid City Civic Library Building Association, Inc. Board of Directors were Stanford M. Adelstein, Barbara Gunderson, and Dean S. Nauman; Helen Hoyt was Library Director.

610 Quincy Street



The lack of physical space in the Carnegie Library resulted in the beginning of planning for a new library to serve the growing community. The planning commission that was instituted was comprised of library trustees, city and state officials, an Omaha library consultant and Chamber of

Commerce representation. The Rapid City Civic Library Building Association incorporated under state law, and efforts began to build a new library at 610 Quincy St.

On October 24, 1972, the doors opened a new 28,000 sq. ft. building to serve Rapid City library patrons. The new facility boasted reading room seating for nearly 200 people, a spacious children's area, ample office and work space, a periodical/reference room, an art loan display wall, a board/conference room, and a meeting room for groups of up to 60.

1979: The Rapid City Public Library joined the computer age with a database system for its holdings.

1984: Helen Hoyt retired as Library Director after nearly 30 years service. Susan Sandness became the head librarian.

1989: Circulation had increased by 41% and reference/periodical usage by 89% from 1979. Staffing was down by 11%, and the Library relied on over 500 volunteer hours to maintain customary levels of service.

1995: Kathy Fredette became library director.

1996: The library began to add the first of new technologies with computers and software provided by LIBRARIES ONLINE! Grant, the Patron Self-Checkout System, a materials security system, and a digital phone system.

Friends of the Library

In 1977, a dedicated group of library advocates organized the "Friends of the Library" to provide support and volunteer service. Their book sales, volunteer work and other fundraising activities have resulted in many enhancements over the years.



1997– 1998: Technology grants provide a foundation computer network and the library launched its first website which enabled Internet users to browse the South Dakota Library Network.

1998: Greta Chapman was appointed Library Director.

1999: The Electronic Resource Center, a computer area of Internet access machines, was dedicated. A contract with Pennington County was signed to provide library services to Pennington County residents.

2000: The Rapid City Public Library is approved for the City's 2012 funding. A capital campaign to raise \$500,000 toward the building of the expansion is begun by the Rapid City Library Foundation.

March 19, 2001: The Rapid City Library Foundation Board presents a ceremonial check of over \$500,000 to the Rapid City Council symbolizing the completion of their capital fundraising campaign.

August 27, 2001: Ground breaking ceremonies for the new addition.

August 30, 2002: Move of the Youth Services department upstairs into the new Youth Services Department which includes an expanded Young Adult area, study rooms, aviary, and reading loft for young children.

September 21, 2002: Dedication ceremony for the new expansion.

Library Foundation

The Library Foundation's mission is about enabling access to information by all citizens and the enabling of expansion of library service to the community. The driving force behind the library expansion fundraising campaign, the Library Foundation continues its work building endowment funding.



Expansion at 610 Quincy Street



After several years of planning, the Rapid City Public Library presented an expansion plan to the City's Vision 2012 capital improvements program. Approval for a new 19,000 sq. ft. addition to be built above the west parking lot was given on the condition of the library successfully raising \$500,000.

The Library Foundation successfully raised over \$650,000, and construction commenced on August 27, 2001. The project also provided renovation monies to convert the old entrance to a solarium, the creation of a South Dakota Research and Genealogy Room, study room additions and Reference Desk improvement.

November 26, 2002: Rearrangement of the Adult collection stacks, audio and video collections, and adult reading areas. The solarium is finished and furnished with western décor and an aquarium of native game fish.

March 2003: Wireless access is available in the library building.

April 12, 2003: Dedication of the final phase of the expansion: the South Dakota Research and Genealogy Room.

January 14, 2008 A milestone in library history is marked with the opening of the first satellite site, Rapid City Public Library North, offering library materials and resources to the public from the school library at the new General Beadle Elementary School. The school was planned to meet not only the needs of students, but to be a community center for the entire North Rapid Community.

March 8, 2008: Grand Opening and Dedication Ceremony for Rapid City Public Library North.

Rapid City Public Library North

