

Irvin L. Young Memorial Library



1991

The new Library opens in a new building constructed on Center Street after 85 years in the White Memorial Building on Main Street. The new building is 14,900 sq. ft. compared to the 4,462 sq. ft of the Carnegie-style building it replaces. The new Library costs \$3 million. The City pays \$1.5 million; \$500,000 is donated as a challenge grant from the Irvin L. Young Foundation and \$1 million is raised from local donations. The Library has 45,902 books, 1,637 audiovisual materials, 7,170 registered borrowers, 105,352 check-outs, 1,716 attending 86 programs, and 70,138 visits. There are no computers for public or staff use. The population of Whitewater in the 1990 census is 12,823.

1995

The Internet, a project begun by the federal government in the 1960s and refined over the following two decades, explodes into popular public use.

1996

The Library converts to its first computer-automated integrated library system for cataloging and circulating materials. The Library has 54,178 books, 3,622 audiovisual materials, 9,175 registered borrowers, 174,143 check-outs, 4,635 attending 171 programs, and 118,461 visits. There are three computer workstations at the front desk, one PC for staff use and one public use computer. The Library Board determines that the Library will need more space at some future date and purchases the house at 413 W Center St.



2001

The Library has 67,627 books, 6,984 audiovisual materials, 15,377 registered borrowers, 158,783 check-outs, 7,987 attending 402 programs, and 98,352 visits. There are seven staff use computers, three workstations at the front desk, and four public-use computers. The population of Whitewater in the 2000 census is 13,466.

2003

The Library Board sends out requests for proposals to conduct a space needs assessment. Anders Dahlgren of Library Planning Associates is contracted to do the assessment. It is determined, based on the identified service goals of the Library, that an optimum setting for the library design would be 40,000 sq. ft. The minimum is determined to be 28,957 sq. ft. The recommended middle of the range is 33,800 sq. ft. A copy of the 136-page planning outline with methodologies employed, and the 60-page space needs summary with detailed square footage and percentages for all elements of the library are available for review.

2004

The Library Board sends out requests for qualifications to architectural firms. Burnidge Cassell Associates is contracted to perform a site analysis and a schematic site design with Richard McCarthy as the lead architect.

2005

A site feasibility study is presented to the Library Board in September with nine potential building schemes represented. The Library Board chooses Scheme 3 as being the closest to the recommended total square footage, at 32,100 sq. ft. Three additional properties need to be purchased for this scheme. The Library Board proceeds to negotiate for the properties at 414 and 414A Forest Avenue, 424 Forest Avenue, and 407 West Center Street. A copy of the site feasibility study is available for review.





2006

The conceptual design was presented to the Library Board in January. The Library Board continued the work of acquiring the needed properties. The conceptual design continues to be discussed for the next 18 months.

2008

The Library Board approves the schematic building program statement from Library Planning Associates. A copy of the 89-page document is available for review. The Library Board continues the work of acquiring the needed properties. The Library Board contracts with Burnidge Cassell Associates, which is later bought out by PSA Dewberry, to design the Library addition. Richard McCarthy continues to be the lead architect.

2009

The Library Board approves the quote from Construction Resources and Management to provide a schematic cost estimate for the building project. A cost estimate of \$8.1 million is presented. The Library Board interviews fundraising consultants. McDonald Schaefer Group is contracted to conduct a fundraising feasibility study. The study reveals that the Library Board can only expect about \$150,000 in donations from the identified “potential major donors” in the community. It also reveals that the interviewees feel the addition proposal is “too big.” Project alternatives are discussed throughout the rest of 2009 and 2010.

2011

The Library Board reviews proposals for an updated space needs assessment and contracts with Library Planning Associates to revise the 2003 assessment. The Library has 84,518 books, 12,441 audiovisual materials, 13,676 registered borrowers, 190,455 check-outs, 3,600 attending 139 programs, and 89,385 visits. There are nine staff use computers, three workstations at the front desk, and seven public-use computers. The population of Whitewater in the 2010 census is 14,398.

2012

Library Planning Associates returns a revised space needs assessment based on current data. The Library Board requests a 10% decrease as the new assessment now predicts a need for 40,000 sq. ft. After a second request for a greater decrease, the space needs assessment is squeezed down to 29,969 sq. ft and is approved. A copy of the 60-page space needs summary document is available for review.

2013

Richard McCarthy leaves PSA Dewberry to open his own firm Studio GC. The Library Board also embarks on a system planning project which culminates in a community forum with 35 people in attendance, invited from 20 community organizations, to discuss what the community wants from its Library. The results of that forum are incorporated into the updated information provided to the architect. The Library Board discontinues its contract with PSA Dewberry and contracts with Studio GC to create a master plan and visioning document for the project based on the results of the forum. The summary of the forum results is available for review.

2014

The Library Board approves the Master Plan and Visioning document. The Library Board contracts with Studio GC to provide a conceptual plan which the Library Board receives at their December meeting. The cost estimate for the conceptual plan is just under \$11 million. This is for 20,000 sq. ft on two levels, as the slope of the site creates a need for a one-and-a-half story addition with a portion of the bottom story underground. This price also includes retrofitting the current library to meet current technology standards and the cost for all fixtures and furniture. A

copy of the 43-page Visioning and Master Planning Report and the eight-page conceptual drawings are available for review.

2015

The Library Board asks for the costs to be reduced by removing elements from the conceptual plan. The Library Board considers the resulting numbers to still be financially impractical for Whitewater. The Library Board begins exploring the possibility of a public/private partnership and tours facilities in Madison and Milwaukee as part of their investigation. The Platteville public/private partnership is approved and the developer in that partnership is contacted about the possibility of a similar partnership for Whitewater.

2016

The developer, Troy Hoekstra of United Development Solutions, meets with the Library Board in open session in February and discusses what he envisions a partnership with the City would look like. The Library Board asks the Common Council for their opinion of such a partnership and if the Council would be interested in exploring the possibility. The Council indicates their interest and United Development Solutions is notified. The Library has 68,875 books, 18,113 audiovisual materials, 8,169 registered borrowers, 141,276 check-outs, 2,587 attending 241 programs, and 73,406 visits. There are 11 staff use computers, three workstations at the front desk, and 15 public-use computers. The estimated population of Whitewater in 2015 is 14,866, a 14% increase since the Library opened in 1991. The number of print materials has risen 33%, audiovisual materials 81%, registered borrowers 12%, check-outs 25%, and visits 4%.