

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN OKLAHOMA

From the early days to the 1990's

- 1852** **Tahlequah** incorporated and library established.
- 1893** **Territorial** Library established.
- 1900 - 1917** **Twenty-two** libraries get grants from Andrew **Carnegie** totaling almost \$500,000.
- 1901** The original set of **Library Laws** passed.
- 1907** **Oklahoma Library Association** is organized and the first meeting is held May 16.
- 1919** **Oklahoma Library Commission** created with the powers to give advice and establish public libraries. Dorothea Dale first commissioner.
- 1922** **Forty-six** of seventy-seven counties are without a public library. **Fifty-one** of first class cities are without a public library.
- 1929** Law allowing **1/2 mill for county** libraries passed.
- 1937** **Twenty-six** of seventy-seven counties are without a public library. **Twenty-eight** first cities are without a public library.
- 1953** Reorganization of state government combines the OK Library Commission with the State Library, creating the **Office of State Librarian and Extension Division**.
- 1953 - 1954** The OK Library Association, the State Library and the OU School of Library Science develop the **multi-county concept**. Allie Beth Martin and Edmon Low lead this effort.
- 1955** **First multi-county library law** passed the Oklahoma Legislature.
- 1957** **Library Services Act funds** become available. **Three bookmobiles** for rural library service were purchased and dedicated on the steps of the Capitol by Governor Raymond Gary.
- 1958 - 1959** **Pioneer** multi-county and the **Osage-Pawnee** multi-county library demonstrations.
- 1959** **Pioneer** multi-county library officially established. Appropriations of 1/2 mill made from Cleveland, Garvin and McClain Counties. **Osage-Pawnee** failed to get appropriations from county commissioners.
- 1960** Citizens adopt **Constitutional Amendment (SQ 392)**, allowing a dedicated library levy (not less than one or more than 2 mills) to fund multi-county libraries in all counties and single county libraries in counties with over 250,000 population. **McClain County** voters approve 1 mill library levy.
- 1964** **First Governor's Conference on Libraries** - Governor Henry Bellman.
- 1965** Congress appropriates funding for construction through **LSCA Title II**.
- 1967** **Library Code** adopted.



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- 1968** LSCA Title III Interlibrary cooperation funds appropriated and **OTIS** established.
- 1969** **GOALS '75** published.
- 1974** Permanent funding voted in Harmon County for public library service. **All seventy-seven counties have at least one public library.**
- 1976** **SQ 507** increased library millage limit to four mills.
- 1977** **State Aid of \$125,000** distributed to qualifying public libraries.
- 1978** **Second Governor's Conference on Libraries** - Governor David Boren.
- 1979** **State Aid increased to \$665,000.**
- 1984** **Oklahoma, Do You Read Me** literacy effort begins.
- 1985** OLA and ODL boards accept **Levels of Library Development** (state standards). **Library Confidentiality Law passed.** **State Aid increased to \$1,000,000.**
- 1988** Tulsa offered **dial up access to library catalog.** **Library Theft Law enacted.**
- 1989** **FAX machines** granted in Serial Exchange program.
- 1990** **Third Governor's Conference on Libraries** - Governor Henry Bellmon.
- 1991** Secretary of Education committee **accepted OLTN plan.**
- 1992** **OLTNcat produced on CD-ROM disks.**
- 1993** ODL and OLA boards accepted **Certification plan.**
ODL budget, including State Aid funds, **cut 7%.**
- 1994** **Voters approved SQ 666**, allowing single county libraries in all counties an increase to 6 mills in counties with population over 100,000.

