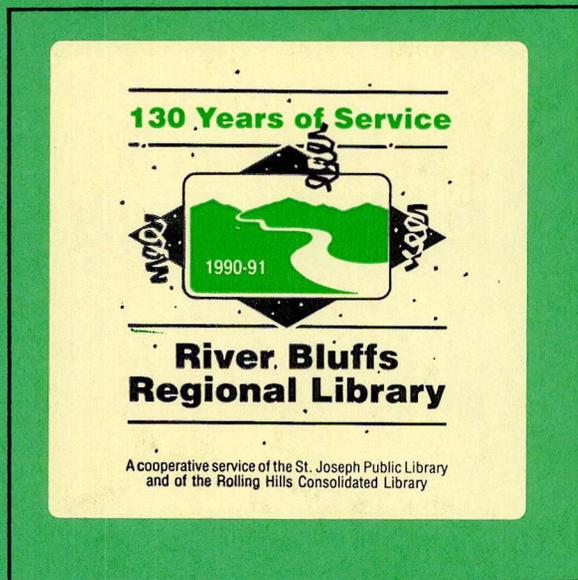


Headquarters  
927 Felix Street  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

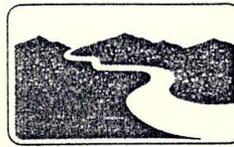


*Celebrate!*



SECOND ANNUAL REPORT





## River Bluffs Regional Library

**CENTRAL LIBRARY**  
927 Felix Street  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501  
Phones: 232-7729  
232-8151 Reference Dept.  
232-7516 Reference Fax  
232-3812 Children's Dept.  
232-4038 Admin. Offices  
279-3372 Admin. Fax  
9-9 Mon.-Thurs/9-6 Fri.-Sat./1-5 Sun.

**CARNEGIE LIBRARY**  
316 Massachusetts Street  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64504  
Phones: 238-0526  
238-9438 Fax  
10-6 Mon.-Sat.

**BELT LIBRARY**  
1904 North Belt Highway  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64506  
Phones: 232-5479  
232-5962 Fax  
364-3386 Technical Services  
9-9 Mon.-Thurs/9-6 Fri.-Sat./1-5 Sun.

**WASHINGTON PARK LIBRARY**  
1821 North Third  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64505  
Phones: 232-2052  
232-2405 Fax  
9-5 Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat./  
12-8 Tues., Thurs.

**SAVANNAH LIBRARY**  
514 Main Street  
Savannah, Missouri 64485  
Phones: 324-4569  
324-3562 Fax  
9:30-6 Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat./  
9:30-8 Tues., Thurs.

### LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

#### Materials to Check Out:

Books, magazines, records, audiocassettes, audiocassette players, film and slide projectors, prints and sculpture, videocassettes, compact discs.

#### Other Services:

Interlibrary loan, books by mail, reserve program, storytimes, book talks, displays, telephone reference, fax transmission.

**YES!**

**WE ADMIT IT!**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
1990 - 1991**

Joseph W. Elliott  
Margaret Bucher  
Thomas J. Lewis  
Creath S. Thorne

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

**ROLLING HILLS CONSOLIDATED LIBRARY**

Thomas Alderson  
Robert E. Barnard  
Kathryne Ford  
Janice Goforth  
Ramona Colborn  
Thomas J. Lewis  
Jerry A. Musil  
Sandy Taylor

**ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Margaret Bucher  
Joseph W. Elliott  
Richard F. Hartigan  
Joseph G. Hershewe  
Jan Mehl  
Judy Schuster  
David R. Stevenson  
Creath S. Thorne  
Lynn Watkins

A public library not only reflects the quality of life but it helps to determine the quality of life in a community. In the remaining part of the last decade of the 20th century the Board of Trustees and the staff of the River Bluffs Regional Library will be committed to assessing the public's needs for modern library service and developing the means to supply that service.

**WE CELEBRATED**

**ALL YEAR**

**LONG!**

**1990 - 1991**

## INTRODUCTION - Or Why and How We Celebrated

The second year of operations of the River Bluffs Regional Library, the cooperative service of the St. Joseph Public Library and of the Rolling Hills Consolidated Library serving Andrew and Buchanan Counties, provided two good reasons to celebrate.

The St. Joseph Public Library was 100 years old in 1990, and the Rolling Hills Consolidated Library 30 years old in 1991.

The resulting anniversary celebration by library Friends, Trustees, staff, and users took many forms.

The first mass dissemination of a logo developed for the celebration occurred in a tab circulated by the St. Joseph News-Press/Gazette in October of 1990. Included in this insert were articles on the history of the Rolling Hills Consolidated and St. Joseph Public Libraries, branch service, the summer reading program, the Board of Trustees, the automation project, the books-by-mail program, and the newly formed Friends of the River Bluffs Regional Library.

Another cooperative venture was with the Andrew County Parents as Teachers group, who sponsored a baby fair where the library had a book display on pertinent topics as well as information about library services in general.

At the Savannah Branch staff have maintained close ties with that community's Chamber of Commerce.

## RIVER BLUFFS REGIONAL LIBRARY 2000 - Or Do We Want to Celebrate Into the 21st Century?

The year 2000 is only nine annual reports away.

During the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the St. Joseph Public Library and the 30th anniversary of the Rolling Hills Consolidated Library, the Trustees and staff continued to work on long-range planning, identifying areas where improvements are needed in public services, collection development, personnel, facilities and equipment, administrative and support services, community relations, and interagency cooperation.

The Trustees and staff have also recognized that the mission of the River Bluffs Regional Library overlaps with many of the goals of St. Joseph 2000 and America 2000. In its mission and its primary roles, the River Bluffs Regional Library has a potential to make a major contribution to the lives of its constituents in Andrew and Buchanan Counties as it continues to build alliances with other political subdivisions and agencies.

A book sale in October of 1990 raised approximately \$8,000 and provided an opportunity to distribute promotional material about the library and the Friends.

Friends also funded several Trustee and staff continuing education activities and paid for training materials during the staff development day.

In January of 1991 a major mailing to more than 13,000 households was conducted, resulting in membership donations which helped support the activities of the Friends. In late February the Friends authorized donating over \$13,000 for projects including the young adult and children's reading programs, children's books and equipment, literacy materials, and the Preschoolers' Information Fair. Another book sale in April again raised approximately \$8,000.

Volunteer support was spotlighted at the areawide Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held in late April of 1991 when Carol Moya, a longtime Belt volunteer and president of the Board of Directors of the Friends, was the winner of the Outstanding Area Volunteer Award for Ages 19-59. Madeline Schneider, who was named the Outstanding Senior (Over 60) Area Volunteer, distributes information about the library through the Welcome Wagon.

Throughout the year the library also was helped by other volunteers from the community, especially during the summer reading program. The Washington Park Branch had an especially strong and active corps.

Commemorative stickers, refrigerator magnets, and mugs sponsored by the Friends were widely distributed throughout the year.

The year also was marked by Friends-sponsored appearances by major authors.

Joan Lowery Nixon, author of The Orphan Train Quartet and over 70 books for children from preschool through the young adult years, spoke in November of 1990.

Also highly successful was a visit the following March by Harry MacLean, author of the best-selling book In Broad Daylight. Mr. MacLean's presentation at the First Christian Church drew a crowd of approximately 300, and an autographing session beforehand at the Central Library and a reception afterwards also were packed with eager fans.

The Friends sponsored several other events during the year, including a performance by storyteller Bob Gasch as Johnny Appleseed during National Library Week.

Other major promotional activities assisted by the Friends occurred during the Apple Blossom Festival. Storytelling in the Central Library attracted a standing room only crowd. A colorful library float in the parade also was a big hit, especially promoting services to children to the thousands of people viewing the parade.

A gala anniversary dinner in June of 1991 attended by well over 100 people was billed by the Friends as a kickoff to the future. Stephen J. Briggs, former president of the St. Joseph Public Library Board of Trustees and chair of the 1986 successful levy campaign, and Daniel J. Bradbury, former director of the Rolling Hills Consolidated Library and current director of the Kansas City Public Library, were the featured speakers.

An anniversary celebration provides an opportunity to take stock. And the Board of Trustees did exactly this throughout 1990-1991 through a long-range planning process which included reviewing all the possible roles a public library can play.

In conjunction with planning, a major accomplishment was the adoption of a mission statement in May of 1991: "The River Bluffs Regional Library shall provide materials and services which meet intellectual, educational, social, cultural, informational and recreational needs."

In carrying out this mission, the Board decided, the library's primary roles are those of popular materials library, reference library, formal education support center, and preschoolers' door to learning, as they are defined in Planning & Role Setting for Public Libraries; A Manual of Options and Procedures used by the Board at the beginning of the planning process.

The staff of the Reference Department at the Central Library has been continually shifting, making the best possible use of the layout, but has not been able to add badly needed new equipment in response to increased public demands.

Modern and attractive, the Savannah Branch nevertheless likewise lacks adequate space for today's increasing commitment to programming for children.

The Washington Park Branch, which has undergone many major repairs over the years, still has a basement badly in need of attention.

But despite the various shortcomings of the library's facilities, each location has a following of loyal users with nostalgic attachments to "their" library. And still other library patrons use more than one facility, realizing that each has its own particular strengths and aesthetic appeal.

#### COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Or Who Kept Us Celebrating All Year?

The 600-member Friends of the River Bluffs Regional Library, in addition to sponsoring the lion's share of the anniversary celebration, made their influence felt in many areas in 1990-1991.

During the anniversary celebration there were steps taken in the ongoing work to achieve that goal.

All five facilities became smoke-free environments.

In the public service area of the Belt Branch, the front portion was rearranged to allow more open access to videocassettes and to yield a less cluttered look to those entering the building.

Also at the Belt branch, a work room was converted to an attractive meeting room for staff.

Local community groups continued efforts throughout the year to beautify the park surrounding the Carnegie Library.

The Central Library, which is owned by and shared with the School District, is home to a hard-working staff who have been providing service to the public under increasingly crowded conditions. One response to this has been to shift older books from the stacks on the main floor to the balcony, where a longtime project to weed periodicals and federal documents continues. Duplicate copies of once extremely popular fiction have also been transferred from the Central Library to the extension collection at the Belt.

In the Children's Department at the Central Library, once viewed as the least congested public area of this building, inappropriately high shelves, lack of seating, and a burgeoning collection have presented challenges both to the public and to staff.

THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL LIBRARY - Or How it Takes a Little Work to Plan a Good Party

A major goal for the library in 1989-1990 was to automate library functions, including the catalog, in the five facilities of the River Bluffs Regional Library. After the issuing of new plastic borrowers' cards and bringing all facilities on line by early May of 1990, some "housekeeping" work remained.

In 1990-1991 staff spent a great deal of time "cleaning up" the database. The format of reporting statistics on circulation and other activities also was changed.

On the Trustee side, orientation of new Board members focused on the development of the regional library and the various complexities of having two Boards maintaining statutory autonomy but meeting and acting jointly to administer a single budget and a single staff. Rotating the location of Board meetings among the branches helped stimulate discussion of the various roles each facility could play.

And, as more time elapsed, new Trustees identified themselves first and foremost as members of the Board of the River Bluffs Regional Library, as opposed to the Board of the Rolling Hills Consolidated Library or of the St. Joseph Public Library.

Similarly, the focus of staff development was unity and service to the entire two-county area. The first annual staff development sessions, held in late January of 1991, dealt with job satisfaction, reaching the nonuser, communications, motivation and commitment, public service/public satisfaction, conflict resolution, old patterns/new ideas, changes for the better, and meeting patrons' needs/meeting the needs of the community. The effort was seen as a team-building exercise and a major opportunity for building renewed commitment and improving communication.

**REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES** - Or How We Took the Celebration on the Road

Throughout the year, library representatives continued efforts, especially through coalitions, to promote literacy.

A particular emphasis was in Andrew County, where staff at the Savannah Branch assisted in publicizing services for adult new readers as well as in recruiting prospective volunteer tutors to be trained by Pass the Power, a project cosponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, the Missouri Western State College Foundation, and the St. Joseph News-Press and Gazette Company.

Efforts also continued to coordinate the establishment of an area literacy coalition.

A well-attended Preschool Information Fair sponsored by the library in late April provided an opportunity to disseminate information about programs and services for children in Andrew and Buchanan Counties.

During the year efforts were exerted to improve the collection and services of the library at the Buchanan County jail.

Definitely a benchmark in 1990-1991 was the introduction from mid-May to mid-June of a special reading program for young adults, typically an age group which has had relatively little attention paid to it in terms of programming or other special services. Donated prizes provided incentives to the over 190 participants, and another similar program is planned for 1992.

During the 1990-1991 year 24 adult programs were presented with 1,287 in attendance, and 740 children's programs were presented with 24,641 in attendance.

**FACILITIES** - Or Where Are We Keeping All These Anniversary Gifts, Anyway?

The administration's goal for facilities and equipment is to provide and maintain appropriate, functional, and accessible facilities and equipment adequate to support the mission of the River Bluffs Regional Library, as it has been stated by the Board of Trustees.

Another benchmark mid-year was when the River Bluffs Regional Library received an award from Inlex, the vendor of the software for the automated integrated system, for installing the most modules in one year. And this occurred while the regional library was still in its developmental stages. Dial-up access and key-word searching were two of the modules installed in 1990-1991.

At the Savannah Branch, aside from the summer reading program, preschool storytimes were extremely popular, and programming for children continued to increase generally. An intergenerational storytime was introduced, and programs were held for senior citizens, a Head Start group, and gifted classes in the Savannah schools.

Also at the Savannah Library, improved marketing of materials occurred through the installation of new display shelving units.

The Belt Branch also continued its strong commitment to programming for children.

Programming held steady at the Washington Park Branch with visits from preschools, day care centers, elementary schools, and Head Start programs. Public storytimes and craft classes also continued to be popular. Washington Park also saw increased use of its meeting space by community groups and school field trips, including the Daisy Scouts, the Cub Scouts, and the Mid-America Council for Young Artists.

In the Trustees' arena, the year saw increased involvement in professional associations at the state and national levels. The Board was represented at the Missouri Library Association conference in the fall of 1990 and at the annual summer convention of the American Library Association in 1991.

In the spring of 1991 several area librarians met at the Central Library to discuss the possibility of reestablishing a group like the former St. Joseph Area Library Cooperative, which in the early 1980's promoted and advocated for library services.

The newly formed Missouri's Public Library Directors also had River Bluffs representation in the summer of 1991.

Representatives from both the staff and the Trustees were involved in the Missouri Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services in November of 1990, from which twelve delegates from Missouri were chosen to attend the White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held in Washington, D.C. in July of 1991. Former Trustee Stephen J. Briggs, in reporting to the Board on his experience as a local delegate, noted the diversity of people involved in libraries, in both paid and voluntary capacities. In this celebration of library service in Missouri, he noted that the conference pointed out that library service cuts across all walks of life, and that no other governmental function enjoys such broad support. Mr. Briggs told Trustees that they can feel pride in their accomplishments, in that the River Bluffs Regional Library is recognized statewide as an innovative system with a reputation for cooperation.

This cooperation was further demonstrated throughout the year in the form of tours of the library and presentations to representatives and students at Missouri Western State College.

Staff toured other local libraries in connection with a grant to increase the library's reference resources to strengthen its role as a primary provider of information services both to the library's own constituents and to other public libraries in Northwest Missouri.

A site visit by the director in the early spring of 1991 to the St. Louis Public Library was another cooperative activity which provided a useful interchange between and amongst public library directors and other staff.

At the Parent and Child Reading Fair sponsored by the International Reading Association, which was attended by over 1,000 people in the spring of 1991, staff manned a table and issued borrowers' cards and information on the library's programs and services.

In the area of long-range planning, library representatives participated in St. Joseph 2000 by monitoring issues and trends which could affect public library service.

The summer reading program is one of the most visible signs of this commitment, and it was a successful effort again in 1990. Using the theme "Check Out Kids Country" to area children, staff encouraged youngsters to read both for pleasure and the maintenance of their reading skills. Incentives for reading, along with special programs and activities, assisted in making the public more aware of library services, acquainting children with the library and its resources, and helping them feel more comfortable in the library.

At the Savannah Branch summer story hours were extremely popular with children, their parents and grandparents, and other care givers. Not unnoticed was the vast improvement in operations during the summer reading program because of the implementation of the automated system.

1990 summer storytimes were also popular at the Washington Park Branch, where enrollment in the summer reading program broke all previously established records.

At the Belt Branch over 200 children of a total enrollment of more than twice that completed the summer reading program. The Belt's summer program was enriched by a visit from the Fire Department, a program on Laura Ingalls Wilder, and a play performed by the Mid-America Center for Young Artists.

After the summer reading program, and half way through the 1990-1991 year, a highlight of improvements to services was the introduction of Sunday afternoon hours at the Central Library. According to a representative of the Missouri State Library, the River Bluffs Regional Library now offers more hours of service than does any other public library in Missouri.

Weeding of collections throughout the system continued, both to improve the collection and to deal with crushing space problems.

Circulation: 697,344 items (including 12,010 from deposit sites)

Interlibrary Loan:

Received from other libraries: 889  
Provided to other libraries: 935

Holdings: 395,062\*

(\*Includes 10,833 paperbacks; 467 framed prints; 43 pieces of sculpture; 97 music scores; 68 filmstrips; 654 telephone directories; 349 city directories; 6,816 volumes in a separate books-by-mail collection; 41,723 government documents; 333 serial subscription titles; and 10,065 audiovisual items.)

SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING - Or the Many Forms a Celebration Can Take

According to Planning & Role Setting for Public Libraries, in the role of preschoolers' door to learning, the library encourages young children to develop an interest in reading and learning, partly through programming which introduces children to a wide variety of materials.

FINANCES - Or How We Spent Our Anniversary Money

	<u>INCOME*</u>	
Assessed Valuation	\$253,930,567 (RHCL)	
	365,862,359 (SJPL)	
Tax Rate	.15 (RHCL)	
	.27 (SJPL)	
Tax Income	\$ 402,038 (RHCL)	
	1,066,054 (SJPL)	
State Grant	12,846 (RHCL)	
	30,488 (SJPL)	
Federal Grant	29,340	
Other Income	172,089	Interest, donations, miscellaneous, etc.)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,712,855</b>	

EXPENDITURES\*

Salaries, Wages	\$ 805,045
Fringe Benefits	147,472
Print Materials	232,994
Serial Subscriptions	27,415
Audiovisual Materials	27,322
Communications/Postage	16,534
Computer Service	47,742
Computer Software	13,480
Computer Hardware	2,517
Other Equipment	10,675
Contract Services	206,636
Building Maintenance	3,498
Other	<u>79,014</u>
TOTAL	\$1,620,344

\*Unaudited

LIBRARY RESOURCES - Or What We Received for Our Anniversary and How It's Being Used

Federally funded, and installed early in the 1990-1991 year in the Reference Department of the Central Library, the Newsbank Electronic Index is a computerized index to over 500 U.S. newspapers throughout the United States. It includes a CD-ROM (compact disc - read only memory) index to newspaper entries for the years 1980 to the present, the hardware to operate the CD-ROM, and the accompanying articles on microfiche for the years 1988 to the present. In addition to the Basic Issues and Events, Names in the News and literature were selected.

A core collection of materials for adult new readers was developed at the Savannah Branch.

Systemwide, record albums were weeded to acquire more compact discs.

An extra clerk was added to the Technical Services Department to help process a backlog from the previous year which had developed during the implementation of the integrated automated system. This person also would be able to help the department deal with duties related to the operation of the integrated automated system as well as the increased materials budget.

Particularly in the second half of the year, acquisitions and displays systemwide reflected the war in the Middle East.