



8 WAYS LIBRARIES ARE GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY

Libraries are here when they are needed, ready to enrich our minds and defend our right to know, just as other institutions protect our safety and property. Without sound minds, however, the American dream of safe streets and secure homes will never be fulfilled.



Libraries safeguard our freedom and keep democracy healthy. It will take all of us, in a spirit of pride and freedom, to maintain libraries as

1. Libraries inform citizens. Democracy vests supreme power in the people. Libraries make democracy work by providing access to information so that citizens can make the decisions necessary to govern themselves. The public library is the only institution in American society whose purpose is to guard against the tyrannies of ignorance and conformity, and its existence indicates the extent to which a democratic society values knowledge, truth, justice, books, and culture.

2. Libraries make families friendlier. The American family's best friend, the library, offers services guaranteed to hone coping skills. Homework centers, literacy training, parenting materials, after-school activities, summer reading programs—like the families they serve, libraries everywhere are adapting to meet new challenges.

3. Libraries return high dividends. What do Gallo wines, the I Can't Believe It's Yogurt chain, and billboard-sign giant Metromedia have in common? Libraries made millionaires out of each of these companies' owners by providing crucial start-up information when they were no more than wannabe business titans. Libraries are there to help people with more personal goals, too. The seed money expended for these and other success stories? Less than \$20 per capita per year in tax dollars.

(continued inside)

WINNECONNE

Always something new at the Winneconne Public Library.

Circulation is doing very well and is already beyond circ for this time last year. It's been fun trying to stay one step ahead of public demand for new books and movies. Preschool story hours are again in session with the last of the fall series of programs on December 6.

Picture: The busy Friends of the Library group purchased two new music CD display racks to the delight of library customers. They hold more music and are much easier to browse.

The library budget for 2005 has been approved by the library board and the municipal board. In 2005 the library will receive \$86,349 from Winnebago county for non-resident use, and \$78,548 from Village taxes.

Another exciting year in store.

"We'll leave the light on" is the new 2005 theme for the library. Recent library board action resulted in an extra hour of service for 2005 when the library will be open until 7:00PM on Thursday's. The board is hoping later hours will help commuters who can't get home before the library closes.



4. Libraries build communities.

Libraries validate and unify; they save lives, literally and by preserving the record of those lives. Community-building means libraries link people with information. Librarians have become experts at helping others navigate the Internet. Before there was cyberspace, there were libraries, paving the way for the superhighway.

5. Libraries value the individual. Library doors swing open for independent thinking. Libraries offer alternatives to the manipulations of commercialism, from the excellence of public-television productions to the freethinking of renegade publishers and the vision of poets and artists outside the mainstream business of art and literature.

(continued on back page)

OMRO

Budget, holiday story times, software training, wireless, and planning for the summer reading programs are the major activities during the next months.

Everyone is trying to “make do with less” and some of the book publishers are extending “offers” that sound good. Evaluation of these offers is important but time consuming.

Our Toddler Time sessions continue to get record numbers of parent/child attendees. This program is a building block to the development of life long readers. It is very rewarding to see these young parents and their children enjoying the stories and becoming interactive with others during the half hour sessions.

Our staff members have taken advantage of the software training sessions offered by the Winnefox System. We have taken classes in Word 1 & 2, Excel 1 & 2, and Introduction to Access. I am grateful to Winnefox for these training sessions, these programs can make our work more productive in the library.

Omro’s newest HOT SPOT is coming to the Carter Memorial Library! Wireless service at the library means that we can offer patrons with wireless equipped laptops to surf the Internet. This reduces the burden on library PCs and at the same time it allows patrons much greater flexibility. Since they are using their own equipment, they can e-mail, download files, etc. at no risk to the library PCs.

We are currently booking the entertainers for our 2005 summer reading program, “Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds”. The list of good performers is long this year and thanks to our local donors (Lions Club, Study Club, Omro Cheese House and Friends of the Omro Library) we have sufficient funds to plan some great performers this next summer.

Happy Holidays to all.

CARTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hours

Monday, Thursday	10-7 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	10-5 pm
Saturday	9-12 noon

Phone 920-685-7016

FAX 920-685-7017

6. Libraries level the playing field. Economists have cited a growing inequity in America, with the gap between the richest and poorest citizens becoming wider. By making all its resources equally available to all members of the community the library helps level the playing field. Once users have access to the library's materials, they have the opportunity to level the playing field outside the library by learning to read, gaining employment, or starting a business.

7. Libraries open kids' minds. Bringing children into a library can transport them from the commonplace to the extraordinary. From story hours for preschoolers to career planning for highschoolers, librarians make a difference because they care about the unique needs of every individual who comes to them for help. Children learn personal responsibility by holding a library card of their own, a card that gives them access to new worlds in books, videos, audiotapes, computers, and more.

8. Libraries preserve the past. Libraries preserve the record; a nation, a culture, a community that does not understand its own past is mired in its own mistakes. Libraries enable us to communicate through distance and time with the living and the dead. It is a miracle kept available by the meticulous sorting, storing, indexing, and preservation that still characterizes library work—work that will carry, in the electronic environment, challenges and a price tag yet unknown.

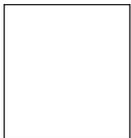
Adapted from "12 Ways Libraries Are Good for the Country," American Libraries (Dec. 1995): 1113-19.

CARTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY - OMRO
405 East Huron Street
Omro, WI 54963
920-685-7016
www.omrolibrary.org
Monday 10-7
Tuesday 10-5
Wednesday 10-5
Thursday 10-7
Friday 10-5
Saturday 9-12

WINNECONNE PUBLIC LIBRARY
31 South 2nd Street
Winneconne, WI 54986
920-582-7091
www.winneconnelibrary.com
Monday 10-6
Tuesday 10-6
Wednesday 10-6
Thursday 10-6
Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-1

Shhhout! is published bi-monthly by the Winnefox Library System to provide news for and about its member libraries in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago counties. Direct comments and inquiries to:

Winnefox Library System
Attn: Mark Arend
106 Washington Avenue,
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901
920-236-5222
Email: arend@mail.winnefox.org



Winnefox Library System
106 Washington Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901-4985
www.winnefox.org