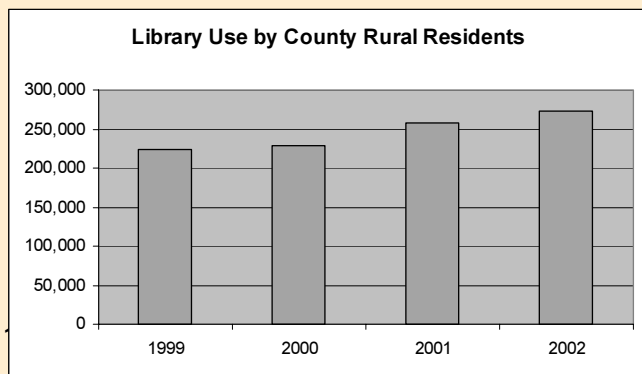




Fond du Lac County Public Libraries Report to the County Board

FOND DU LAC COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Fond du Lac County is fortunate in having six outstanding libraries committed to public service. When the expansion of the Fond du Lac Public Library is complete 5 out of the 6 libraries will be housed in completely accessible buildings erected or expanded in the last 10 years. By spring of 2004, 3 of the 6 libraries will be members of the WALS network, giving their users access to the holdings of 26 of the 30 Winnefox libraries.



Use of Fond du Lac County libraries by persons living in areas not directly supporting a library continues to increase. Between 1999 and 2002 county library use increased by over 17% while use by rural residents increased by over 21%.

Library use in Fond du Lac County is increasing at a faster rate than in other counties in the area. In Winnefox as a whole, library use increased by and use by rural residents increased by 14% over the same period.

Each library makes special efforts to serve rural residents.

BRANDON

The Brandon Public Library collaborated with Prairie View Head Start to put “learning kits” with books, videos, and activity sheets for parents at the learning site. Parents can take the backpacks home to use with their children.

They’ve created a homework help page on their website. The website also provides a central listing for activities going on in the Village. These activities are open to all area residents.

The Brandon Library recently expanded their open hours to better serve the public. This move was popular and has resulted in increased usage.

The Library hosts programs for all ages. A Wisconsin Humanities Council Grant allowed the Library to present a program on the Civil War. In addition, a program on Barns of the region is scheduled. Two book groups are led by the library staff. One group reads contemporary books and one reads the classics. Area residents have enjoyed good talk and good food at these events.

CAMPBELLSPORT

The Campbellsport Public Library is not just any small town library.

The library serves all area residents including those from the townships of Auburn, Ashford, Osceola and Eden. With the help of the Library, these area residents have access to books, computers, story hour, adult book discussion groups and of course, our famous Summer Reading Program. Based on annual circulation, it is clear that rural county residents use the library and participate in the available programs.

Rural circulation accounts for just about of 50% of the annual total.

FOND DU LAC

2002 was a year of change for Fond du Lac Public Library. Ken Hall took over for retiring Director Leslyn Shires in July. In November the City Council gave final approval to start construction of a \$5.1 million building expansion and complete remodeling. Construction began early in 2003 and is expected to be complete by the end of the year.



Loans to rural Fond du Lac County residents rose by over 10,000, or 5%, over 2001; since 1999 loans to rural residents have increased by over 17%. The bookmobile continued to be as popular as ever in 2002, registering a 3% increase in use over 2001.



21st Century technology came to the bookmobile thanks, in part, to a grant from Fond du Lac County. A satellite dish was installed to connect the bookmobile with the computer system in the main library. Now bookmobile staff can place reserves and check the availability of items “live” with the main library, making the bookmobile a full service, mobile branch.

Improving service to those new to the community continued to be an important part of the mission of the Fond du Lac library. A new collection was established of Spanish language material for the growing Hispanic population in the county. Most of the material purchased is geared toward children; however the library plans to add adult materials as well.



NORTH FOND DU LAC

The Spillman Memorial Library in North Fond du Lac served as a major resource for the Fond du Lac Christian school which used the North Fond du Lac Presentation grade school for its classes. Most of the 135 students and their teachers walked to the library (only 2 blocks distance) on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Almost all of these boys and girls live outside of the village. They made excellent use of our resources, checked out materials and did research for school projects.

In 2002 the Library checked out over 9,300 items to rural residents. This amounts to about 22% of our total circulation. County patrons can and do make use of our Internet computers and bring their children to story times and have them participate in the Summer Reading Program.

OAKFIELD

Oakfield Public Library cooperates with the Oakfield Childcare Center by offering two different story times every Tuesday morning and encouraging daycare attendance.

Oakfield Public Library is happy to serve the Spanish migrants in the area. If we do not have the materials that are requested we use our Interlibrary Loan services to accommodate their needs. Amazing is the fact that most of them prefer materials in English!!

The Library recently started a book discussion group and almost everyone in the group lives outside the village!

RIPON

Use of the Ripon Public Library by rural residents of Fond du Lac County continued to increase in 2002 as people living in the towns of Ripon, Metomen, Rosendale and Springvale (and others) made use of the library by borrowing books, videos, audio recordings and magazines; attending programs for children and adults; visiting the library’s web site from their homes; and using the library’s seven public access Internet computers. The Ripon Public Library offers the same services to non-residents as it does to residents of the City of Ripon.

County residents have been represented on the library board by members from the Towns of Metomen and Ripon. Residents of the Town of Ripon and other area towns are also active in the Friends of the Ripon Public Library.

WAUPUN

While the Waupun Public Library sits on the county line between Fond du Lac and Dodge counties, more items are circulated to rural Fond du Lac County residents. Of our 2002 rural circulation, 59% was from Fond du Lac County.

To help rural residents, our automated catalog is available on our website so they can search the catalog, find out if we have the information they seek and if the material is on the shelf. This way they save time and money by not having to drive to the library just to find out the materials they need are checked out to someone else. They can also place a hold on items online for their convenience.

Every summer our library also serves people staying in Fond du Lac Park, located a mile north of Waupun. Many of these people are already residents of Fond du Lac County and simply camp out at the park for a few days each year. Access to our library makes their stay more enjoyable - there’s nothing like reading by the light of a campfire.

Library system Circulation per Capita -- 2002

Libraries in Winnefox Library System have the 2nd highest circulation per capita of all 17 public library systems in Wisconsin!

Population:	316,363
Circulation:	3,959,955
Circulation per capita:	11.8

There were 475,860 more items checked out in 2002 than in 2001—a 13.7% increase.

