Our Libraries

Both Center Line and Warren public **libraries were started when local citizens got together collected books** and found a place to place them. In Center Line a group of men formed the Men's Club of Center Line. This was in 1928 before there were any Rotary or Lions clubs etc. They accumulated about 500 volumes. The library was housed in the basement of the Center Line Community Church which later became the Presbyterian Church. It was moved later to several stores then to the Center Line recreation building. It moved to its present building during urban renewal in the 1970s..

Warren's first library came about at the Joiner House which was built in 1895 by Robert and Eliza Joiner. In 1935 this is where Warren's first library was located. (in the front parlor) Three women (Miss Elkin, Mrs. Parrott and Mrs. Zorn) formed the Warren Community Library.

They got 516 books donated and borrowed another 200 from the state. Chris Anna Zorn donated the use of her Sunday parlor for the use of the library. In 1936 the village council accepted the library as an official village institution. By 1940 it had moved to larger quarters twice and grown to a collection of 5,000 books. When Warren became a city a master library plan was made which dictated that a neighborhood library should be no farther than 1 ½ miles from any residence so that children would have access to them. Center line covered the middle area. Whitman the NE corner, Guest the SE corner, Burnette branch she Southern middle, Busch the SW corner and Miller the NW corner. A main Library was built and placed at the city hall. Due to funding cuts the Guest branch and Whitman were closed and Miller moved to the Community Center building just west of mound Road north of Chicago Road. Many residents, teachers and those in the with educational knowledge still feel that we need neighborhood branches to serve the younger children, This issue involves funding and the community's will to educate its children.

In 2011 the Warren library has over **267,800 items.** Center Line Public library has 40,000 and Macomb College over 143,000 items. These libraries also have electronic media and access to internet based information and databases. This means that the patron has much better access to the knowledge that has been published than in the past. These libraries also include a lot of entertainment media such as common movies such as those produced for TV which are lacking in scholastic and moral content but are what the public wants. Much of the public is in the entertainment culture lifestyle.

There is a great increase in electronic books, electronic media and online information. Libraries will continue to hold historical books and materials but public libraries are gradually include computers increasingly more capable of finding and playing back thru audio visual and printed modes all of the published knowledge of mankind. We should make access to the knowledge of mankind available to everyone. We still need our public libraries to serve children and to provide resources to our citizens. And these should be located in the local neighborhood area. Not everything is or will be on the Internet. Paper books may decline in numbers but they will still be needed and used for many years. We educators can find hundreds of examples of books and information that will not be found on the internet. And there is still no substitute for curling up with a good book. This is still a wonderful needed, educational experience for all.

Libraries and schools should make available **Virtual reality** (**virtuality**) learning environments (3D Goggles, Stereo Head Phones) that can simulate full screen 3d Imax screens with stereo sound for student learning. How better for a student to learn for example about dinosaurs than to go on a virtual field trip to see hear and observe them. All this could be done with goggles and stereo head phones plugged into an inexpensive computer. This combination can also replace heavy expensive textbooks children have had to lug to and from school. All schools should place learning materials on the school website so children can learn at their own pace both at home and at school without having to carry or buy heavy books. Many of us college professors feel the educational texts and materials should be placed on the college website and made freely available to all of our students rather than force them to spend hundreds of dollars on heavy expensive text books that make the publishers big profits. We are here to educate students.   126