

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The present public library was established by the O'Fallon Woman's Club in April 1930. It was supported by club funds and some financial aid from private individuals and organizations over a period of years.

During the period from 1939 to 1942, the W.P.A. gave aid to the library. After the discontinuance of W.P.A. the Woman's Club again assumed the responsibility for the operation of the library for a short period.

The Woman's Club was instrumental in placing a plan before the voters of the community to assume the maintenance of the library by public taxation. On April 22, 1943, the voters approved the proposition and on July 1, 1943 the city assumed the management of the library.

The library is managed by a library board of nine members who are appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council.

From 1930 to 1945 the library occupied quarters on the second floor of the First National Bank building. On March 1, 1945, it was moved to larger quarters at 119 East First Street, its present location.

At the present time the library has 5,000 books on its shelves; has an average monthly circulation in excess of 900; and has 1,039 registrants. Library cards are free to all persons residing in the city and are issued to non-residents for a fee of \$1.00 per year. Mrs. Edna Ayres has served as librarian since 1945.

The O'Fallon Public Library is now a permanent institution of which the City of O'Fallon may well be proud. Its existence in the community is due largely to the efforts and financial support given it by the O'Fallon Woman's Club through its humble beginning and struggling years.
