

Introducing Book Bundles
A New Readers’ Advisory Service at Hayner Library

With limited access to the library’s book shelves, looking for your next great read could be challenging. Try our new readers’ advisory service! Are you trying to figure out what to read next? Let the Hayner Library staff do the browsing for you. We can help you find your next favorite author or genre. Book Bundles is a new Hayner Library adult book recommendation service to help you find books you like.

Here’s how Book Bundles works:

Fill out the Book Bundles registration form on the Hayner Library website (located on the homepage, about halfway down the page). You can also call or email the Reference department at (618) 462-0677, ext. 2849 or reference@haynerlibrary.org. The Book Bundles registration form allows you to specify your favorite reading genres, authors, titles, and other reading preference information. Once you submit the registration form, our staff will select three to four books for you based on your criteria. After we gather the books, we will give you a call and have them waiting for you at your preferred Hayner Library pick-up location. It’s simple!

When you are ready for another set of books, just call or email the Reference department. Please let us know how you liked the books by filling out the Rate the Books form included in your Book Bundle. This will help us make selections that best suit your tastes.

For more information about the Book Bundles service, please call or email the Reference department at (618) 462-0677, ext. 2849 or reference@haynerlibrary.org.

Students! Teachers! Parents!

Hayner Library has online resources to help you with your research papers and more!

MasterFILE Premier and Primary Search are go-to databases for information on a variety of topics. MasterFILE Premier and Primary Search offer a large collection of popular full-text magazines, reference books, and other highly regarded, authoritative sources. You can find primary source documents, photos, maps, and flags. Writing a paper? You will love the citation feature which gives users the correct format for citing information once you choose a citation style.

You can access MasterFILE Premier and Primary Search from the Online Resources page of the Hayner Library website (in the Education Resources category). As with all Hayner Library databases, MasterFILE Premier and Primary Search are free resources and are available 24/7 from home. All you have to do is sign in with your last name and Hayner Library card number.

Hold and Fines Notifications

The Hayner Public Library District has resumed text and email notifications for overdue items and almost due items (sent three days before an item is due) to patrons who have signed up to receive text and email notifications from the library. We have also resumed text and email notifications for on-hold items once they are available for pick-up.

Hayner Library patrons are not being charged overdue fines while the library conducts curbside pick-up service. However, patrons who keep overdue materials will be billed for the items once they are six weeks overdue.

If you currently have overdue materials, please return the items immediately to avoid being billed. The book drop at our Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall location is open during mall hours and our Downtown Library book drop is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you have any questions regarding overdue items on your account, please contact the library at (618) 462-0677.

For complete details regarding library due dates and fines since March 17, 2020, please visit www.haynerlibrary.org.
Wreaths Across America 2020

Wreaths Across America (WAA) is a grassroots movement which began in 1992 by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester. The organization’s mission, “Remember, Honor, and Teach,” is carried out by wreath laying ceremonies in cemeteries in all 50 states and beyond. Through the wreath laying ceremonies and other coordinated events, the organization spreads the message about the importance of Remembering the fallen, Honoring those who serve, and Teaching our children the value of freedom and the sacrifices made by veterans and their families.

Thanks to local volunteers, this organization and its mission have been active in Alton since 2007. This year on Saturday, December 19, 2020, our community will participate in this year’s National Wreaths Across America event. The ceremony will start at 11:00 a.m. at the Alton National Cemetery, 600 Pearl Street, Alton, IL. The ceremony may look different this year as we deal with the pandemic but the mission will be accomplished. Details are forthcoming.

In 2019, through generous community donations, 560 wreaths were placed on the gravesites at our local national cemetery. Every dollar donated helps ensure each Veteran is remembered. You can help continue this tradition by sending a donation to Wreaths Across America, P.O. Box 181, Alton, IL 62002. Each $30 received enables us to purchase 3 wreaths.

For the fifth year, our local WAA effort will offer a limited number of wreaths for families or friends to honor their veteran loved one at other local cemeteries. These wreath reservations must be received by Friday, December 4, 2020, by calling Sue Fitzgerald at (618) 466-9017.

Please support our community in carrying forward this mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, AND TEACH. Join our nation in honoring our veterans, many of whom forfeited their own Christmas celebrations for all of us.

For more information, call Margaret Hopkins at (618) 570-8804, or to learn more visit the WAA website at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

What’s in Reference

Women’s Right to Vote--Ida B. Wells

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women’s constitutional right to vote. After several decades of long-fought battles, the 19th Amendment was ratified in August 1920. Women marched, demonstrated, and were jailed to gain this right. It was not just granted.

One prominent African-American woman in the suffrage movement was Ida B. Wells. Wells founded the Alpha Suffrage Club in Chicago to give voice to black women who had been disenfranchised in the movement.

Born a slave in Mississippi during the Civil War, she became a journalist, civil rights crusader, and suffragist. She published investigative journalism on anti-lynching and became the most nationally recognized leader of the anti-lynching movement, giving fiery talks on the subject. She was a relentless crusader against injustice. She helped establish civil rights organizations such as the NAACP. Wells was an activist. While white suffragists considered racial issues a distraction, she fought sexism and racism.

Black suffragists saw access to the ballot as a way to enjoy power and a voice in democracy. However, not all women had that right due to voting restrictions in the Jim Crow south. It would be almost five decades later when all African-American women and men had the full right to vote with the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Ida B. Wells’ commitment to righting wrongs demonstrated she was a staunch believer in Frederick Douglass’s timeless words, “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.” Ida B. Wells let her voice be heard. We owe much to these women who made it possible for us to vote, a right to be cherished and preserved.

Sources:

The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote by Elaine Wiess.

History VS Women: The Defiant Lives That They Don’t Want You to Know by Anita Sarkeesian.

Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought For the Right to Vote by Susan Ware.

“The 400 Years of Blacks in America, Ain’t I [Still] a Woman?”, The CrisisMagazine.com. MasterFILE Premier

For help finding more resources on social justice issues, please contact the Reference desk at reference@haynerlibrary.org or call (618) 462-0677, ext. 2849.

Readers’ Corner

Need ideas for a good book? Come to the Readers’ Corner!

Reading good literature offers us a chance to see the world through another’s eyes. African American literature gives us that opportunity, connecting us to our shared humanity. Major voices within African American literature are Ernest J. Gaines, Zora Neale Hurston, and Toni Morrison, one of the most celebrated authors today. Their works have left an indelible mark in the literary world and have preserved the cultural heritage of African American life during the twentieth century.

Gaines and Hurston’s novels are based in realistic settings in the rural South. Gaines addresses issues of race, community, and personal identity. Hurston’s exuberant stories are based on Black folk culture. The vibrant folk speech of her characters portrays authentic human beings. Toni Morrison novels are compelling, sometimes mythic stories, addressing sexism and racism. All of these authors write rich, deep novels that will profoundly touch your soul.

You can find these great books at Hayner Library. Start with:

• A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines.
• Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
• Sula by Toni Morrison

More African American classic authors:

• Gloria Naylor: The Women of Brewster Place
• Alice Walker: The Color Purple
• James Baldwin: Go Tell It on the Mountain
• Richard Wright: Native Son
• Ralph Ellison: Invisible Man
• Ann Petry: The Street
• Octavia E. Butler: Kindred
• Nella Larsen: Passing
• Margaret Walker: Jubilee

Find our African American Authors lists and Anti-Racism book lists on the Online Resources page of the Hayner Library website (in the Books and Readers’ Advisory category). The Online Resources page also features multiple other book lists as well as the NoveList Plus database, which lists read-alikes, book discussion guides, and more. For readers’ advisory assistance, please contact our Reference department at reference@haynerlibrary.org or (618) 462-0677, ext. 2849.
Genealogy & Local History Library

The Genealogy & Local History Library will remain closed to the public through at least October, but please feel free to call (618) 462-0677, email (genealogy@haynerlibrary.org), or mail (401 State Street, Alton, IL 62002) with all of your research requests!

In addition to assisting patrons, we’re also working to make more resources available online. We are digitizing out-of-copyright books from our Illinois Room collection and have started with the Alton city directories. Yearbooks from Alton High School, Marquette Catholic High School, and Western Military Academy are also available, and more books are added every week. All books are text-searchable. You do not need a library card to view these books. Visit https://archive.org/details/@hayner_genealogy_amp_local_history_library to view the books.

The Genealogy & Local History Library’s Branching Out research tutorials have been filmed and are available on the Hayner Library Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HaynerLibrary. You can also find direct links to the Branching Out videos on the Genealogy & Local History page of the Hayner Library website. Visit www.haynerlibrary.org, click on the Genealogy & Local History link at the top of the page, and select “About” from the drop-down menu.

The Genealogy & Local History Library has secured an extension of remote access to Ancestry Library Edition through the end of December 2020 (at least). Free remote access to Newspaper Archive (Illinois edition) has been extended indefinitely. So even when the Genealogy & Local History Library does reopen, patrons will still be able to access The Telegraph and other Illinois newspapers from home. Links for Ancestry Library Edition and Newspaper Archive can be found on the Online Resources and Genealogy & Local History pages of the Hayner Library website.

We’re thrilled to let you know that we’re now offering remote access to current issues of The Telegraph from NewsBank. This includes text (no images) for The Telegraph from 2007 to the present and full images of articles from January 1, 2020 to the present. You will need your Hayner Library card for remote access. This remote access is indefinite.

If you miss perusing Sanborn Maps in the Genealogy & Local History Library, we encourage you to check out the digitized versions from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Visit https://digital.library.illinois.edu/collections/6ff64b00-072d-0130-c5bb-0019b9633c5-2/items to view available Illinois Sanborn Maps (all in color). Enter the name of your city into the search bar and search results for the city should appear. Alton coverage is available for January 1885, January 1892, September 1897, November 1902, October 1909, and December 1915.

We continue our partnership with the Illinois State Library to create the Alton Area Local History Collection as part of their Illinois Digital Archives collection. To view the Alton Area Local History Collection online, please visit http://www.idaillinois.org/digital/collection/p16614coll61/search/. We’re also extremely excited about partnering with the Edwardsville Public Library and the Madison County Historical Society for the 2020 Historian Project (https://www.edwardsvillelibrary.org/teen-historian-challenge).

We miss seeing you at the Genealogy & Local History Library and we hope you are all having good luck in your research!

Newly Available VIRTUALLY in Our Illinois Room

The Genealogy & Local History Library continues to digitize out-of-copyright books from our Illinois Room collection while also identifying books that have already been digitized elsewhere. With the help of our cataloger, these full-text books can now be accessed by anyone directly from the SHARE online catalog: https://search.illinoisheartland.org/.

Here are a few of the books available to view online. You do not need a library card to view these books. Some of these books have been reprinted, so make sure you’re on the record of the original printing (year shown in parenthesis) to access the digital book.

Alton General City Directory, and Business Mirror, for 1858... (1858)


The Constitutionality and Expediency of Confiscation Vindicated: Speech of Hon. Lyman Trumbull, of Illinois, on the Bill to Confiscate the Property and Free the Slaves of Rebels: Delivered in the Senate of the United States, April 7, 1862 (1862)

Ducking Days: Narratives of Duck Hunting, Studies of Wildfowl Life, and Reminiscences of Famous Marksmen on the Marshes and at the Traps (1918)

Early Illinois Railroads: A Paper Read Before the Chicago Historical Society ... February 20, 1883 (1884)

A Full Description of the Soil, Water, Timber, and Prairies of Each Lot, or Quarter Section of the Military Lands Between the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers (1818)


Illustrated Encyclopedia and Atlas Map of Madison County, Ill.: Carefully Compiled from Personal Examinations and Surveys (1873)

Project READ

Project READ is a program designed to serve individuals, seventeen years of age and above, with supported practice in basic reading, math, and English language skills. Project READ is the perfect program for prospective learners who are looking to improve their skills to further their education or qualify to enter the workforce.

Project READ matches students with trained volunteer tutors from the community. Prospective participants can enjoy the flexibility of scheduled session times and locations according to their availability.

Interested in becoming a tutor?

Did you know? An estimated four million Illinois adults have low skills in performing reading and math tasks that keep them from using printed/written information to function successfully in today’s society. More than 60,000 people in the Lewis & Clark Community College (LCCC) district struggle with basic literacy. Are you ready to make a difference in your community by helping others learn how to read, understand math, or improve their English language skills? You do not have to be a college graduate or a teacher to tutor. Project READ trains you. Inquire today about helping another individual learn to read or improve their skills.

For more information, please contact LCCC’s Project READ office at (618) 468-4141.
Fall 2020 Activities

Virtual Story Times — Virtual story times, designed for young patrons ages 2–7, will be available at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays (Mary Kay’s Story Time) and Thursdays (Movers & Shakers Story Time) on the Hayner Library Facebook page. Mary Kay’s Story Time dates are: Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, and 27; November 3, 10, and 17; December 1, 8, and 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Movers & Shakers Story Time dates are: Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; November 5 and 12; December 3, 10, and 17, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. These themed story times will offer children the opportunity to read books, sing songs, perform fingerplays, and watch puppet shows. Visit www.facebook.com/HaynerLibrary to view the virtual story times.

Virtual Legos @ Your Library — On the second Thursday of each month we will post a theme on our Facebook page. Participants then have one week to create a Lego build-at-home and send us a picture at child.programming@haynerlibrary.org. We will pick a few staff favorites each week to post on our Facebook page. Be sure to check the Hayner Library Facebook page the following week to see if your creation is featured! Dates for this program are October 8, November 12, and December 10, 2020. Visit www.facebook.com/HaynerLibrary each week to view the Lego challenges and featured challenge submissions.

Take-Home Crafts — Each Thursday young patrons ages 3–8 will be offered a take-home craft from Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall. Dates for craft distribution are Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; November 5, 12, and 19; December 10, 17, and 24, 2020. The craft will be available for pick-up at 10:00 a.m. We will have a limited amount of each craft. We will distribute craft supplies until they are gone.

Star Wars Reads Day — Star Wars Reads Day is an international event that celebrates reading and Star Wars. It was launched in 2012 by Lucasfilm. This year, Hayner Library invites patrons ages 6–12 to drop by Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall between 2:00–7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020, to pick up a Star Wars themed take-home craft, activity book, and snack. May the force be with you!

TumbleBook Library

TumbleBook Library is Hayner Library’s newest addition to our digital collection. This online site, perfect for children ages kindergarten through sixth grade, has hundreds of children’s titles that can be accessed directly from the TumbleBook Library platform. The TumbleBook Library collection includes storybooks, read-alongs, e-books, graphic novels, nonfiction, videos, games, and more. TumbleBook Library is free to use and can be accessed from your home computer, tablet, or mobile device. The TumbleBook Library can be found on the KidsSpace section of the library’s website or through the TumbleBooks app. To access TumbleBook Library online, visit www.haynerlibrary.org, click on the Kids & Teens icon at the top of the page, and then select KidsSpace from the drop-down menu. Or download the TumbleBooks app from any app store. Explore literacy in a fun and interactive way! A valid Hayner Library card will be needed to access this collection.

Summer Reading Program 2020 — Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover

Young patrons and the staff of Hayner Library were up to the challenge of this year’s Summer Reading Program, “Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover.” The KidsSpace staff worked hard to prepare and train our staff, patrons, and parents to use our new Beanstack online reading program. Beanstack helps young patrons manage, create, and measure their reading. Hayner Library also offered participants weekly online Stories & Art, Stories & Puppets, performers, and a take-home craft. Children were rewarded for their reading with weekly prizes and tickets for a chance to win one of our three grand prizes. Our End-of-the-Summer Reading Program Celebration was held online this year and participants were entertained by Celia’s Dance Party on Facebook Live. Beanstack virtual tickets were drawn for each of our three grand prizes. The winner of the Lego City Rocket Lego set was Thomas S. The winner of the Miposaur remote control robot was Owyn T. And the winner of the St. Louis Aquarium at Union Station $100.00 gift card was Tyleigh I. Tickets were also drawn for artwork created during our Stories & Art online story times by artist Jennifer Grassle of Cheerful Canvas. The winners of the artwork include Leah M., Meyer G., Ash W., Hailyn W., and Brylee H. We would also like to congratulate Evangelical School for having the most student participation in this year’s program. Evangelical School will display the traveling Summer Reading Program trophy in their school library until next summer. We hope to see everyone next year at our 2021 Summer Reading Program, “Reading Colors Your World.” Congratulations to all our winners!

We would also like to thank our sponsor Jennifer Grassle from Cheerful Canvas.

StoryWalk® Program

Exercise, fresh air, nature, and literacy are all combined in Hayner Library’s StoryWalk®. The StoryWalk® program is an outdoor reading experience in which a children’s book is deconstructed, the pages laminated and placed in weatherproof wooden story boards, and then arranged along a walking path. The StoryWalk® books, chosen by our children’s librarian, are posted along the Frog Trail at The Nature Institute. The Nature Institute, located at 2213 South Levis Lane, Godfrey, is a non-profit land conservation and environmental education organization. The Frog Trail is approximately one mile in length and is located behind the Talahi Lodge. Visitors are encouraged to stop at the first storyboard and use a smartphone to scan the QR code, located at the bottom of the introduction page. Scanning the QR code will help the library keep track of participation in the program.

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VIRTUAL PERFORMERS

Scary Stories with Mike Anderson — Log on to Hayner Library's Facebook page on Monday, October 5, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., to watch Mike Anderson perform spooky, silly, funny, and thought-provoking stories and songs sure to deliver a shiver! This Halloween show is designed for children ages 3–12. This show will be available on our Facebook page throughout the month of October. Enjoy! Visit www.facebook.com/HaynerLibrary to view this program.

Patchy the Scarecrow Show — Enjoy Patchy the Scarecrow as she performs her fall harvesttime-themed magic and song show. This show guarantees a laugh when her sidekick, Jimmy the Crow, steals the corn! The Patchy the Scarecrow Show will be available on Hayner Library's Facebook page on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 10 a.m., for a one-time viewing. Visit www.facebook.com/HaynerLibrary to view this program.

Mistletoe the Elf and Her Jingle Bell Jubilee — Celebrate the holidays with Mistletoe the Elf and her Jingle Bell Jubilee! Mistletoe brings holiday magic, games, family-friendly comedy, music, and more to entertain you and your family! The Mistletoe show will be available for a 24 hour viewing on Hayner Library’s Facebook page starting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 4, 2020. Happy Holidays everyone! Visit www.facebook.com/HaynerLibrary to view this program.

TEEN CRATE

Do you love making crafts? If so, stop by Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall on the following dates and pick up a teen take-home craft. Each month’s craft will feature a different theme. Dates are: Tuesdays, October 13, November 10, and December 15, 2020.

REEL BAD MOVIE: CREATURE FEATURE

This program is for teens in middle school and high school (grades six through twelve). It’s the Halloween season, and we’re watching a cheesy “creature feature” from decades ago. You’ll laugh. You’ll cry (from laughing so hard). You’ll have fun with other teens. We’ll host this movie through Zoom on Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. Please call (618) 433-2872 to register. Please register by Thursday, October 22, 2020, to receive your Zoom link. Each participant will be offered a snack bag for the movie. Snack bags can be picked up at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall beginning Wednesday, October 28, 2020, through showtime. Don’t forget to register at (618) 433-2872.

2020 TEEN SUMMER READING PROGRAM “DIG DEEPER: READ, INVESTIGATE, DISCOVER”

The 2020 Teen Summer Reading Program, “Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover,” was nothing like years past. Teens were asked to go virtual by using either the Beanstack app or Beanstack website. Participants won weekly prizes for their diligent reading and were asked to participate in challenges to earn tickets for a chance to win the grand prize basket. At the end of the five week program, each participant was given a free book for their hard work. We would like to congratulate this year’s grand prize winner Wren M. She was rewarded with the grand prize basket full of books, gift cards, and iRead memorabilia. Congratulations to Wren and to all our participants. We hope to see everyone at next year’s Summer Reading Program, “Reading Colors Your World.”

TEEN CRAFT

Do you love making crafts? If so, stop by Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall on the following dates and pick up a teen take-home craft. Each month’s craft will feature a different theme. Dates are: Tuesdays, October 13, November 10, and December 15, 2020.

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TEEN BOOK CRATE PROGRAM

Hey, Hayner teens! Subscribe to our new fun-to-open book crate subscription service. Which book will you receive? Each month we will supply you with a new-release book based on your reading preferences, as well as some surprise items. When you have enjoyed your book, simply return it (and the box) for a new selection.

Registration is easy! Simply fill out a My Library Crate book form online at https://www.haynerlibrary.org/kids-teens/teenspace. The library will do the rest!

This program is restricted to Hayner Library cardholders ages 12–18 only. Once contacted, participants have five days to pick up their checked-out book crate from Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall.
Nonfiction—
Attkisson, Sharyl. Slanted: How the News Media Taught Us to Love Censorship and Hate Journalism
Bayer, Mike. One Decision: The First Step to a Better Life
Berg, Elizabeth. I'll Be Seeing You: A Memoir
Bragg, Rick. Where I Come from: Stories from the Deep South
Carey, Mariah. The Meaning of Mariah Carey
Chan, Amy. Breakup Bootcamp: The Science of Rewiring Your Heart
Clark, Heather. Red Comet: The True Story of a Family in Tumult
Clark, Josh. Stuff You Should Know: An Incomplete Compendium of Mostly Interesting Things
Cooper, Becky. We Keep the Dead Close: A Murder at Harvard and a Half Century of Silence
Donohue, John “Chick.” The Sacred Mind, Clean Body: A 28-Day Plan for Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Self-Care
Drummond, Ree. Frontier Follies: Adventures in Marriage and Motherhood in the Middle of Nowhere
Eymann, Scott. Gary Grant: A Brilliant Disguise
Fox, Michael J. No Time Like the Future: An Optimist Considers Mortality
Gifford, Kathie Lee. It's Never Too Late: Make the Next Act of Your Life the Best Act of Your Life
Greger, Michael. The How Not to Diet Cookbook: 100+ Recipes for Healthy, Permanent Weight Loss
Heimowitz, Colette. The Atkins 100 Eating Solution: Easy, Low-Carb Living for Everyday Wellness
Katz, David. Barack Before Obama: Life Before the Presidency
The second annual Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) Library Crawl took place in January and was a tremendous success! The library crawl was a great way for patrons within the Illinois Heartland Library System to visit each other’s libraries and to experience the wide array of library programming, collections, and services available in our state. Participants in the program were encouraged to pick up an IHLS passport at any participating library, have their passport stamped by at least five participating libraries, and then turn in their passport to their home library, where they would be entered into a grand prize drawing.

Mr. Philip O’Connor is one of our newest library patrons. He says he landed in Alton about two years ago. He is very happy he chose our area as he loves the uniqueness of Alton. He especially loves the history, the hills, and the riverfront. He likes being close to other communities as well. He was born and raised in the Chicago area, with time spent in the United States Navy. His time in the Navy gave him many experiences. Mr. O’Connor enjoys the outdoors and traveling to interesting places. He loves art, nature, enjoying life, and meeting new people. He works at the National Archives’ National Personnel Records Center in Missouri.

Mr. O’Connor wanted to participate in the Illinois Heartland Library System Library Crawl because he was attracted to such a unique experience—and he was excited by the challenge of visiting as many libraries as possible. Amazingly, he was able to visit all of them! He visited fifty-two libraries and he drove a total of 1500 miles. Mr. O’Connor traveled through twenty-six different counties on his journey.

During the planning stage, Mr. O’Connor first researched the range of hours and days the libraries were open. Some libraries are in large communities and some small. Some are newer and built specifically for use as a library. Other libraries were once grocery stores, medical offices, and schools. The driving portion of his journey took Mr. O’Connor on many roads—and gave him a chance to view farmland, countryside, livestock, and waterways. He said the weather was very cooperative and beautiful.

Here are some of the highlights of his visits: Mr. O’Connor found the vast difference in interiors quite interesting. Some interiors were so welcoming you almost felt as though you were walking into a home, complete with fireplaces and cozy chairs. At most libraries he was greeted by a friendly face and a welcoming smile. He met very friendly staff members who offered him goody bags containing a treat or beverage. Three or four libraries gave away books. A couple of libraries even offered tours of their building, which Mr. O’Connor was delighted to take.

The vast majority of his library crawl experience was very good. He really enjoyed talking to the staff and volunteers at each library. He said it is very frightening to him to realize there are towns without a library.

Mr. O’Connor believes Alton is very fortunate to have three library locations with such an energetic and helpful staff. He loves the Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library’s beautiful interior. He believes Alton should be grateful to have a place in which to sit, learn, share, take a break, meet people, and experience the joys of a library. Mr. O’Connor calls libraries a cultural sanctuary. I wholeheartedly agree, and feel very lucky to have spent so many years working in our library.

—Stephanie Munson
It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Winter!

Winter is just around the corner, bringing with it the potential for snow and ice. In order to ensure the safety of our patrons and staff, the library may close should road conditions become too hazardous. If bad wintery weather is in the forecast, please call us at 462-0677 before making a trip to visit one of our locations; an outgoing message will inform you of any changes to our regular hours of operation. Drive carefully!