

**City Librarian's Report**  
**For the August 18, 1994 Meeting**  
**Of The**  
**Decatur Public Library Board of Trustees**

This month's written report will be less detailed than most, as I will be on vacation the week of August 7th attending a family reunion in North Carolina. I will update you at the board meeting on items that did not reach me in time for this report.

On August 4, 1994 the management negotiating team met with bargaining unit negotiators. The result of this meeting was a tentative agreement on a new contract covering the period May 1, 1994 to April 30, 1997. Enclosed with this report is a copy of the agreement. Ed. Booth will be at the board meeting to discuss this agreement with you.

As mentioned in my July report, I received a request for reconsideration of library material from a library user for the book: **The Penguin Book of Lesbian Short Stories**. I appointed a committee consisting of Joan Bauer, Karen Anderson, and Grace Veach to examine the book and make a recommendation to me as to its retention in the collection. During July the committee met and in their report recommended to me that the book be retained in the collection as it met criteria outlined in our materials selection policy. I have accepted the committee's recommendation and communicated this action to the individuals who had made the request for removal of the material. I commend the committee for the thoroughness of their work.

The summer reading program came to a end with three puppet shows by Madcap Productions of Cincinnati, Ohio on August 2nd. Over 500 children and numerous parents attended the shows. This year's new format, where children set their own reading goals was highly successful. Katie Gross and her staff and the bookmobile staff are to be thanked for their efforts in making this year's program one to remember. Thanks also go out to the numerous volunteers who assisted Children's Division personnel with the program.

While the summer has slowed down the pace of work, cooperative efforts continue with Communities in Partnership and other organizations on a Decatur community information base and on the development of a CD-ROM network for the downstairs area. Much of the needed groundwork has been laid and the project should be completed by the first of the year. My participation continues in a planning group consisting of various community agencies. This group is exploring ways of providing Internet access to the Decatur community.

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We are presently working on installing the voice mail part of the new phone system. It should be in operation during the week of August 7th. The change over to the new phone system has taken considerable time of office staff this past month. While not without its glitches, the process has been smoother than anticipated. In-house, under the leadership of Karen Anderson an e-mail component is being installed on our GEAC computer.

As of Friday August 5th, 26.92% of the fiscal year had been completed. During this period 32 % of the budget had been either expended, or encumbered and 54% of anticipated revenue had been received.

During the month of July 73 volunteers donated 364 hours of service to the Library.

On August 1, 1994 the Decatur City Council gave their consent to the appointment, by Mayor Erick C. Brechnitz, of Ellen Spycher to the Library Board of Trustees for a term ending July 1, 1997. I will be meeting with her prior to the August 18, 1994 board meeting to begin her library orientation.