

History of Elk Township Library

Even though little is known about the early years, library service has been available to residents almost since the township was formed. The Township Clerk was usually the librarian and the books themselves were housed in various business places. The library was also closed several times and the books were left in the local shops for public use.

On June 18, 1858 a joint meeting was held between Buel Township and Elk Township to settle accounts. Elk Township was originally a part of Buel and at this meeting was paid \$142.00 as their portion of collected taxes. They were also to receive one bookcase for the Township Library but agreed to accept \$2.00 instead.

In March of 1859, the Township allocated \$25.00 for library money. In June of the following year, another \$25.00 was designated for library books and in 1861 \$15.00 was taken from the dog tax money to buy a library desk and pay a librarian.

In 1938 William Cork, Sr. built and donated a building for library use. Under the Works Progress Administration, The Young Women's Civic Club of Peck established a new library.

The 1960's saw the need for a new larger library. With much hard work by the Library Board, Librarian and volunteers, the lot next to the library was purchased and in 1969 a new library building was opened.

Twenty years later again brought a move to a new building. The Elk Township Board built a new building to house all its divisions: Township offices and voting facilities, fire department and library. Opened in January 1980, the building remains the location for the Elk Township Library.

From books shelved in the harness shop to public access computers with wireless internet access, it has been a long journey.

Through it all, Elk Township Library has served its residents.

Elk Township Librarians (known)

1938 - 19??	Mary Teets
19?? - 1956	Mildred Morrison
1956 -1957	Dorothy Judge
1957 - 1958	Lilas Dingman
1958 -1965	Eleanora Fowke
1965-1981	Phoebe Franklin
1981 – Present	Janet Dyki