

Lied Irwin Public Library HISTORY

Irwin is a very small community in West Central Iowa. It was established in 1881 on land owned by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in anticipation of a railroad built nearby. The town was incorporated in 1892. The Irwin Library Club (originally Friendship Club) started a book exchange program among themselves. Later a space was made available (at the rear of the original Fire Hall) so the books could be made available to all in the Community. On November 12, 1932, the Irwin Library was begun with 27 books donated by the members of the Irwin Library Club. Half of those original books are on display in the library today. They also donated their time as librarians until 1934 when Mrs Harry Will and Mrs Joe Richards became the first librarians. In 1962 the library was moved to the City Hall in the former theater building. At that time the books were cataloged and a card file made.

In 2002, the need for a handicap accessible building was evident. A five member board began applying for grants and made tentative plans for a building. In 2004 the City of Irwin and the newly organized Irwin Library Board received a \$10,000 matching grant from the Iowa West Foundation to build a handicap accessible building housing the City Clerk's Office, a meeting room, and a new Library. With the help of other grants, fundraisers, many donations and time, the building came to fruition. A The Lied Foundation Trust awarded a grant for \$100,000 in order to furnish the library with shelving, tables, chairs desks, etc to complete the Library. In 2006 the Lied Irwin Public Library was relocated to its current building on the east side of Main Street.

Today's collection is in the area 5,000.