

Local History & Genealogy Collection

The purpose of the local history & genealogy collection is to purchase, collect and preserve material documenting the history of Peru and the Illinois Valley, making these materials available to researchers and the general public. The goal of the library is to collect and maintain these materials in trust for future generations to inspire interest, pride and research in the Illinois Valley. The Peru Public Library works cooperatively with other Illinois Valley libraries, historical societies, and genealogical societies to encourage interest in local history and genealogy.

The major emphasis of the collection is material of significant local historical information about Peru including genealogical resources. The collection includes materials by and about the people of Peru, Illinois & Michigan Canal, La Salle-Peru Township High School yearbooks, Maud Powell, city directories, maps, phone books and genealogical information.

Through purchase and donations, the library adds material which supports patrons researching Peru, La Salle County or Illinois Valley history and genealogy. Items added to the collection are based on the overall merit of the material and its usefulness in understanding area history and/or genealogy. The library retains multiple copies of the material in the collection. Extra copies may be sold or given to other libraries.

Local authors demonstrating a strong tie to Peru and/or the Illinois Valley are considered for inclusion in the local history collection.

A variety of formats are collected, including but not limited to books, pamphlets, maps, microfilm, photographs and DVD's. The collection does contain historical artifacts. The local historical collection does not collect information dealing with the day-to-day operations of Peru.

Accessibility

The library works to increase accessibility to the local history & genealogy collection via cataloging, displays, indexing among other methods.

All book material is cataloged into the library's catalog. This catalog (PrairieCat) is included in the international catalog known as OCLC WorldCat. Being cataloged in PrairieCat and WorldCat allows researchers from around the world to access our local history & genealogy collection.

As possible, the artifacts in the library's collection are also inventoried and cataloged. These artifacts are displayed on a rotating basis in the library's display cases.

The library continues to index various books within the local history & genealogy collection. These indexes, in either paper or electronic format, are available to assist research.

At the discretion of the library director, the library will loan collections items (print or artifact) for exhibit and/or research purposes. In such cases, the library retains ownership of the item(s).

Donations & Gifts

If an item is donated to the local history & genealogy collection, the library requires a signed Deed of Gift to legally transfer ownership to the Peru Public Library. Donated materials will not be accepted if restrictions are placed on them. Material in poor condition will not be accepted by the library.

Artifacts

Due to space and preservation constraints, the Peru Public Library is not able to accept artifact donations connected with local events or genealogy. The library will work with the donor to determine the appropriate location to accept the artifact. The artifacts currently in the library's possession remain the library's collection.

Artifacts are preserved and displayed to the best of the library's ability. If an artifact is outside the library's scope for preservation and/or study, attempts will be made to place the artifact with an appropriate library, museum or research facility.

Vertical File

The library maintains a small collection of clippings, brochures and booklets relating to local history events. This collection is maintained in files for easy access. While this collection is not cataloged, it is broadly indexed. Only items with appropriate citations, documentation or copyright are kept in the vertical file.

Photographs

Current and former residents have graciously donated to the library photographs relating to Illinois Valley history. The library strives to appropriately archive these photographs, making them available to the Illinois Valley community. As with the other artifacts, the individual photographs are evaluated to determine the best manner for archive and preservation.

**Deed of Gift to the
Peru Public Library**



Peru Public Library	1409 11 th Street, Peru, Illinois 61354	P 815-223-0229
Donor	Street	City/State/ZIP
Contact Person	Telephone / E-mail	

The donation has been received by the Peru Public Library as a gift, and the owner or his agent with full authority, desiring to absolutely transfer full title by signing below, hereby gives, assigns, and conveys finally and completely, and without any limitation or reservation, the property described below to the Peru Public Library and its successors and assigns permanently and forever, together with (when applicable) any copyrights therein and the right to copyright the same.

Description of Donation

Credit Line

Signatures

Donor _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Library Director _____ Date _____

Conditions Governing Gifts

1. It is understood that all gifts are outright and unconditional unless otherwise noted upon this gift agreement.
2. Gifts to the Library may be deductible in accordance with provisions of federal income tax laws.
3. The donor name on this form has not received any goods or services from the Library in return for this gift.
4. The staff of the Library is not permitted to furnish appraisals.
5. The Library gratefully acknowledges your gift.
6. Please indicate on the form beside "CREDIT LINE" how you would like to be acknowledged in any news releases, exhibit labels, or other publicity regarding this donation.