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Fairfield's head librarian resigns

John A. Elwell, head librarian the past three years for Fairfield, submitted his letter of resignation last evening to the city Library Board, declining further questions for an interview.

"(He) has brought a singular spirit of services to the Library in the past three years," said Library Board Chairman Frank D. Parker.

Personal reasons have forced his resignation, effective June 30 this year.

After being the assistant librarian for the previous five years, Elwell took the lead as the head librarian just three years ago. Many accomplishments have happened with the library since his induction as head librarian.

Circulation of books increased 77 percent over the three years while being in charge, along with installing a computerized card catalog. He also helped initiate the computerized card catalog access for citizens with home computers.

"These accomplishments, together with many other innovations such as our writer's workshops and our children's store hour, have given me to believe that my departure comes at a high point in the library's history, not a low point," Elwell said in his letter.

The board will hold a meeting on Monday evening to discuss the letter and consider the resignation request.

"It would be a shame to see him go. Perhaps the board can persuade him to change his mind," Parker said.

The board will look at assigning an acting librarian and begin searching for a replacement should they not be able to persuade Elwell to continue in his position.

Elwell is married to Betty Lou and has three children, Bruce, 15, Angie, 17, and Tom, 19. He received his BA degree in history from the University of Nebraska and his master's degree in librarianship from the University of California at Berkeley.