

REFERENCE RESOURCES

At the Spirit Lake Public Library, we have a small, but mighty reference section for your perusal. It is located on the west wall below the green “Reference” flag. All the items in this section are strictly for in-library use, meaning they cannot be checked out. The exception is the Spirit Lake High School yearbooks that are on CD. The CDs are available for check out. Let’s look at some of the items that are available to use.

Already mentioned are the SLHS yearbooks. We have hard copies of yearbooks beginning in 1950 and going through 2021. The CD copies cover the years 1950-2013. Some other items in the collection are as follows: six volume set Code of Iowa books, 1899 Iowa Geological Survey, Dorland’s Illustrated Medical Dictionary, genealogy information, and DAR Patriot indexes. There are a couple Pictorial Atlases of Dickinson County from 1981 and 1992 that are fun to look at. There is a three-volume set of Iowa: Its History and Its Foremost Citizens from 1915 that is pretty interesting, too!

We have local history which includes cemetery records, 3-ring binders of obituaries from 1993-2023, genealogies of local area families, and historical readings on the Lakes Area. From 1915, there is a two volume set of the History of Emmet County and Dickinson County Iowa. The years of 1911, 1922, 1923, and 1926 are represented in four bulletins of the “Okoboji Protective Association.” A popular resource is the binder about the 1944 Raebel Murder Case in Dickinson County. There are several folders with readings of the Spirit Lake Massacre. A copy of the Civil War diary of Philip Roesch is also on the shelf. Speaking of the Civil War, we also have a Soldier’s Record from the Civil War Dickinson County that could be useful for genealogical research. There’s also a nice scrapbook from World War II and lots of miscellaneous local information.

There are many more interesting items in the resource section at the SLPL. Stop soon and see what you find!