reading room in Jacksonville was opened. Books, papers and periodicals were provided by purchase and donation and though the assortment was not extensive the class was the best. The room was cared for by members of the association the first winter, but in the following winter, 1879-80, a regular librarian was appointed at a small salary; James Douglass was the first regular librarian of the public library. After the establishment of the reading room on a firm basis the social and literary features of the association were gradually dropped and interest in the work then began to wane.

Taken at random from the secretary's minutes these names, besides those already mentioned, appear consistently in the roll of "present" at the meetings of the association during its formation and early growth: Rev. W. H. Dodge, Rev. Frederick Pasco, Mrs. J. D. Mitchell, Misses Elizabeth, Alice and May Long, Miss Belle Abell, Miss Eva Murphy, Miss Sue Patti Hartridge, R. H. Weller, Jr., H. H. Buckman, R. M. Call, Dr. H. R. Stout, B. H. Barnett, W. H. Ashmead, A. Doggett, Judge and Mrs. E. M. Randall, Miss Sue L'Engle, Julius Drew, Miss Lula Tucker, Mrs. F. A. Love, Miss Emma Hudnall, Miss Emmie Bours, Miss Lillie Hartridge, Dr. W. L. Baldwin, Misses Broward, and many others.

In 1883 the association was reorganized as the Jacksonville Library Association with J. Q. Burbridge, a generous patron of the library, as its president. The objects of the new association as stated were: "To provide a public library and free reading rooms, with museum and art departments". Membership fees at this time were: Life, $25; ten years, $15; annual, $2. James Meegan was the librarian. In 1883 the Association, through the generosity of the citizens of Jacksonville, was enabled to lease a lot at the southeast corner of Laura and Adams Streets and erect there a neat one-story frame building having a steep roof and a small entrance porch in front facing Adams Street; the building was completed early in 1884. The Association was incorporated in May, 1885.

The library building in time came to be the community house for Jacksonville, where social meetings of all kinds were held, while on Sundays many denominations from time to time used it for their religious services. This was the home of the library for exactly ten years, and in that period the librarians were, following James Meegan: Mrs. James Meegan, Columbus Drew, and C. H. Smith.