

**CONSORTIUM OF ACADEMIC & RESEARCH LIBRARIES IN ILLINOIS**

**BOOK DIGITIZATION PROJECT PROPOSAL COVER SHEET  
FY 2009**

PROJECT NAME:     The Open Court: Illinois' Contribution to the Educated Public    

CARLI MEMBER INSTITUTION:     Southern Illinois University Carbondale    

PROPOSAL INFORMATION:

Contact Person:     Pam Hackbart-Dean    

Address:     1835 University Press Dr. (MC 6632), Special Collections Research Center, Morris Library    

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Director of Library:     David Carlson    

**PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES OR ORGANIZATIONS OR AGENCIES IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CONTACT PERSONS, & FULL CONTACT INFORMATION:**

(Include the **name, title, full U.S. Postal address, phone number, and e-mail address** of a contact person at each participating library.)

    Sharon Wagenknecht, Executive Director, Hegeler Carus Foundation, 1307 Seventh Street, La Salle, Illinois 61301, 815.224.5891 or fax 815.224.5801; [execdirector@hegelercarus.org](mailto:execdirector@hegelercarus.org)    

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## **CARLI BOOK DIGITIZATION Proposal**

### **The Open Court: Illinois' Contribution to the Educated Public**

**Special Collections Research Center, Morris Library  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale**

**Description of materials to be digitized:** Southern Illinois University Carbondale intends to work with the Hegeler Carus Foundation to digitize issues of the *Open Court*, which was a monthly magazine published from 1887 to 1936, devoted to the science of religion, and the extension of the religious parliament idea. The "Open Court: Illinois' Contribution to the Educated Public" project would enable past Illinois voices to be part of the broader scope of CARLI's Illinois Culture and Heritage theme. This collaborative project would involve digitization of past issues of the monthly journal.

**How does the proposal address the theme "Illinois Culture and Heritage":** The Open Court Publishing Company was founded in 1886 in LaSalle, Illinois, by German-born Edward C. Hegeler, an industrialist with a passion for intellectual pursuits. Hegeler's eventual son-in-law Paul Carus shared the older man's interest in the relation of science and religion and the belief in the fundamental unity of all things. Together they sought to promote and publish free-ranging discussions of philosophical and ethical issues and ideas which rapidly led Open Court from a small periodical publishing existence to become a full-fledged publisher of philosophical monographs, both classical and contemporary. This periodical was for the educated general reader, envisioned literally as an 'open court' wherein issues and ideas might be freely exchanged. There was discussion on topics such as religion, science, philosophy, politics and history. Contributors include but are not limited to Paul Carus, Charles Bonney (Illinois Attorney and Judge, organizer of Columbian Exposition), education philosopher John Dewey (professor at University of Chicago), John Wesley Powell (Civil War veteran, explorer and instructor at Illinois Wesleyan University and at Illinois Normal University, founder Illinois Museum of Natural History) and Edward Hegeler.

## Itemized List

<b>Title</b>	<b>Publication Year</b>	<b># of Volumes</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>OCLC #</b>	<b>Checked OCA site yes/no</b>
<i>The Open Court</i>	1888-1936	50		Open Court Publishing Company	ocm017611311	Yes