Jan. 23, 1829

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Jan. 23, 1829, the day the Legislature created the Missouri State Library.

After Missouri became a state in 1821, a sizable number of public documents began to collect in Jefferson City. This led to people wanting to be able to catalog the books and papers, in an effort to make them available to the public.

By 1829, these documents were in the Missouri secretary of state’s office, which is what led to making a library official.

The new law allowed the office to catalog the actions of Congress and the journals of the Missouri Senate and House.

The original bill language stated only certain elected officials and dignitaries could take something from the state library, but the general public could browse items there, quote, “…from sunrise to sunset, Sundays excepted, and have the privilege of reading any book therein whilst there.”

Just four years later, lawmakers again passed a bill to create a state library. Why remains a mystery, and it took years to merge the two libraries together.

But, it all started on Jan. 23, 1829, the date marking creation of the first Missouri State Library, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: *Missouri Senate Journal*)