



# Libraries Enhance Career-Lives...

According to Tom Peters, author of *Liberation Management*, "Organizations are pure information processing machines -- nothing less, nothing more." This fact makes libraries one of the most important community resources to which a business can have access. Libraries provide the fast, accurate information needed by businesses. But libraries and librarians go beyond providing data to inspiring the work-lives of *people*. As you are about to read, libraries contain the resources and the atmosphere to nurture many different types of businesses and careers.

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The computer at my library gives me up-to-date business information in any configuration. In a short amount of time, I can walk out with an accurate listing of potential customers. Sure, I could do it without the computer... if I had a few days to spare. But spare time is hard to find for a busy salesman.

*Greg H.*

“We were about to give up and call it a night when somebody dropped the girl off the bridge.” Thus begins John D. MacDonald’s *Darker Than Amber*, which I first read more than 15 years ago on loan from the Putnam County Public Library.

I defy anyone to read those first two lines without reading on; or to read the first page of a Dick Francis novel without reading the second. Immediacy — how to capture and hold a reader — was what those two writers taught me. But there were many other lessons to be learned at the library.

From Ross MacDonald and Martha Grimes, I learned plot; style from Robert Parker, Sue Grafton, and Ed McBarin; setting from Stuart Kaminsky and James Lee Burke; and characterization from all of the above. Without the library, I could not have afforded to read, and consequently never would have learned to write. Writers are readers first — remember that. And for those of us writers who can only afford a fraction of the books that we read, the public library is not just a pleasant diversion, it is a lifeline.

*John R. Riggs*  
*Mystery Novel Writer*

Thanks so much for making time to acquaint us at Associated Rehabilitation Services with the abundance of resources available at the Lake County Public Library. More local companies should utilize you.

*Joan Duilley*

As a writer, I use the Putnam County Library as a research center. The library has an excellent collection of the basic reference books that all writers and readers need to explore ideas, track down information, or verify facts. Besides, it’s just a nice place to spend some time.

*Norma Crampton*  
*Author of The 100 Best Small  
Towns in America*

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I am a commercial actor and impressionist. About three years ago, I decided I would like to get into the movies. I had some background but not quite enough. To make a long story short, I went to my library for information. The staff was extremely helpful and the book, videos, and cassettes they recommended were lifesavers. It paid off. I received a phone call last October from Pierogi Pictures to have a small part in *Roommates*, a movie starring Peter Falk to be released this spring. Thank you.

*David L. Hawkins*

“My library card was my passport to the outside world.”

*Bill Blass*

Libraries contain the wisdom, wit, and knowledge of our world, its history and its hopes. Libraries are literally storehouses of knowledge, they are facilities for reading, for relaxation, entertainment, and education.

I am an ardent consumer of our local library's inventory, using it for speech research, self improvement, and an understanding of our nation's heritage and the individuals creating it. In addition to researching speeches prepared for a variety of groups, I thoroughly enjoy political novels, biographies, and books on our political process and personalities.

*Robert D. Garton*  
*Indiana State Senator*

Libraries haven't changed my life, they have literally formed it, first as a young reader, then as an undergraduate and graduate student in English literature, then as an English professor, and now as a novelist doing research to make my historical novels realistic.

When I was in high school, I used to meet my girlfriend at the library. We would tell our parents we were going there to study, and we would (for a while) before sneaking to the drugstore for a soda.

I did the research for my first essays on Dickens in the British Museum library in London. That experience really changed my life. In frustration one day, when all of my book request cards came back marked “bombed in the war,” I stomped out to a pub and, unable to write the scholarly essay on Dickens that I had planned, scribbled the outline for my first novel. You better believe libraries have changed my life.

*William Palmer*

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**I**t was in a school library that I first learned to do research, probably for a book report. That assignment, simple at first, then increasingly more challenging as I passed through each successive grade, taught me to use the printed word. It taught me to gather information from the printed page. It taught me to reach beyond initial naive forays into the encyclopedia.

Additional references steered the way to whole books, journals, newspapers, and other rich sources of information. That network of words, articles, books, theories, and concepts now includes computers and electronic databases. It connects me to an entire world. That world has taken me a long way — from an elementary book report more than 20 years ago to my first major published article last year. It has taken me to the completion of my doctoral dissertation. As a future professor in education, I intend to take a lot more people with me before I'm through.

*Mark Sidelnick*

**“As director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, I find the State Library to be an incredible base of knowledge, and I use it regularly.”**

*Patrick R. Ralston*

**L**ong before the *Lafayette Business Digest* lease was up last August, I went searching for a new office. We had been in the Robertson Building five years and needed a little more visibility plus accessibility for our customers. It was time for a change. *Digest* staff voted to stay downtown where we'd continue to have easy access to county records and library resources. When our realtor said the historic condo at 622 South Street was available, I knew it was the right place. It's across the street from the library! Almost every issue of our weekly contains information from the library's resources. We at the *LBD* are grateful patrons of the Tippecanoe County Public Library. Thank you.

*Marlene Laurendeau*

**W**ithout the limitless access of reference materials provided by our American libraries, my career as a textbook illustrator could not have existed. For more than 25 years many helpful librarians assisted me in the discovery of flora and fauna particular to a specific area as well as the dress, furniture, food, transportation, etc. in use at various periods of history. Often days of research preceded a few sure hours at the drawing board.

*Beatrice Leonard*



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**A**s the lonely, only child of a single, working mom, the public library in Waterloo became my after school retreat and Saturday hideaway. Once inside those book-lined walls, I discovered a treasure house of limitless possibilities. My hardback friends — from Heidi to Captain Hook — transported me to exotic lands, challenged my thinking, and freed my imagination. Soon, reading wasn't enough. I began creating the poems and stories of my heart. Today, I am a freelance writer, and two of my books rub shoulders with my old friends at the library.

*Judith Lee Birch*

**R**egardless of the career chosen, well-rounded knowledge of our world is essential. No institution contributes more effectively to that knowledge than our libraries.

*Marjorie H. O'Laughlin*  
*Treasurer of State*

**S**cience fiction was what first attracted me to the space program. In sixth grade, I picked Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* off the public library shelf in Madison, Indiana, and I've been a voracious science fiction reader ever since. On my first flight on the Space Shuttle (which launched June 21, 1993), I brought a copy of Issac Asimov's science fiction book, *Foundation*, with me to read while I was exercising on the bicycle ergometer. When we stayed in orbit two days longer than planned due to bad weather at Kennedy Space Center, our prime landing site, I ended up with a few hours of spare time because the experiments I was working on had been turned off. So I took a few minutes of that time to curl up in the corner of the flight deck and read Asimov by earthlight (sunlight reflected from the Earth). Looking up from my book to see blue ocean above me out the window made me realize how far I had come from that science fiction book I had picked up in the sixth grade.

*Janice Voss*  
*Astronaut*