

INDIANA LIBRARIES



JOURNAL OF THE INDIANA LIBRARY FEDERATION
AND THE INDIANA STATE LIBRARY
VOLUME 15, NUMBER 2

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Indiana Libraries

Volume 15, Number 2

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Indiana Libraries

Indiana Libraries (ISSN: 0275-777X) is the professional journal of the Indiana library community. It is published two times a year by the Indiana Library Federation (6408 Carrollton Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46220) and the Indiana State Library (140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204).

Indiana Libraries is indexed by *Library Literature*, a publication of The H.W. Wilson Company, Inc.

Editor: Judy Dye, Indiana University

Managing Editor: Patricia Plascak, Indiana Library Federation

Annual Subscription Rate: \$10.00

Advertising and Subscription Offices:

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46220
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Next Issue

Library Instruction/Orientation Success Stories

Do you have a library instruction or orientation success story? Do you know of someone else who is doing great things to promote information and library literacy? Examples might be term paper clinics, programs about how to find specific information, tours, instruction using the Internet, etc. Let us know.

The Bibliographic Instruction/User Education section of ILF is preparing the next issue of *Indiana Libraries* focusing on information literacy and library instruction. We're looking for ideas and we're looking for authors/contributors. Any ideas about library instruction, orientation, or literacy are welcome.

Please contact Emily Okada by March 4, 1997 with your ideas and suggestions or for more information.

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Communication and Cooperation Between Public Librarians and Public School Teachers: A Review of the Literature

by

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Indiana University, Bloomington, IN*

Introduction

In an article in the previous issue of *Indiana Libraries* (vol. 15, no. 1, 1996), Anne E. Wells stressed the importance of public librarians' extending their services to community schools. She described five channels through which outreach efforts could be implemented.¹ Going a step further, Colleen Costello envisioned an ideal world in which teachers alert librarians to assignments, students come to the library well prepared to handle their assignments, and libraries have the materials on hand to meet the students' needs. In Costello's ideal world, communication flows freely between school and library, and teachers and librarians work closely together complementing and supporting each other to meet the educational needs of the students.² The literature shows that, unfortunately, the reality may differ greatly from the ideal. Despite efforts by librarians to learn ahead of time about mass assignments, last-minute requests on obscure topics and droves of students seeking information on the same subject continue to be the bane of librarians. Unreasonable, poorly planned, and poorly thought out library research assignments result in students being unable to complete assignments, librarians frustrated at their inability to provide service, patrons angered by being ignored while librarians assist students in long and unfruitful searches, and teachers dissatisfied with libraries which appear to be unsupportive of education.

Carolyn Caywood echoed the lament of more than one public librarian when she wrote of a teacher's requirement that each of some thirty students in a class write on a different endangered species when the library had only five books on the topic.³ One reads with chagrin, a description of the frustration of a student calling her teacher to beg for a change in the assignment because all the books on spiders had already been checked out.⁴ The writer remembers well a similar assignment about different types of bats and the

frustration shared by students and librarians alike at the Monroe County Public Library, Bloomington, IN.

Jeri Arent advised librarians to watch for clues which may save them from the "question-at-the-end-of-the-chapter quagmire."⁵ Such questions often take up hours of search time without yielding an answer, because sometimes the answer can be found only in the teacher's manual of the textbook. An example is: How many boats did Washington use to ferry his troops across the Delaware?⁶

Roger Sutton faced the problem of dealing with a teacher's insistence that students not use an encyclopedia, even though the encyclopedia had the best information on the required topic. He also had to try to cope with thirty-five students who had been told by their teacher that the library would have thirty-five individual copies of *God is my Copilot*. He found especially unnerving the assignment that each student in a class bring in fifty pictures of famous black Americans. Wonderful books on African-American history and culture lay untouched while students formed an assembly line at the copy machine.⁷

As Frances Jacobson stated, librarians wonder at the assignments students bring with them, assignments that range from trivia questions to inappropriately advanced research tasks.⁸ Such endeavors neither improve upon library research skills nor enlighten students on the nature of independent research. Instead of promoting sound exercises in information gathering, the assignments teach that the library is a place to spend hours of frustrated confusion in pursuit of the inessential.⁹ That opinion was shared by the organizers of a workshop for teachers and librarians in North Carolina.¹⁰ They lamented that, while students miss opportunities to learn valuable lessons, they do learn that "the system" does not work. Indeed, the system does not work because, in cases like those cited above, teachers making assignments which require students to use library resources have not first checked with the libraries affected to ascertain that the necessary materials are indeed present in the collection. Do they assume that "the public library has everything?"

One can add to the above litany, bibliographies for reading assignments with "radically" incomplete or incorrect citations, reference book scavenger hunts or treasure hunts that wear out the materials, and assignments that require multitudes of students to use rare and/or fragile materials.¹¹

The above situations are not recent developments. Some fifty years ago, public librarian Ethel Garber wrote of a seventh grade girl told by her teacher to find something about a famous Russian whose name began with a "V," a question which even a specialist in Russian history would have had difficulty answering. Another teacher had sent a student to the library to learn about a certain Andrew Humphreys, an Englishman whose name appeared once in the eighth grade history text. Garber implied that she could supply a hundred more similar anecdotes but then went on to discuss suggestions for ameliorating the situation.¹² A quarter of a century later Ralph Perkins wrote of library research assignments which gave more "library practice" to librarians than to students. As in Garber's experience, Perkins found that teachers often sent elementary and junior high school students to the library to seek answers to questions more suitable for doctoral candidates.¹³

Outreach Efforts by Librarians

The response of librarians to situations described in the previous section range from reactive to proactive. Having experienced the onslaught of desperate students all seeking information on the same topic, librarians soon learn to prepare for a similar invasion at about the same time the following year. In a like vein, some librarians have suggested techniques for dealing with topics which appear to be annual events, such as investing in paperback versions of books on the subject, purchasing extra copies of hardbacks for reference-only use, collecting vertical file materials, and having in mind search aids to use when all of the books on the topic have left the library.¹⁴

Another tactic is to give unsuccessful student seekers of information a pre-printed form to take to their teachers, with check-off statements that list possible reasons why the library could not help the students with their assignment.¹⁵ The form may also request that the teacher contact the library for information or clarification.¹⁶ Although such a form is an attempt to communicate with teachers, it is an after-the-fact, somewhat negative technique. In fact, some such examples of what Parker called "successful assertiveness" appear aggressive in nature, such as returning to the teacher for correction any incomplete or incorrect bibliographies.¹⁷

A more positive approach is that of librarians who send "assignment alert" forms to teachers early in the school year. Daniel Callison found that both school and public librarians consider the assignment alert a very important tool.¹⁸ Among thirty responses to a survey about methods of establishing cooperation sent to public librarians in Illinois, at least ten mentioned the alerts.¹⁹

Some librarians make herculean efforts to communicate to teachers their ability and willingness to assist with planing assignments, procuring materials, and guiding or teaching students to use the library. Librarians in rural Edgecombe County, North Carolina, prepared library exercises to complement the objectives of the state social studies curriculum. The illustrated exercises did indeed help the teachers make their lessons "interesting and challenging and meaningful"!²⁰

Librarians are willing to visit schools, as evidenced often in the survey of Illinois librarians mentioned above.²¹ Visits to schools by the Schaumburg, Illinois, librarians feature puppet shows and stories for younger students, and booktalks for the older ones.²² One library has been fortunate enough to employ a full-time school liaison who concentrates on one grade per month between October and April.²³ For most librarians however, visits have to be fit into an already full work schedule.

Classes are invited to the library, despite the extra burden the visits impose on staff, facilities, and other patrons.²⁴ Mary Jo Biehl has described tours with intriguing names like "Choose Your Own Reference Adventure" and "Snooper & Trooper."²⁵ In order to demonstrate to teachers and students what librarians can do for them, some libraries hold science fair workshops.²⁶ One library offers local faculty a display of all its new materials at a Teachers' Fair during a teachers' institute.²⁷ Handouts with tips for both teachers and students on using the library and preparing papers are popular items.²⁸ Suggested reading lists and annotated bibliographies are other features that attempt to show teachers how librarians can assist them.²⁹

The Kern County (California) Public Library has established a Volunteer Homework Brigade. Retired teachers and community volunteers are available to assist with homework assignments and to staff the "Homework Hotline" during peak hours.³⁰ Julianne Good has described a term paper workshop which takes students though the entire process of writing a paper; from selecting a topic, to library research, and the actual writing of the paper.³¹ Another proactive approach for dealing with the annual phenomenon of "term paper blues" is a Term Paper Resource Center, equipped with everything from bibliographies and search guides to index cards and computer workstations.³²

Teachers in Arlington Heights, Illinois, may request that specialized packages be delivered to their schools by van. The packages contain Book Bags, (twenty to twenty-five books and other media on a given subject and

for a given grade level), Treasure Boxes, (forty fiction books for particular grade levels), and Enrichment Cases or "touch-me suitcases" full of interesting realia.³³ Another library in Illinois offers a similar service.³⁴ In Newark, New York, similar packets are called "Teacher's Aide Totes" and are considered by librarians as a bridge between the school and the public library.³⁵

Workshops for teachers and librarians, such as one held in North Carolina in 1987, provide another opportunity for learning and communication.³⁶ In an effort to make inroads with teachers, the Arlington Heights, Illinois, librarians have initiated orientation meetings with student teachers to introduce them to the library and the privileges it offers them.³⁷ Judith Monroe likewise has stressed the importance of "beginning with beginners" and has suggested a program for first-year teachers or teachers new to a particular school.³⁸ There must also be communication with administrators. Janice Douglas has written of efforts in Vancouver, British Columbia, by the public library and the school board to develop initiatives to coordinate and modernize service.³⁹

In 1991 the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund sponsored a three-year pilot project to foster cooperation between the Branch Libraries of the New York Public Library (NYPL) and three community school districts in New York City. Named "Connecting Libraries and Schools Project" (CLASP), the endeavor required the cooperation of the senior staff on the city's board of education and library staff.⁴⁰ The project reflects the long-standing interest of the NYPL in facilitating cooperation between the library and local schools. A staff position for that purpose had been created in 1906!⁴¹

Closer to home, the Rushville, Indiana, Public Library has made laudable efforts to further cooperation with local schools. In addition to providing students a list of "classics", the librarians offer these services to schools: resource kits with lists of suggested readings related to the material in the kits; displays, including some borrowed from the Indianapolis Children's Museum; bibliographies which include audio-visual materials; and library tours.⁴²

Responses of Teachers to the Outreach Efforts

In some cases, efforts by public librarians to encourage cooperation between themselves and local schools have been very successful. In Oswego, Illinois, for example, both teachers and principals have come to feel such a sense of "ownership" of the public library that they volunteer as "story

sharers" on weekends and in the summer.⁴³ The Arlington Heights, Illinois, public library has seen a great increase in requests from schools, not just for materials but also for services and programs.⁴⁴ The term paper workshops for students at the St. Louis library were so successful that teachers have expressed a desire to learn more about the library's specialized services.⁴⁵ The Rushville, Indiana, schools willingly assist the public librarians with projects, and teachers inform both students and their parents about what the library has to offer.⁴⁶

A "Stump the Librarian" contest, part of New York City's CLASP, generated a tremendous amount of good will.⁴⁷ CLASP was so successful that, when the private funding ended in 1994, the New York City Council provided monies to enable the program to continue uninterrupted in the three pilot districts. In addition, two more CLASP districts were funded as the first phase of a plan for citywide implementation. The New York City project even inspired a similar undertaking in six cities in Germany!⁴⁸ More information about CLASP can be found on its Web page at <http://www.nypl.org/branch/services/clasp/clasp.html>.

Yet, despite undertakings such as those described previously, there are still libraries inundated by ill-prepared students sent by their teachers on hopeless quests for both information and information literacy. In describing the Policy of Mutual Expectations drawn up jointly by the public librarians and school board in Vancouver, British Columbia, Douglas often wistfully mentioned "in the ideal world" scenarios. Was she implying that the mutual expectations had not been realized? Especially discouraging was the revelation that sometimes teachers even failed to arrange class visits beforehand, and instead arrived unannounced at the library.⁴⁹

Although a seminar for junior and senior high school personnel in South Carolina was attended by only eighteen of seventy-five individuals who had received a survey/invitation, librarians who sponsored the seminar considered it "one of its most rewarding public relations programs" — indicative perhaps of the low expectations held by planners of such events.⁵⁰ An extravaganza for sixth-grade teachers in Bloomington, Indiana, was attended by more library school students and out-of-town guests than teachers. The public library in Des Plaines, Illinois, distributed questionnaires to teachers in eight elementary schools and three junior high schools. The purpose of the questionnaire was to find out what teachers wanted the public library to offer in the way of services to them and their students. Only sixty of 160 teachers returned the forms.⁵¹

Why, one wonders, do some teachers not avail themselves of the skills and knowledge of library professionals as they plan lessons which they hope will teach their pupils how to use libraries and their resources? One can understand why teachers do not consider librarians as partners in education in a community where public librarians do not reach out to the schools. What needs to be investigated is why, when librarians express a willingness and even a desire to go the extra mile, some teachers respond to their overtures while others do not.

Conclusion

Anne Wells stressed that public librarians should extend their services to community schools in order to ensure the continued survival of libraries into the 21st century.⁵² Perhaps she was right.

Within the larger context of problems faced by public libraries today, problems that deal with their very survival, the occasional irritation caused by an entire class of students seeking information on the same topic may seem minor. Certainly the frustration felt by reference librarians and young adult or children's librarians trying unsuccessfully to meet those demands is not minor. More important, however, is the frustration experienced by the students. Attitude and skills which lead to the effective lifelong use of public libraries are best developed early. How many times do young people have to see their hopes of finding information dashed before they decide that libraries are not reliable sources of information? Perhaps what happens when students come to the library impinges just as much on the survival of public libraries as do seemingly weightier matters. These young people are the country's future citizens, the voters and taxpayers of tomorrow, the very people who will decide whether libraries are worth funding. A negative experience today may result in a vote against a bond issue twenty years from now.

Both altruistically and pragmatically it behooves librarians to seek communication and cooperation with teachers so that students can experience the pleasure of a successful quest.

Additional Recommended Reading:

Fink, Judy. "School Library/Public Library Cooperation: A Selective Annotated Bibliography." *Indiana Libraries* 8, no. 2 (1989): 87-89.

Although the articles are old, the ideas are still good.

Fitzgibbons, Shirley. "Cooperation Between Teachers, School Librarians, and Public Librarians: Improving Library Services for Children and Young

Adults." *Indiana Libraries* 8, no. 1 (1989): 57-69.

Dr. Fitzgibbons presents an historical overview of the trends which mandate a need for cooperation, delineates barriers to cooperation, and describes conditions for successful cooperation.

Illinois Libraries 72, no. 2 (Feb. 1990).

The entire issue is devoted to efforts by librarians to reach out to the community. Although several of the articles have been cited here, there are many others in the issue which describe cooperative efforts and successful programs.

Shrum, Sharon L. "Services and Materials Being Offered to School Teachers by Public Libraries Serving at Least 100,000 People in Ohio and Surrounding States: A Descriptive Study." M.L.S. Research Paper, Kent State University. 1993.

Of particular interest in this document is a summary of librarians' perceptions about which services *can* and/or *should* be offered to schools.

Vandergrift, Kay E. "Cooperative Dialogue: Using an Instrument to Empower." *Voice of Youth Advocates* 17, no.2 (June 1994): 73-77.

Here is an instrument with which to measure your efforts at cooperative dialogue with schools.

Weintstein, Frances R. and W. Lawrence Thwing. "Components of Cooperation: Schools and Public Libraries Link for Enhanced Service and Information Access for Youth." *Indiana Libraries* 8, no.2 (1989): 90-95.

This is an example an excellent program which is the result of active communication and cooperation between the public library and school administrators.

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The Depiction of Libraries, Librarians and the Book Arts in Film and Television

by

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The current issues of our professional journals are replete with articles discussing the role of the librarian in today's world. Are we information specialists or teachers? Professionals or clericals? Researchers, managers, or baby-sitters? These questions are not new. For over a century a lot of time and ink has been spent trying to define the image and role of the librarian.

If we have that much trouble trying to define ourselves from within the profession, then what does the rest of the world think of us? That was the question which popped into my mind when I stumbled across a message on a listserv discussing the way librarians were treated in a couple of recent films. That message was the seed from which ultimately grew this filmography.

To the world at large, anyone who works in a library is a librarian, so I began watching and collecting suggestions. It quickly became evident that the terms "library" and "librarian" could not be defined too precisely. In an effort to capture the broadest range of characters and settings, three fairly broad categories quickly evolved. Each title included in this list must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Features or mentions a person who works in a library, archives, or book-oriented setting.
2. Features or mentions a setting which is identifiable as a public, academic, special, or personal library.
3. Features or mentions a book as an important part of the plot or character development.

To date, I have identified 221 titles based upon this criteria. The programs run all across the spectrum, from **It's a Wonderful Life** to **Debbie Does Dallas**. The characters depicted range from "Conan the Librarian" to the penultimate "Marion the Librarian." Our profession has been well repre-

sented by Hollywood, with no less luminaries than Betty Davis, Katherine Hepburn, Goldie Hawn, Christopher Lloyd, Rip Torn, and Jason Robards playing librarians. But the actor only brings the screen writer's words and the director's actions to life. So it is important to note that some of the characters we see on the screen came from the pens of Thornton Wilder and William Faulkner. Directors of these films are also from among the best, among them, Orson Welles, Francois Truffaut, Sidney Lumet, and Francis Ford Coppala.

Libraries appear to be popular settings for a filmmakers. Regretfully, the reason often includes poking fun at the library's image or inhabitants, such as **You're a Big Boy Now**, **Breakfast at Tiffany's**, or **Debbie Does Dallas**. Other films take a more symbolic approach, offering the library as a refuge in a storm, as in **Pagemaster**, or **Wings of Desire** where the library becomes a clearing house for private thoughts and dreams. Quite often, the setting is simply a reflection of reality. Most lawyer movies seem to feature at least one scene in a law library, or at least a shot of someone pouring over stacks of law books.

There are a small number of films which I felt honor-bound to include, hence the third criteria listed above. For the most part, these features make no mention of libraries or librarians, but they make such a powerful statement about the importance of the written word, that they seemed to fit naturally. Examples of this group of titles include **Book Revue**, **Creature Comforts**, and **Prospero's Books**.

This is very much a work in progress. Regular updates can be found at the Web site: http://www.iupui.edu/it/libref/lib_film.html. All suggestions and additions to this list are welcomed. Other related projects include the compilation of similar lists dealing with the representation of libraries and librarians in fiction (short and long), in cartoons, and library-related quotations. Please send suggestions of other inclusions for the depiction of libraries, librarians, and the book arts in film and television to:

Steven J. Schmidt
IUPUI University Library
755 West Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
or
E-mail: schmidt@library.iupui.edu.

Filmography

Format:

Title (Release date - Nationality) **MPAA Rating**

Principle Cast.

Annotation.

Adventure (1945 - USA) **NR**

Clark Gable, Greer Garson, Joan Blondell.

Harry Patterson (Gable) is a seagoing roustabout who marries Emily Sears (Garson), a meek librarian before returning to sea.

All the President's Men (1976 - USA) **PG**

Dustin Hoffman, Robert Redford, Jack Warden, Hal Holbrook, Jason Robards.

Reporters Carl Bernstein (Hoffman) and Bob Woodward (Redford) uncover the dirty tricks campaign and the White House cover-up of the Watergate break in which led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. A library clerk shows circulation records to the reporters.

Amazons (1984 - USA) TV Movie

Tamara Dobson, Jack Scalia, Stella Stevens, Madeleine Stowe, Peter Scolari.

A secret society of women medics ruthlessly kill men who stand in their way. There is a brief scene where a doctor uses microfilm in the library to find out about patients who have died under mysterious circumstances.

Amityville II: The Possession (1982 - USA) **R**

Burt Young, Rutanya Alda, James Olson, Jack Magner, Diane Franklin, Moses Gunn.

When a dysfunctional family moves into the notorious Long Island house, all hell breaks loose. Father Adamsky (Olson) uses local archives to find out about the house where possessed Sonny (Magner) is wreaking havoc. He is helped by an elderly archivist/librarian who says "I've worked here for 25 years".

Angel at My Table (1991 - New Zealand) **R**

Kerry Fox, Alexia Keogh, Karen Fergusson, Iris Churn.

A stunning autobiography about Janet Frame, a repressed little girl who grew up to become New Zealand's most famous novelist/poet. The film, which was originally produced as a three part television series, beautifully captures

the writer's inner world. As a young girl, Frame wins a prize at school — a free trip to the local athenaeum. She wanders the stacks selecting books for her family. This film is a testimony to the power of libraries and books in an otherwise harsh existence. Directed by Jane Campion.

Back To The Future II (1989 - USA) PG

Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson, Elisabeth Shue, Thomas F. Wilson.

The second part of a trilogy begins as Doc (Lloyd), Marty (Fox) and Jennifer (Shue) take the time-traveling DeLorean into the year 2015 to straighten out the future of the McFly family. Biff (Wilson) steals the time machine and gives his younger self a book containing 50 years of sports statistics, which he uses to amass an enormous gambling fortune and transform idyllic Hill Valley into a living hell. To restore the present, Doc and Marty must retrieve the book.

Backfield in Motion (1991 - USA) TV Movie

Roseanne Barr, Tom Arnold, Colleen Camp.

Nancy Seavers (Barr) attends a PTA meeting in the school library where she tries to organize a mother/son football match.

Bangkok Hilton (1989 - Australia) TV Movie

Nicole Kidman, Denholm Elliott, Ric Carter, Lewis Fiander, Norman Kaye.

A daughter (Kidman) searching for her soldier father (Elliott) makes use of the library of the Ministry of Defense.

Beauty and the Beast (1991 - USA) G

Paige O'Hara, Robby Benson, Jerry Orbach, David Ogden Stiers, Angela Lansbury.

Belle (O'Hara) is the prisoner who becomes the friend of the Beast (Benson). In order to gain her trust, the Beast offers her the use of his immense personal library.

Bell, Book and Candle (1958 - USA) NR

James Stewart, Kim Novak, Jack Lemmon, Ernie Kovacs, Hermione Gingold.

Gillian (Novak) is just your average, modern-day witch, living in a New York apartment with her Siamese familiar, Pyewacket. When a handsome publisher (Stewart) walks into her life she casts a spell over him.

Beyond The Valley Of The Dolls (1970 - USA) NC-17 [Originally Rated X]

Dolly Read, Cynthia Meyers, Marcia McBroom, David Gurian, Edy

Williams.

This film traces the rise of an uninhibited all-girl rock group, the Strawberry Alarm. The drummer (McBroom) falls for a law student (Page). Because he spends most of his time studying, he slips her a pass for the law library. Here they develop their affair and she even manages to do drug deals in the stacks! When asked when they will “shack up” by her band members, McBroom responds “as soon as he can move me into the law library.” A bizarre and wonderful film directed by Russ Meyer. Also known as: **Hollywood Vixens.**

Beyond This Place (1959 - UK) NR

Van Johnson, Bernard Lee, Leo McKern, Vera Miles.

Twenty years after being evacuated to America, Paul (Johnson) returns to England to find that the war hero father (Lee) he thought was dead, is actually in jail for murder. With the aid of a librarian (Miles), Paul sets out to prove his father's innocence. Also released as **Web of Evidence.**

Big Sleep, The (1946 - USA) NR

Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Dorothy Malone, Martha Vickers.

Detective Philip Marlowe (Bogart) is hired to stop a blackmailer, but the victim's sister (Bacall) has her eyes on Marlowe. Marlowe stops by a library to do some research, later he uses a bookstore to watch one of the bad guys. Based on novel by Raymond Chandler. Screenplay by William Faulkner and directed by Howard Hawks.

Blot, The (1921- USA) NR

Philip Hubbard, Margaret McWade, Claire Windsor, Louis Calhern, Marie Walcamp.

In this silent feature, Professor Griggs (Hubbard) and his family are well educated, but dirt poor. His daughter Amelia (Winsor) works in the public library until a wealthy young man (Calhern) falls in love with her.

Body in the Library (1987 - USA) NR

Joan Hickson, Andrew Cruickshank, Keith Drinkel, Raymond Francis, Frederick Jaeger.

Miss Marple (Hickson) is called in to solve a very unpleasant discovery — a body in their library.

Book Revue (1946 - USA) NR

The ultimate Warner Brothers “books come to life” cartoon. Parodies and caricatures of Harry James, Frank Sinatra, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Gene Krupa, Jimmy Durante, and a wild take-off on Danny Kaye.

Born Yesterday (1993 - USA) PG

Melanie Griffith, John Goodman, Don Johnson, Edward Herrmann.

A businessman (Goodman) shows up in Washington to lobby agendas that are friendly to his construction plans. Billie, His ex-showgirl bimbo (Griffith) proves to be an embarrassment in social situations, so he hires a reporter (Johnson) to teach her how to appear more intelligent. One scene shows Billie and the reporter in the reading room of the Library of Congress.

Remake of **Born Yesterday** (1950)

Boy Who Had Everything (1984 - USA) R

Jason Connery, Diane Cilento, Laura Williams, Lewis Fitz-Gerald.

The story of a gifted and sensitive student (Connery) at a posh Australian college as he suffers through the relationships with his (real-life mother, Cilento) and girlfriend (Williams). One of the university initiation ordeals include taking a college history exam in the library.

Brazil (1985 - UK) R

Jonathan Pryce, Robert De Niro, Katherine Helmond, Bob Hoskins, Kim Greist.

In this Orwellian tale of the future, Sam Lowry (Pryce) is a harried technocrat working in Information Storage who longs to move up to Information Retrieval. He escapes the overpowering bureaucracy by dreaming about rescuing a damsel in distress (Greist). The best quote of the film is: "There are those who maintain that the Ministry of Information has become too large and unwieldy. But in a free society, information is the name of the game."

Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961 - USA) NR

Audrey Hepburn, George Peppard, Patricia Neal, Buddy Ebsen, Mickey Rooney.

Charming film by Blake Edwards, based upon Truman Capote's story. Holly Golightly (Hepburn) and her new neighbor (Peppard) pay a visit to the New York Public Library to find the book he has written. They use the card catalog and take the book to the circulation desk. A spinsterish librarian shushes them several times and asks them to leave because they want to autograph the book.

Breakfast Club, The (1985 - USA) R

Emilio Estevez, Paul Gleason, Ally Sheey, Molly Ringwald, Judd Nelson.

Five teenagers with nothing in common, sit and talk together as they spend a Saturday detention together in their high school library.

Bridge Across Time (1985 - USA) TV Movie

David Hasselhoff, Stephanie Kramer, Randolph Mantooth, Adrienne Barbeau.

History has it that Jack the Ripper died in the Thames river under London Bridge over a hundred years ago. But when a millionaire moves the bridge to Arizona some strange murders begin as soon as the bridge is reconstructed. The policeman (Hasselhoff) asks the librarian (Barbeau) for some help researching the bridge.

Browning Version, The (1994 - UK) R

Albert Finney, Greta Scacchi, Matthew Modine, Julian Sands, Michael Gambon.

Andrew Crocker-Harris (Finney) is an embittered and disliked teacher of Greek and Latin at a British prep school. After nearly 20 years of service, he is being forced to retire on the pretext of his health, and perhaps may not even be given a pension. The boys regard him as a Hitler, with some justification. His wife Laura (Scacchi) is unfaithful, and lives to wound him any way she can. Andrew must come to terms with his failed life and regain at least his own self-respect. One scene features Frank Hunter (Modine) in the library.

Burglar (1987 - USA) R

Whoopi Goldberg, Bob Goldthwait, G.W. Bailey, Lesley Ann Warren, John Goodman.

Bernice Rhodenbarr (Goldberg) is a woman who works in a library. But she has a strange hobby: In her spare time she dedicates herself to breaking into the villas of the rich and robbing them.

Cain and Mabel (1936 - USA) NR

Marion Davies, Clark Gable, Allen Jenkins, Roscoe Karns.

When heavyweight champion Larry Cain (Gable) and Broadway musical star Mabel (Davies) start courting more than sparks fly. Cain kisses his wife in the stacks of the public library under the watchful gaze of the librarian.

Cal (1984 - UK) R

Helen Mirren, John Lynch, Donal McCann, John Kavanagh.

The love story of Cal (Lynch) and Marcella (Mirren) is set against the violence in Northern Ireland. Cal has helped to kill a policeman, now he falls in love with the policeman's widow, who works in the local library.

Carolina Skeletons (1991 - USA) TV Movie

Louis Gosset Jr., Bruce Dern, Melissa Leo, Paul Roebing.

Marine officer (Gosset) returns to his home town to discover that an older brother he never knew existed was executed 30 years ago for murdering two white children. Gosset attempts to clear his brother's name and is helped by the local archivist/librarian -- the local sheriff's daughter -- who helps him find the trial records.

Carrie (1976 - USA) R

Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie, William Katt, John Travolta, Amy Irving, Nancy Allen.

High school misfit (Spacek) uses her telepathic powers to get revenge against the people who have mocked her. In the beginning of the film, Carrie is trying to locate books using a card catalog.

Chances Are (1989 - USA) PG

Cybill Shepherd, Robert Downey Jr., Ryan O'Neal, Mary Stuart Masterson. Corinne's (Shepherd) husband is killed on their first anniversary. He is reincarnated as Alex Finch (Downey) and meets the girl of his dreams (Masterson) in the Yale Library as she argues with a librarian about a fine. He distracts the librarian long enough to erase the fine. Everything is rosy, until he realizes that she's his daughter.

Cheers For Miss Bishop (1941- USA) NR

Martha Scott, William Gargan, Edmund Gwenn, Sterling Holloway.

Sentimental story about a schoolteacher (Scott) who devotes her life to teaching in a Midwestern town. In one scene, she suggests that a student with a photographic memory should become a librarian.

Chinatown (1974 - USA) R

Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway, John Huston, John Hillerman, Diane Ladd.

Jake Gittes (Nicholson) follows a complicated trail of murder, corruption, and incest through Los Angeles. To complicate matters, he is in love with Evelyn (Dunaway), the daughter of the chief suspect (Huston). Jake receives assistance from a sullen clerk in the county archives.

Christine (1983 - USA) R

Keith Gordon, Alexandra Paul, Harry Dean Stanton, Kelly Preston, Jan Burrell.

When high school misfit Arnie (Gordon) begins to restore a bright red 1957 Plymouth Fury, the car is not the only thing that changes. Arnie develops a new cocky arrogance. In one scene he and the librarian (Burrell) have an argument. Based on a novel by Stephen King.

Citizen Kane (1941 - USA) NR

Orson Welles, Joseph Cotton, Everett Sloane, Agnes Morehead, Ruth Warrick.

Welles first and best film is the story of a Hearst-like publisher's rise to power. While researching a biography of Kane, the writer visits a tomb-like archives. Complete with a dragon-lady at the gate.

City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold (1994 - USA) PG-13

Billy Crystal, Daniel Stern, Jon Lovitz, Jack Palance, Patricia Wettig, Helen Siff.

Mitch (Crystal) discovers a treasure map on his 40th birthday. He and his friends use microfilm at the library to research the treasure. An elderly, hair-in-a-bun librarian (Siff) shushes them.

Client, The (1994 - USA) PG-13

Susan Sarandon, Tommy Lee Jones, Mary-Louise Parker, Brad Renfro.

A street-wise kid, Mark Sway (Renfro), sees the suicide of a prominent Mafia lawyer. Before shooting himself, he tells Mark where the body of a senator is buried. Mark escapes, and the Mafia lawyer shoots himself. Both the FBI and the Mafia quickly realize that Mark probably knows more than he says. Mark decides he needs a lawyer, and finds Reggie Love (Sarandon). Scene in a law library

College (1927 - USA) NR

Buster Keaton, Anne Cornwall, Florence Turner, Harold Goodwin, Grant Withers.

Ronald's (Keaton) high school valedictory address praises books and condemns sports. His girlfriend Mary (Cornwall) condemns his attitude. He fears losing her to rival Jeff (Goodwin), decides to go to college and pay more attention to sports.

Coma (1978 - USA) PG

Genevieve Bujold, Michael Douglas, Elizabeth Ashley, Rip Torn, Richard Widmark.

A doctor (Bujold) suspects that patients are being murdered and stolen from the hospital. She uses computerized hospital records (okay, so its not a library, it is information) to help find out the reasons for the mysterious occurrence of unexplained comas in the hospital.

Comfort of Strangers, The (1990 - Italy) R

Christopher Walken, Rupert Everett, Natasha Richardson, Helen Mirren.

Mary (Richardson) and Colin (Everett) have come to Venice to repair their

relationship. An older couple (Walken and Mirren) are like spiders, waiting for the right victims to come along. Mary describes herself as "an American mother and librarian, . . . an intelligent, strong woman who is also vulnerable and a survivor." Based on a novel by Ian McEwan, with a screenplay by Harold Pinter.

Coming Through (1985 - UK) NR

Kenneth Branagh, Helen Mirren, Alison Steadman, Norman Rodway.

A middle aged woman (Mirren) goes to Nottingham to study DH Lawrence, there she meets a young man obsessed with the author. We also see flash-backs of the life of DH Lawrence (Branagh) and his relationship with his wife, Frieda (Mirren). One brief scene takes place in a library.

Confessions of a Nazi Spy (1939 - USA) NR

Edward G. Robinson, Francis Lederer, George Sanders, Paul Lukas.

Fast-paced story of the FBI's investigation of a Nazi spy ring in the US. Schneider (Lederer) uses the New York Public Library and a book called *German Espionage in the Last War*. He falsely pretends to be a former officer in the US Air Corps and offers his services to the Nazis as a spy.

Conspiracy of Silence (1991 - Canada) TV Movie

Lawrence Bayne, Maury Chaykin, Christopher Marren, Bruce McFee, Neil Munro.

A policeman goes to a reference desk for information in relation to the murder of an Indian girl several years previously.

Cook, The Thief, His Wife And Her Lover, The (1989 - France / Netherlands / UK) NC-17 & R

Helen Mirren, Michael Gambon, Tim Roth, Richard Bohringer, Alan Howard.

A horrifying and funny tale of greed, love, and revenge set in a posh restaurant. Georgina (Mirren) is having an affair with "the bookkeeper" (Howard). He takes her to an amazing book depository to hide from her husband (Gambon). Howard explains he is cataloguing the French Revolution. He is killed by being forcibly stuffed with books.

Creature Comforts (1990 - UK) NR

This animated claymation short consists of a series of interviews with animals in an English zoo. The animals comment on their accommodations, food, and the English weather. The turtle comments that he doesn't get out much, so he escapes into books. Directed and animated by Nick Park. Won the 1990 Academy Award for short animated film. Available on the video **Aardman Animation's**.

Cybill: Rachel's Baby (1995 - USA) TV Program

Cybill Shepherd, Christine Baranski, Alan Rosenberg, DeDee Pfeiffer, Alicia Witt.

In the opening sequence, Cybill plays a librarian in a beer commercial. She complains to the director about the stereotyped character. In the final scene, she is dancing with abandon on the desk top.

Day of the Jackal, The (1973 - UK) PG

Edward Fox, Michel Auclair, Alan Badel, Tony Britton, Cyril Cusack, Derek Jacobi.

A British assassin (Fox) is employed by the OAS to kill Charles de Gaulle while a dedicated gendarme follows the assassin's trail in this political thriller. The film uses the perspectives of the ultra-professional assassin as he prepares his work and that of the harried but humble French detective as he uncovers the plot. The Jackal is shown using the main reading room in the British Museum (Library) to research his target. Both the police and the Jackal utilize archives, the Jackal to lay a confusing trail, the police to ferret him out.

Debbie Does Dallas (1978 - USA) X

Bambi Woods, Robin Byrd, Eric Edwards, Christie Ford, Arcadia Lake.

A group of high school cheerleaders raise money to go to the national cheer-leading tryouts. A male librarian hires one of the cheerleaders as a shelver, and seduces her in his office. Not quite in the main stream, but this film generated quite a bit of talk at the time.

Desk Set (1957 - USA) NR

Spencer Tracy, Katherine Hepburn, Joan Blondell.

Computer expert Richard Sumner (Tracy) is hired to install a new computer in the reference department of a TV network. Misunderstandings lead to a marvelous interplay among the employees. Librarians, although all single women, are presented as knowledgeable professionals. A search is done on the EMERAC computer using Boolean logic. Also released under the title: **His Other Woman.**

Donor (1990 - USA) TV Movie

Melissa Gilbert-Brinkman, Jack Scalia, Pernell Roberts, Hari Rhodes.

Dr. Kristine Lipton (Gilbert-Brinkman) uses the library to check out a drug that she suspects may be responsible for deliberate premature aging.

Dream Trap (1990 - USA) NR

Kristy Swanson, Sasha Jenson, Jeanie Moore, Christina Leardini, Chantal.
Alvin (Jenson), a college student, has a rich imagination. The only problem is that his daydreams are so real he can't tell which are fantasy and which are reality. The girl of his dreams (Swanson) tries to lead him astray every time he tries to win her real-life look-alike's attention. Sue (Swanson) also has a strong imagination. One sequence shows Alvin and Sue in the library laughing together after sharing a daydream.

Dunwich Horror, The (1970 - USA) NR

Sandra Dee, Dean Stockwell, Ed Begley, Lloyd Bochner, Sam Jaffe, Talia Shire.

A sinister warlock (Stockwell) stalks a girl (Dee) who works in the college library. Toby Russ portrays the librarian. Adapted from a story by H.P. Lovecraft.

Educating Julie (1984 - UK) NR

Gail Ward, Miles Taylor, Phil Banyard, Anthony Schaeffer, Gar Willock.
College student (Ward) is assigned to write a term paper about "Nudity in the 80's." When she can't find enough information in the library, she joins a nudist organization and travels to nudist resorts around the world. **Educating Julie** was the first feature film produced by a nudist organization.

Entertaining Mr. Sloan (1970 - UK) NR

Beryl Reid, Harry Andrews, Peter McEnery, Alan Webb.

The story of a young man who becomes involved with both a brother and sister. When Ed (Andrews) first encounters Mr. Sloan (McEnery) he is under the misapprehension that he is a librarian. When Sloan says that he hasn't got a girlfriend, Ed responds "no you're a librarian."

Evil in Clear River (1988 - USA) TV Movie

Lindsay Wagner, Michael Flynn, Thomas Wilson Brown, Randy Quaid.

Brief scene where a mother (Wagner) speaks to a librarian to ask about her son's teacher, whom she suspects of teaching anti-Semitism.

Eyes of Julia Deep, The (1918 - USA) NR

Mary Miles Minter, Alan Forest.

Forest portrays a librarian in this early silent film.

Fahrenheit 451 (1966 - UK) NR

Oskar Werner, Julie Christie, Cyril Cusack, Mark Lester.

From the Ray Bradbury novel, Fahrenheit 451 is the temperature at which

paper will burst into flame. Montag (Werner) is a fireman who does not put out fires, but who searches out books and burns them. Books make people unhappy. In a parody of social correctness, all discordant strains are removed. The world is a lonely one in which Werner begins to read the books before burning them. Directed by Francois Truffaut, his only film in English.

Field Of Dreams (1989 - USA) PG

Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, James Earl Jones, Burt Lancaster, Ray Liotta.

An Iowa Farmer (Costner) is inspired by a mysterious voice to build a baseball diamond in his cornfields. Costner researches one-time activist writer Terence Mann (Jones) in a college library. While attending a PTA meeting, Annie (Madigan) speaks out strongly against censorship.

Final Analysis (1992 - USA) R

Richard Gere, Kim Basinger, Uma Thurman, Eric Roberts, Keith David, Robert Harper.

Stylist film about a San Francisco psychiatrist (Gere) who becomes involved with a patient's sister. Gere uses the library (the outside is UCLA's Powell Library) to check a dream in the works of Freud. He even uses the book's index.

Firm, The (1993 - USA) R

Tom Cruise, Gene Hackman, Hal Holbrook, Wilford Brimley, Ed Harris, Holly Hunter.

Mitch (Cruise) is a young man with a promising future in law. Seduced by the money, he joins "The Firm," which has a large spacious law library/conference room. Mitch uses online newspaper files to search for information on two lawyers who died under suspicious circumstances.

Footloose (1984 - USA) PG

Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer, John Lithgow, Sarah Jessica Parker, Brian Wimmer.

A city kid (Bacon) moves to a small town so concerned with preventing permissiveness, that dancing has been outlawed. At one point, the townsfolk start burning books from the library. The minister (Lithgow) realizing that he's gone too far, finally stops them and allows a dance to take place.

Forbidden (1932 - USA) NR

Barbara Stanwyck, Adolph Menjou, Ralph Bellamy.

Lulu Smith (Stanwyck) is a small town librarian who abandons all for a life of romance. On a cruise to Havana she falls for the married Menjou. We see

her first on the way to the library, where's she's taunted by the local kids as "old lady four eyes". She declares "I wish I owned this library. . . I'd get an ax and smash it to a million pieces, then I'd set fire to the whole town and play a ukulele while it burned." Later on, she works in a newspaper library where she meets Ralph Bellamy.

Forever Young (1992 -USA) PG

Mel Gibson, Jamie Lee Curtis, Elijah Wood, George Wendt.

In 1939, a test pilot (Gibson) volunteers for a cryogenics experiment after his girl friend (Curtis) is critically injured in an auto accident. Fifty years later, he uses newspapers on microfiche to catch up on the years he has been "frozen". His young friend (Wood) also uses the library to talk to a girl.

Foul Play (1978 - USA) PG

Goldie Hawn, Chevy Chase, Burgess Meredith, Dudley Moore, Billy Barty.

When a librarian (Hawn) gets wrapped up in a murder plot, no one believes her story except for the detective (Chase) who's falling in love with her.

Friends: The One After the Superbowl (1996 - USA) TV Program

Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Matthew Perry, David Schwimmer, Brooke Shields.

Ross (Schwimmer) goes off in search of Marcel, his monkey. The quest for Marcel leads to a movie set; Monica tries to go after Jean-Claude Van Damme; Chandler (Perry) meets a make-up artist. One scene takes place in the library. Special one hour episode aired after the Superbowl, 1/28/96.

Funny Face (1957 - USA) NR

Audrey Hepburn, Fred Astaire, Kay Thompson, Suzy Parker, Ruta Lee.

When an ultra-chic magazine editor (Thompson) and her fashion photographer (Astaire) invade a beatnik bookstore, the clerk (Hepburn) tries to protect the books from their callous mistreatment. Paris is the backdrop for this wonderful blend of Gershwin music and Givenchy fashions. Still photos by Richard Avelon.

Genesis II (1973 - USA) TV Movie

Alex Cord, Mariette Hartley, Ted Cassidy, Bill Striglos, Majel Barrett.

The year is 2133. Star Trek's Gene Roddenberry produced this story of rival factions after a nuclear holocaust. One group lives below ground in caves preserving the best of the old civilization, including libraries. Brief glimpses of shelves of books.

Ghostbusters (1984 - USA) PG

Bill Murray, Dan Ackroyd, Harold Ramis, Sigourney Weaver, Rick Moranis, Annie Potts.

Three flaky "paranormal investigators" rid New York City of ghosts and spirits. Their first job is to remove the ghosts from the New York Public Library. The library administrator who hires them is played by John Rothman, the surly librarian from **Sophie's Choice**.

Gideon's Trumpet (1980 - USA) TV Movie

Henry Fonda, Jose Ferrer, John Houseman, Fay Wray, Sam Jaffe, Dean Jagger.

True story of Clarence Gideon's (Fonda) fight to have legal counsel appointed for him at the expense of the state. This landmark case led to the Supreme Court's decision which extended this right to all criminal defendants. Brief scene takes place in the prison library.

Girl Rush, The (1955 - USA)

Rosalind Russell, Eddie Albert, Fernando Lamas, Frances Lansing, Marion Lorne.

Librarian Kim Halliday (Russell) lives a quiet life until she inherits a Las Vegas hotel.

Goldeneye (1996 - UK/USA) PG-13

Peirce Bronson, Sean Bean, Izabella Scorupco, Famke Janssen, Joe Don Baker.

This time, 007 (Bronson) goes up against someone who knows him all too well: Agent 006. The bad guys chase Bond through a Russian military archive.

Goodbye Columbus (1969 - USA) PG [Originally Rated R]

Richard Benjamin, Ali McGraw, Jack Klugman.

Philip Roth's stinging portrait of a young library assistant (Benjamin) who pursues a Jewish country club heiress (McGraw). A scene at the beginning of the story shows him helping a small boy find a book.

Good News (1947 - USA) NR

June Allyson, Peter Lawford, Joan McCracken, Mel Torme.

In this musical comedy set in the 1920's, coed and school librarian Connie Lane (Allyson) falls for football hero Tommy Marlowe (Lawford). Unfortunately, he has his eye on gold-digging vamp Pat McClellan (McCracken). Features the song "The Best Things in Life Are Free."

Goosebumps: The Girl Who Cried Monster. (1995 - USA) TV Program
Lucy, a young girl who loves telling scary stories, discovers that Mr. Mortman the librarian is secretly a spider eating monster— only no one believes her. While he stalks the girl, her parents invite him over for dinner.

Gospel According to Vic (1986 - UK) **PG-13**

Tom Conti, Helen Mirren, David Hayman, Jennifer Black.

A Catholic school teacher (Conti) has had so much success in teaching children with learning difficulties that some view it as miraculous. Conti and Mirren have a love scene in the school library. Also released under the title: **Heavenly Pursuits.**

GhostWriter: Just in Time (1992 - USA) TV Program

Todd Alexander, Blaze Berdahl, David Lopez, Tram Ahn Tran, Sheldon Turnipseed.

Ghostwriter travels back in time to help Frank, a boy wrongly accused of stealing, in 1928. The Ghostwriter team uses the library research in old newspapers to solve the case.

Gun in Betty Lou's Handbag (1992 - USA) **PG-13**

Penelope Ann Miller, Eric Thal, Alfre Woodward, Cathy Moriarty, Julianna Moore.

A mousy, small town librarian (Miller), after stumbling across the murder weapon, confesses to having committed a murder in order to put some spice in her otherwise dull life. In the opening, her boss says that the goal of a library book is to return to the shelf unmutilated. The library open house scene is a wonderful teaser for libraries.

Hammett (1983 - USA) **PG**

Frederic Forrest, Peter Boyle, Marilu Henner, Roy Kinnear, Elisha Cook Jr.
The film adaptation of Joe Gore's tale about the real-life adventures of novelist Dashiell Hammett (Forest) centers on the investigation of the disappearance of a beautiful Chinese actress in San Francisco. Henner plays twin roles, one a sexy librarian who assists Hammett.

Happy Days: Fonzie Drops In (1974 - USA) TV Program

Ron Howard, Henry Winkler, Tom Bosley, Marion Ross, Anson Williams, Erin Moran.

Fonzie (Winkler) returns to high school. This show was so popular that when "The Fonz" got a library card, thousands of viewers were encouraged to do the same.

Happy Days: Hard Cover (1974 - USA) TV Program

Ron Howard, Henry Winkler, Tom Bosley, Marion Ross, Anson Williams, Erin Moran.

Richie (Howard) heads for college. "The Fonz" (Winkler) takes him to the library to show him how to pick up girls.

Happy Together (1989 - USA) PG-13

Patrick Dempsey, Helen Slater, Kevin Hardesty, Brad Pitt.

A computer error assigns Chris (Dempsey), a serious college freshman, to the same room as party girl Alexandra (Slater). While Chris is studying in the library Alex comes in on roller skates. She skates around the reference room drawing shushes from the librarian.

Harry and the Hendersons (1987 - USA) PG

John Lithgow, Melinda Dillon, Kevin Peter Hall, David Suchet, Peggy Platt.

The Henderson family's car hits a "bigfoot" as they return from a hunting trip. They decide to take it home. George (Lithgow) and his family ask the librarian (Platt) for books about "bigfoot".

Has Anybody Seen My Gal? (1952 - USA) NR

Charles Coburn, Piper Laurie, Rock Hudson, James Dean (bit).

A rich old man (Coburn) plans to leave his fortune to the family of a woman who turned down his marriage proposal years earlier. At one point, someone says of the library "I haven't been in there in ages."

Hear My Song (1991 - UK) R

Ned Beatty, Adrian Dunbar, Shirley Ann Field, Tara Fitzgerald, David McCallum.

Micky O'Neill (Dunbar) is a sleazy Irish promoter of books. Josef Locke (Beatty) is an Irish tenor who fled England 25 years earlier leaving behind the girl he loved and the mother of Micky's girlfriend. To win Nancy (Fitzgerald) back, Micky travels to Ireland in search of the real Josef Locke. Micky and Nancy charm a librarian into loaning them the original sheet music they need for his performance.

Heavenly Pursuits (1985) see **Gospel According to Vic**

Her Alibi (1989 - USA) PG

Tom Selleck, Paulina Porizkova, William Daniels, James Farentino, Ronald Guttman.

Detective novelist Phil Blackwood (Selleck) is suffering from writers' block. He pretends to be the alibi of Nina (Porozkova), a beautiful Romanian

woman arrested for murder. At first he thinks she is innocent, but as he has more and more close calls with death, he is not so sure. Blackwood and his editor (Daniels) discuss this relationship in the stacks of the local library.

Hidden Room of 1,000 Horrors, The see **Tell-Tale Heart.**

Himmel Uber Berlin, Der see **Wings of Desire.**

Hospital (1971 - USA) PG

George C. Scott, Diana Rigg, Barnard Hughes, Richard Dysart, Nancy Marchand.

A sardonic tale about a chaotic hospital. Herbert Block (Scott) is head of surgery in a major teaching hospital. At one stage, the harassed administrators listen to the local community at a meeting in the hospital library.

Hotel (1982 - USA) TV Movie

James Brolin, Connie Sellecca, Bette Davis, Jack Gilford, Shirley Jones.

The trainee manager (Sellecca) explains to her boss (Brolin) that after falling in love with a hotel, she read all the books in the public library on how to manage hotels.

"I, Claudius" (1976 - UK) TV Program

Derek Jacobi, Sian Phillips, Brian Blessed, John Hurt, Patrick Stewart, John Truscott.

This acclaimed mini-series follows the history of the Roman Empire from the death of Marcellus, to Claudius' own death in 54 AD. In one scene, the librarian (Truscott) remembers seeing a scroll like the one Claudius (Jacobi) is looking for on the top shelf near the back about fifteen years ago. He offers to get it for him since "I don't expect it's been moved since then."

I Love You To Death (1990 - USA) R

Tracy Ullman, Kevin Kline, Joan Plowright, River Phoenix, William Hurt, Keanu Reeves.

Joey (Kline) works with Rosalie (Ullman) in their pizza parlor. Her world dissolves when she finds that he has been fooling around. Being Catholic, divorce is out of the question, so Joey, her mother, and her best friend decide to kill him. Rosalie discovers her husband's infidelity while she's in the public library.

In Search of Dr. Seuss (1994 - USA) TV Movie

Kathy Najimy, Matt Frewer, Christopher Lloyd, Patrick Stewart, Robin

Williams.

A nosy reporter (Najimy) wants to find out all she can about Dr. Seuss, a.k.a. Ted Geisel. The story of his life is told by the fantastic characters he invented. This film is a marvelous tribute to the man and to the power of books, reading, and imagination.

Incident At Dark River (1989 - USA) NR

Mike Farrell, Tess Harper, Helen Hunt, Arthur Rosenberg, Nicolas Coster.

When his daughter dies as a result of pollution in the river at the back of his house, a blue collar worker (Farrell) takes on the local battery factory. He uses the university library to trace information on pollution and is told about a local environment group.

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989 - USA) PG-13

Harrison Ford, Sean Connery, Denholm Elliott, John Rhys-Davies, River Phoenix.

When his father (Connery) disappears while searching for the Holy Grail, Indiana Jones (Ford) sets out to find him. Dr. Henry Jones tells his son that "half of anthropology is done in the library." Also, the final clue to the location of the Holy Grail turns up in a library in Venice.

Interlude (1957 - USA) NR

June Allyson, Rossano Brazzi, Marianne Koch, Jane Wyatt.

While working in the American Cultural Center Library in Berlin, Helen Banning (Allyson) falls hopelessly in love with Tonio (Brazzi). The only problem is that he is married and his wife (Koch) refuses to leave him.

Invisible Stripes (1939 - USA) NR

George Raft, William Holden, Humphrey Bogart, Jane Bryan.

A parolee (Raft) is trying to go straight to protect his brother (Holden) from the gangster (Bogart). Holden meets his girlfriend in the New York Public Library.

Ironweed (1987 - USA) R

Jack Nicholson, Meryl Streep, Carroll Baker, Fred Gwynne, Nathan Lane, Bethel Leslie.

After years of living on the street, Phelan (Nicholson) is trying to come to terms with his past. Helen (Streep) is his only friend, but she is stuck on the bottle. In one scene a homeless woman takes refuge in the library to try and get warm. The reference librarian (Leslie) tells her that she is welcome to use the library, but she can't sleep there. A dark and haunting adaptation of William Kennedy's Pulitzer prize winning novel.

It Happened Tomorrow (1944 - USA) NR

Dick Powell, Linda Darnell, Eddie Acuff, Marion Martin, Jack Oakie, John Phillip.

Before he dies, the old newspaper librarian (Philliber) promises to give a young reporter (Powell) copies of tomorrow's newspapers, giving him the scoop on the competition.

It's a Wonderful Life (1946 - USA) NR

James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, Henry Travers.

George Bailey (Stewart) is given the opportunity to see what life would have been like if he had never been born. In this dark alternate life, his wife Mary (Reed) is depicted as a shy, timid, spinster librarian.

Katherine (1975 - USA) TV Movie

Art Carney, Sissy Spacek, Henry Winkler, Julie Kavner, Jane Wyatt, Hector Elias.

An absorbing tale chronicling a young woman's (Spacek) development from innocent activist to terrorist through the 1960s and '70s. At one stage, in the mid-'60s, she and Winkler are helping to run a school for black children in the South. She takes them to the local library where some older white boys harass them. She gets little help from the librarian. Released on video as **The Radical**.

Katie Did It (1951 - USA) NR

Ann Blythe, Mark Stevens, Jesse White.

The librarian (Blythe) in a small New England town shocks everyone by posing in scanty attire for a New York commercial artist (Stevens).

Kes (1969 - UK) NR

David Bradley, Freddie Fletcher, Lynne Perrie, Colin Welland, Brian Glover.

Poor boy Billy Casper (Bradley) goes to the local library to find out more about the kestrels, but can't borrow the books because he is not a member. His mother will not sign for him so he tries to get around the young librarian by saying he has never damaged a book. The librarian responds by checking his hands and saying he will make the books dirty. Billy protests that he never reads dirty books! In frustration he asks if there is any where else he could try. He is directed to a local second-hand book shop where he steals a book on kestrels.

Kingsajz (1988 - Poland) NR

Jarek Chmielnik, Kataryzna Figura, Grzegorz Herominski, Maciej Kozlowski.

A Polish comedy about a young scientist in the contemporary world, who actually came from the world of dwarves, thanks to a magic potion. The dwarf kingdom, Shuflandia, exists in a cellar of a library, and only the most obedient get the chance to grow to king size and inhabit the larger world.

Kiss Before Dying, A (1991) R

Matt Dillion, Sean Young, Max von Sydow, Diane Ladd, Adam Horowitz.

When her sister dies, Ellen (Young) suspects her brother-in-law (Dillion) of murder. Once he discovers her suspicions, he tries to kill her as well. Ellen pays two library visits, one to a law library to talk to her sister's former boyfriend and later to the main library to check the yearbook for to see if he really was in class with her sister. Supposedly filmed at the University of Pennsylvania. Remake of **A Kiss Before Dying** (1956).

Lamb (1986 - UK) NR

Ian Bannen, Liam Neeson, Hugh O'Connor, Frances Tomelty, Ronan Wilmot.
Brother Sebastian (Neeson) asks for books on epilepsy in the public library.

Letter from an Unknown Woman (1948 - USA) NR

Joan Fontaine, Louis Jourdan, Mady Christians, Marcel Journet, Art Smith.
Lisa Berndt's (Fontaine) love for the dashing but self-obsessed pianist (Jourdan) is unrequited. There is a brief library scene.

Life Story see **Race for the Double Helix, The**

Likely Lads, The (1976 - UK) NR

Rodney Bewes, Brigit Forsyth, James Bolam, Mary Tamm, Zena Walker, Ronald Lacey.

A full-length feature spin-off from the BBC television series. Bob (Bewes) turns up at the local library to meet his wife Thelma (Forsyth) at work. He is drunk and distressed (his first local pub has just closed down) and causes a disturbance, to be met only with "Shhhs" from readers and staff alike.

Logan's Run (1976 - USA) PG

Michael York, Peter Ustinov, Jenny Agutter, Farrah Fawcett-Majors.

Futuristic film about a place where no one is allowed to live beyond 30. Logan (York) and Jessica (Agutter) escape to the ruins of Washington DC where they find an old man (Ustinov) living in the ruins of the Library of Congress.

Lords of Discipline, The (1983 - USA) R

David Keith, Mark Breland, Judge Reinhold, Jason Connery, Matt Frewer, Sophie Ward.

Wil (Keith), a student in a Southern military academy, is asked to keep an eye on Pearce (Breland), the first black cadet. Pearce communicates with Wil by leaving notes in a book in the library.

Lorenzo's Oil (1993 - USA) PG-13

Nick Nolte, Susan Sarandon, Peter Ustinov, Kathleen Wilhoite.

Real life story of the Augusto & Michaela Odone (Nolte and Sarandon) who fight to find a way to keep their son alive. At first, Augusto uses the library to find out about the child's disease, while Michaela searches *Index Medicus* on microfiche. Later, the library helps them to find information on the oil that forms part of the cure. All in all, the library is a major and empowering force in their struggle.

Love Lies Bleeding (1993 - UK) NR

Mark Rylance, Elisabeth Bourguine.

Conn (Rylance) tries to find information about his girlfriend who has been killed under mysterious circumstances. He traces her friend Sophie (Bourguine), an academic at Queen's University Belfast, and meets her in the library.

Love, Mary (1985 - USA) TV Movie

Matt Clark, Piper Laurie, Kristy McNichol, David Paymer, Rachel Ticotin.

A dyslexic woman in prison is sent to college on a special program. A number of scenes take place in a college library.

Lucky Jim (1957 - UK) NR

Ian Carmichael, Terry-Thomas, Hugh Griffith, Sharon Acker, Jean Anderson.

The comic misadventures of a new university lecturer (Carmichael) based upon a novel by Kingsley Amis. At the university, the lecturer has to do the bidding of absent-minded and boring Professor Welch (Terry-Thomas) to have any hope of keeping his job. Several scenes are set in the college library.

MacGyver: Lost Treasure of Atlantis (1994 - USA) TV Movie

Richard Dean Anderson, Brian Blessed, Sophie Ward, Christian Burgess.

MacGyver (Anderson) and his former college professor (Blessed) are first hunting some artifacts attributed to an ancient scientist from the lost city of Atlantis. Thanks to a platinum book, they find that the treasure of Atlantis is knowledge.

Mackintosh Man (1973 - USA) PG

Paul Newman, Dominique Sandra, James Mason, Harry Andrews, Nigel Patrick.

Joseph Rearden (Newman) takes the fall for a robbery and winds up in prison. He escapes with a convicted spy and is taken to a remote manor. There is a brief scene in the prison library.

Major League (1989 - USA) R

Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen, Rene Russo, Wesley Snipes, Rachel Phelps.

When an exotic dancer (Phelps) inherits a baseball team, she tries to field the worst team she can find so she can move it to a warmer climate. The players rally together and fight back. Over-the-hill catcher Jake (Berenger) is dating a librarian (Russo). They have a big shouting match in the middle of the library.

Man In The White Suit, The (1951 - UK) NR

Alec Guinness, Joan Greenwood, Cecil Parker, Michael Gough, Vida Hope.

An inventor (Guinness) creates a fabric which won't soil or wear out. Dismayed garment manufacturers plan to bury both the inventor and his invention. The manufacturer's daughter (Greenwood) checks their personal library to find out about long-chained molecules.

Man Who Never Was, The (1956 - UK) NR

Stephen Boyd, Cyril Cusack, Michael Hordern, Gloria Grahame, Clifton Webb.

The story of how British Intelligence tricked the German High Command into shifting it's forces away from Italy prior to the invasion. Lucy (Grahame) is a librarian who must convince the Nazis that the planted documents are real. Based on a true story.

Maxie (1985 - USA) PG

Glenn Close, Mandy Patinkin, Ruth Gordon, Barnard Hughes, Valerie Curtin.

The spirit of a flapper era starlet inhabits the body of a dull, but hard-working secretary (Close). Her husband (Patinkin), a rare books librarian, is alternately confused and titillated by her. A couple of scenes are shot in the San Francisco Public Library.

Martha, Ruth & Edie (1988 - Canada) NR

Margaret Langrick, Andrea Martin, Lynne Gorman, Helen Hughes, Lois Maxwell.

Three women attend a self-awareness seminar. Ruth is a timid public librarian who's favorite film is *Gone with the Wind*. She wants to be Scarlet but fears she will only be Ashley. Her two crazy aunts come back from Hollywood after the death of her mother and they help her to liberate herself and find happiness with one of her readers, a garage owner who borrows Shakespeare tragedies.

Missionary, The (1982 - UK) R

Michael Palin, Maggie Smith, Phoebe Nicholls, Trevor Howard, Denholm Elliott.

When a young missionary (Palin) returns from Africa, he is recruited to run a home for fallen women. His fiancé (Nicholls) reveals a penchant for classification. She has classified his letters: 663 letters and 143 postcards into 8 general boxes with subsections. His marriage proposal is in Box 3 section 11. "I love filing" she says.

Morning Glory (1993 - USA) PG-13

Christopher Reeve, Deborah Raffin, Nina Foch, Helen Shaver.

Ex-con Wil Parker (Reeve) answers a pregnant widow's ad for a husband. He does some research on bees in the public library. Librarian (Foch) won't give him a library card unless he can prove residency. Later, Reeves becomes the library custodian and is accused of murdering the town floozy (Shaver).

Mr. Sycamore (1974 - USA) NR

Sandy Dennis, Jason Robards, Jean Simmons, Mark Miller.

John Gwilt (Robards) is a postman with a nagging wife (Dennis), a crush on the local librarian (Simmons), and unusual dream. He wants to be a tree.

Murder at the Gallop (1963 - UK) NR

Margaret Rutherford, Stringer Davis, Robert Morley, Charles 'Bud' Tingwell.

Miss Marple suspects murder when a wealthy recluse dies. The village librarian (Davis) assists her partner in her crime solving. Based on the novel *After the Funeral* by Agatha Christie.

Murder Ahoy (1964 - UK) NR

Margaret Rutherford, Lionel Jeffries, William Mervyn, Stringer Davis.

Miss Marple (Rutherford) investigates a murder on a navel training ship. Librarian Mr. Stringer (Davis) is her partner in crime solving.

Murder Most Foul (1964 - UK) NR

Margaret Rutherford, Stringer Davis, Charles 'Bud' Tingwell, Francesca

Annis.

Miss Marple (Rutherford) is the only jury member who believes the defendant is innocent. Librarian Mr. Stringer (Davis) is her partner in crime solving. Based on Agatha Christie's *Mrs. McGinty's Dead*.

Murder, She Said (1961 - UK) NR

Margaret Rutherford, Charles 'Bud' Tingwell, Joan Hickson, Stringer Davis.

Miss Marple witnesses a murder in a passing train, but no body can be found. With the help of the village librarian (Davis) she begins her own investigation. This was the first of four films featuring Rutherford as Miss Marple and Stringer Davis as her librarian partner, Mr. Stringer. Based upon Agatha Christie's story *4:50 From Paddington*.

Murders In The Rue Morgue, The (1986 - USA) TV Movie

George C. Scott, Rebecca de Mornay, Ian McShane, Val Kilmer.

Inspector Auguste Dupin (Scott) uses the library of the Society of Explorers to find books on apes to help match a hand print he has found at the scene of the crime. A better than average retelling of the classic tale by Edgar Allan Poe.

Music Man, The (1962 - USA) NR

Robert Preston, Shirley Jones, Buddy Hackett, Paul Ford, Ron Howard.

Super salesman/con man Harold Hill (Preston) mesmerizes a small Iowa town with his vision of a uniformed marching band. Marion the Librarian (Jones) makes scandalous works available, such as Balzac and Chaucer, and sings while she stamps book slips.

My Fair Lady (1964 - USA) G

Rex Harrison, Audrey Hepburn, Stanley Holloway, Wilfrid Hyde-White, Theodore Bikel.

Professor Henry Higgins (Harrison) teaches a cockney flower girl (Hepburn) to speak like a duchess. Much of the story takes place in Higgin's personal library.

My Fellow Americans (1996 - USA) PG-13

Jack Lemmon, James Garner, Dan Aykroyd, Sela Ward, Wilford Brimley.

Two former presidents, Republican Russell Kramer (Lemmon) and Democrat Matthew Douglas (Garner) are framed by the current president (Aykroyd). The two dash cross country to Kramer's presidential library where his official papers will exonerate them.

Name of the Rose (1986 - Italy / France / West Germany) **R**

Sean Connery, F. Murray Abraham, Christian Slater, Ron Perlman.

A series of mysterious deaths in a 14th century monastery leads William of Baskerville (Connery) to the brother who supervises the scriptorium and the library. A suspenseful scene in the library has him trying to learn the arrangement of the collection and leads to a confrontation with the librarian, and a fire which destroys the library.

Necronomicon (1993 - USA) **NR**

Jeffrey Combs, Tony Azito, Juan Fernandez, Brian Yuzna, Bruce Payne.

H.P. Lovecraft (Combs), the well-known horror writer, is looking in the late '30s for the book *Necronomicon*. He finds it guarded by monks in an old library.

Never-Ending Story III, The (1994 - Germany / USA) **G**

Jason James Richter, Melody Kay, Jack Black, Carole Finn, Freddie Jones.

Bastian's (Richter) dream to have a sibling comes true when his father remarries. But soon he has trouble with his new step-sister Nicole (Kay) and with a gang of school bullies, the Nasties. Slip, the gang leader, finds the book *The Never-Ending Story*. The latter recognizes the power of the book and begins to form Fantasia, a land based upon his evil design.

No Man of Her Own (1932 - USA) **NR**

Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, J. Farrell MacDonald.

Babe Stewart (Gable) is a heel on the lam to avoid a pesky cop. He meets and marries a lonely, but slightly wild, librarian (Lombard).

Off Beat (1982 - USA) **PG**

Judge Reinhold, Meg Tilly, Harvey Keitel, Jaques D'Amboise.

Joe Gower's (Reinhold) job is skating through library shelves, fetching books. A police officer friend of his is chosen to participate in a charity dance performance. Gower agrees to take his place in the show by posing as a police officer, and falling for a female officer (Tilly) in the show.

One Hundred and One Dalmatians (1996 - US) **PG**

Glenn Close, Jeff Daniels, Joely Richardson, Joan Plowright.

In this live action remake of the 1961 animated classic, Cruella (Close) kidnaps puppies to make herself a Dalmatian skin coat. The puppies are kept in the library of a decaying mansion.

Only 38 (1923 - USA) NR

May McAvoy, Lois Wilson.

With two teenagers to support, a new widow (McAvoy) must accept a job as a librarian. But she shocks the community by dancing with an admirer at the college ball in this silent feature.

Only Two Can Play (1962 - UK) NR

Peter Sellers, Mai Zetterling, Virginia Maskell, Richard Attenborough.

Ambitious and lecherous assistant librarian (Sellers) flirts with the wife of a prominent library board member (Zetterling) in order to land the position of Head Librarian. Based upon a novel by Kingsley Amis.

Ordeal by Innocence (1984 - UK) PG-13

Donald Sutherland, Faye Dunaway, Ian McShane, Christopher Plummer, Diana Quick.

Dr. Arthur Calgary (Sutherland) plays amateur sleuth in a small English hamlet. He uses newspapers in the local library while an elderly librarian checks in books. Based on a story by Agatha Christie.

Pagemaster (1994 - USA) G

Macaulay Culkin, Christopher Lloyd, Patrick Stewart, Whoopi Goldberg.

A timid boy (Culkin) seeks refuge in the library from a storm where he is swept away into the magical animated world of the Pagemaster. Interesting example of a librarian (Lloyd) who doesn't listen to his patrons.

Party Girl (1995 - USA) R

Parker Posey, Sasha von Scherler, Anthony DeSando, Guillermo Diaz, Donna Mitchell.

Free spirited Mary (Posey) is jailed for staging a wild party on Manhattan's trendy lower east side. Her godmother (von Scherler), a librarian, bails her out and puts her to work in the library. Dismayed at first, Mary is bewitched by the Dewey Decimal System, and ultimately decides to go to library school. Overall a positive image for librarians. In one powerful speech, Von Scherler remarks that Dewey hired women as librarians because they couldn't be expected to think too much.

Passport To Pimlico (1949 - UK) NR

Stanley Holloway, Margaret Rutherford, Hermione Baddeley, Basil Radford.

Some friends find an ancient treaty which allows them to create their own country in the middle of London. Two of the characters go to the public library to look up details of a coat of arms they have found.

Pelican Brief, The (1993 - USA) PG-13

Julia Roberts, Denzel Washington, Sam Shepherd, John Heard, Robert Culp.
A law student (Roberts) writes a brief implicating the White House in the murder of a Supreme Court judge. She spends a lot of time in libraries both researching the brief and later hiding from various bad guys. Lots of use of computer-based information, possibly an on-line catalog and *Lexis*.

Personals (1990 - USA) TV Movie

Stephanie Zimbalist, Jennifer O'Neill, Barry Stevens.

By day, Heather Moore (O'Neill) is an insignificant librarian, but at night she becomes a mysterious dark lady who uses the personal ads to meet men and kill them. These murders last until the wife of one victim (Zimbalist) decides to investigate.

Phantom, The (1996 - USA) PG

Billy Zane, Treat Williams, Kristy Swanson, Catherine Zeta Jones.

A mysterious crusader for justice, The Phantom (Zane), has defended the helpless and innocent against criminals and evil-doers for 400 years. There are two library related scenes in this film. First, the Phantom uses his personal library to research an important clue in "The Phantom Chronicles." Secondly, the evil Xander Drax (Williams) blinds the librarian for leaking information about the research he has been doing in the New York Public Library.

Philadelphia (1993 - USA) PG-13

Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington, Jason Robards, Mary Steenburgen, Antonio Banderas.

Andrew Beckett (Hanks), an AIDS infected lawyer sues to regain his job after he is fired on trumped up charges. In one crucial scene Beckett is asked by a librarian if he would be more comfortable in a private study room. He responds: "No, but would you be more comfortable?" The scene becomes more tense as the confrontation grows. It is finally diffused by the intervention of Joe Miller (Washington). This scene beautifully illustrates the public fear of AIDS. It is too bad that they had to pick the librarian to give a really negative image.

Philadelphia Story (1940 - USA) NR

Katherine Hepburn, Jimmy Stewart, Cary Grant.

A fast-talking reporter (Stewart) falls for a society girl (Hepburn). She goes to the town library, which her grandfather founded, to look for a book he has written.

Plain Clothes (1988 - USA) PG

Arlliss Howard, Suzy Amis, George Wendt, Diane Ladd, Abe Vigoda, Robert Stack.

A cop (Howard) goes back to high school to solve a murder of which his brother is accused. He uses the library to make connections with the evidence.

Postcards From the Edge (1992 - USA) R

Meryl Streep, Shirley McLaine, Dennis Quaid, Gene Hackman, Richard Dreyfuss.

Story of a young actress's life in the shadow of her famous show business mother. Based on a novel by Carrie Fisher. Suzanne's mother (McLaine) throws a surprise party for her return from the hospital. Suzanne Vale (Streep) comments about one of the guests "the last time I saw him he was vomiting an omelet through his nose in the library."

Prospero's Books (1991 - France / Italy / Netherlands / UK) R

Sir John Gielgud, Michael Clark, Erland Josephson, Isabelle Pasco.

Adapted from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, this film marries the art of film, literature, and dance into a sumptuous, erotic mix. The pages of the books in this library are really magical special effect masterpieces.

Quiet Please, Murder (1942 - USA) NR

George Sanders, Gail Patrick, Richard Denning, Lynne Roberts, Margaret Brayton.

Based on the story "Death walks in marble halls" by Lawrence G. Blochman about a murder in the New York Public Library.

Race for the Double Helix, The (1987 - UK) TV Movie

Tim Piggott-Smith, Jeff Goldblum, Alan Howard, Juliet Stevenson, Betsy Brantley.

In the race to find DNA, Crick (Piggott-Smith) and Watson (Goldblum) race to find the structure of DNA before Linus Pauling, Maurice Wilkins, or Rosalind Franklin can find the key to unlocking the secret. They use the library to find a paper by Linus Pauling, charming the librarian and sitting on the floor in the stacks. Alternate title: **Life Story**.

Radical, The see **Katherine**.

Resting Place (1986 - USA) TV Movie

John Lithgow, Richard Bradford, Morgan Freeman, Frances Sternbergen, Emmet Walsh.

Major Kendall Laird (Lithgow) is assigned to help the family of a black officer killed in Vietnam. The local community refuse to let him be buried in the "white" graveyard. Laird finds out about the gifted officer, including a story of how when he was aged about 8, he wanted to borrow a book from the library. The librarian wouldn't let him because he was black. He said he would wait until she changed her mind. He stayed all day until she finally gave in and let him have the book.

Rising Sun (1993 - USA) R

Sean Connery, Wesley Snipes, Harvey Keitel, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa, Tia Carrere.

An L.A. Cop (Snipes) is assigned to a sensitive murder case involving a powerful Japanese corporation. With a Japanese expert (Connery), they unravel a multi-layer mystery. A brief scene shows where a rival journalist is getting information.

Rollerball (1975 - USA) R

James Caan, John Houseman, Maud Adams, Moses Gunn, Ralph Richardson.

In a futuristic society the violent game of Rollerball is used to control the populace by demonstrating the futility of individuality. The champion player Jonathan (Caan) uses the library to find out more about the game. The librarian (Richardson) assists him in his search for information.

Rome Adventure (1962 - USA) NR

Suzanne Pleshette, Troy Donahue, Angie Dickinson, Rossano Brazzi, Chad Everett.

A school librarian (Pleshette) learns about love the hard way when she is torn between two lovers, Roberto (Brazzi) and Don (Donahue).

Runaway Father (1991 - USA) TV Movie

Donna Mills, Jack Scalia, Chris Mulkey, Jenny Lewis.

A confrontational scene between runaway father (Scalia) and his grown-up daughters takes place in a library.

Running On Empty (1988 - USA) PG-13

Judd Hirsch, Martha Plimpton, Jonas Arby, Ed Crowley, Steven Hill.

A one-time student radical (Hirsch) has been on the run from the FBI for seventeen years. He uses the library newspapers on microfilm for obituary notices to find a new identity. Directed by Sidney Lumet.

Salmonberries (1991 - Germany) NR

K. D. Lang, Rosel Zech, Chuck Connors, Christel Merian.

Orphan Kotzebue (Lang) goes to the public library to find out who her parents were. She befriends Roswitha, the librarian (Zech). Roswitha is an East German immigrant who lost her husband while escaping from behind the Iron Curtain. Together they help each other find closure in their past. Kotzebue throws books to attract Roswitha's attention. This is a good example of a film which has a fully rounded librarian whose role as a librarian is also essential to the plot. She is knowledgeable, competent, and committed, if bad-tempered at times.

Scandal Street (1938 - USA) NR

Louise Campbell, Roscoe Karns, Lew Ayres.

Nora Langdon (Campbell) is a stereotyped small town librarian in this slapstick murder mystery.

Scent of a Woman (1992 - USA) R

Al Pacino, Chris O'Donnell, Gabrielle Anwar.

A timid prep school student Charlie Simms (O'Donnell) becomes a weekend companion for a blind ex-Army Officer (Pacino). Charlie also works in the library. When a classmate asks him to borrow a book that's on reserve, Charlie lets the book go out overnight.

Secret of the Chateau (1934 - USA) NR

Claire Dodd, William Faversham, Ferdinand Gottschalk.

While attending an auction of rare books, Inspector Marotte (Gottschalk) hopes he can catch his a murderer and book thief. More murders occur when it is learned that a rare first edition of the *Gutenberg Bible* is hidden on the premises.

Seven (1995 - USA) R

Morgan Freeman, Brad Pitt, Gwyneth Paltrow, Kevin Spacey.

Somerset, a seasoned veteran policeman (Freeman), and a new detective Mills (Pitt) are teamed up to track down a psychopathic serial killer who is fashioning his murders after the seven deadly sins. Somerset uses the library after hours to research the seven deadly sins in order to understand the murderer.

Seventh Coin (1993 - USA) PG-13

Alexandra Powers, Navin Chowdhry, Peter O'Toole, John Rhys-Davies, Ally Walker.

Two teenagers, Ronnie (Powers) and Salim (Chowdhry), run from a British Officer who believes himself to be the reincarnation of Herod (O'Toole). A rookie police officer (Walker) uses newspaper microfilm for clues about the murders surrounding the "seventh coin." Working in the library, Walker wonders how to find out if one of the people mentioned in the newspaper article is still alive. The librarian suggests, "have you tried the telephone book?" Also released under the title **Worlds Apart**.

Sex Shop, Le (1974 - France / Germany) NR

Gregoire Aslan, Claude Berri, Juliet Berto, Luisa Colpeyn, Francesca Romana Coluzzi.

Claude (Berri), the owner of a book shop in Paris, decides to convert his store into a sex-shop but the only thing that really changes is himself.

Shadow of a Doubt (1942 - USA) NR

Joseph Cotton, MacDonald Carey, Teresa Wright, Wallace Ford, Hume Cronyn.

When Uncle Charlie (Cotton) comes to visit a sleepy California town in this suspenseful Hitchcock classic, his niece (Wright) suspects him of being the Merry Widow murderer. She visits the library to read about the murders. Script written by Thornton Wilder.

Shadows in the Storm (1988 - USA) NR

Ned Beatty, William Bumiller, Michael Madsen, Mia Sara.

After being fired because of his drinking, a librarian (Beatty) moves into a cabin in the woods where he becomes involved in a murderous affair.

Shawshank Redemption, The (1994 - USA) R

Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman, Bob Gunton, William Sadler, James Whitmore.

After the murder of his wife, hotshot banker Andrew Dufresne (Robbins) is sent to Shawshank Prison. Over the years, he retains hope and eventually gains the respect of his fellow inmates, especially longtime convict "Red" Redding (Freeman). Several scenes are set in the prison library.

Silence of the Lambs, The (1991 - USA) R

Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Scott Glenn, Ted Levine.

FBI trainee (Foster) researches the serial killer's (Hopkins) activities on microfilmed newspapers in the library. Based upon the novel by Thomas Harris.

Sisters: War & Peace (1994 - USA) TV Program

Noelle Parker, Paul Stephen Rudd.

A young woman comforts her near comatose mother by telling her she would have made a great librarian. "You love quiet, books, and you would have been great at collecting overdue fines."

Sleeping with the Enemy (1991 - USA) R

Julia Roberts, Patrick Bergin, Kevin Anderson, Elizabeth Lawrence, Kyle Secor.

Laura (Roberts) and Martin (Bergin) seem to be the perfect, happiest and most successful couple. The reality however, is very different. Martin is an abusive and brutally obsessed husband. Laura lives in constant fear and waits for a chance to escape. She finally stages her own death, and flees to a new own and new identity. There is one scene where Laura gets a job in a library, and is shown working with overdue books.

Sleepless In Seattle (1993 - USA) PG

Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan, Bill Pullman, Rosie O'Donnell, Rob Reiner, Cary Lowell.

A woman who has just gotten engaged (Ryan) hears a widower (Hanks) on a call-in radio show. There is a brief scene in the Peabody Library.

Snapper, The (1993 - UK) R

Colm Meaney, Tina Kellegher, Ruth McCabe, Colm O'Byrne, Eanna Macliam.

Comedy about a working class Irish family with a pregnant daughter. Dessie (Meaney) borrows a book on pregnancy from the public library. "Its for the wife" he tells the assistant.

So Well Remembered (1947 - USA) NR

John Mills, Martha Scott, Trevor Howard, Patricia Poc, James Hilton.

The film opens with a public hearing on whether the daughter of an ex-convict (Scott) should be appointed town librarian. A newspaperman (Mills) defends her, and after a scene where she breaks down in the stacks, he eventually marries her. Only later does he discover that she is an aggressive and ruthless woman, not the meek librarian he knew before. The film is narrated by author James Hilton.

Something Wicked This Way Comes (1983 - UK) PG

Jason Robards, Jonathan Pryce, Diane Ladd, Pam Greir, Royal Dano.

A meek librarian (Robards) has some dark secrets, but he is the only person in town with the courage to confront the evil brought to town by Mr. Dark's (Pryce) traveling carnival.

Somewhere in Time (1980 - USA) PG

Christopher Reeve, Jane Seymour, Christopher Plummer, Teresa Wright, Bill Erwin.

Richard Collier (Reeve) travels back in time to the turn of the century industrial era to find his one true love (Seymour). Collier uses the library to research the life of a turn-of-the-century actress. The librarian is somewhat put out by his closing time requests.

Sophie's Choice (1982 - USA) R

Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, Peter MacNicol, Rita Karin, Josh Mostel, John Rothman.

Poignant adventures of a recent polish immigrant in America. Sophie (Streep) visits the library to find a book by her favorite poet, Emily Dickinson. But in her heavy accent she asks the librarian for a book by the American Poet "Emil Dickins." A surly young librarian (Rothman) lambastes her ignorance because "we all know that Charles Dickens was neither a poet nor American". *This segment should be shown in every reference class in as an example of the worst reference interview of all time.*

Soul Man (1986 - USA) PG-13

C. Thomas Howell, James Earl Jones, Leslie Nielson, Julia Louis-Dreyfuss. White law student Mark Watson (Howell) masquerades as a black man in order to get a scholarship to law school. Several scenes were shot in the Harvard Law School Library.

Soylent Green (1973 - USA) PG

Charlton Heston, Edward G. Robinson, Chuck Connors, Joseph Cotton, Dick Van Patten.

In the year 2022, a homicide cop (Heston) investigates a murder and finds an explosive secret. His partner (Robinson) researches the victims, using a handful of reference books. In this future world, knowledge is power. Librarians rule the world because they are the only ones who have information or know how to get it.

Spy Who Came In from the Cold, The (1965 - UK) NR

Richard Burton, Claire Bloom, Cyril Cusack, Robert Hardy, Bernard Lee.

Alec Leaman (Burton) is a former spy who struggles back from the dehumanization of his fall from grace. He gets a job in an occult library under the watchful eye of Nan Perry (Bloom).

Stanley & Iris (1990 - USA) PG-13

Jane Fonda, Robert De Niro, Swoosie Kurtz, Martha Plimpton, Dortha

Duckworth.

Iris (Fonda) helps Stanley (De Niro) learn to read at the library. Near the end of the movie, Stanley proudly parades through the library, picking up books and reading passages from them out loud. When the stereotyped librarian (Duckworth) tries to quiet him by saying "This is the library," Stanley proclaims "This is my library!"

Star Trek: The Trouble With Tribbles (1967 - USA) TV Program

William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForrest Kelley, James Doohan.

Captain Kirk (Shatner) must put up with Federation bureaucrats and hoards of hungry Tribbles, while protecting a shipment of quadrottricale wheat against Klingon sabotage. Engineer Scott (Doohan) takes advantage of being confined to his quarters to catch up on reading his of professional journals on-line.

Steamboat Bill Jr. (1928 - USA) NR

Buster Keaton, Ernest Torrence, Marion Byron, Tom Lewis.

A timid Keaton must prove his manhood to his steamboat captain father (Torrence). He is caught in a torrential wind storm. One of the buildings which blows away around him is the public library.

Stephen King's It (1990 - USA) TV Movie

Tim Curry, Harry Anderson, Richard Masur, Annette O'Toole, Tim Reid, John Ritter.

A series of murders prompts Mike Hanlon (Reid) to suspect the return of a supernatural menace that he and a group of friends battled as children. He reminds his friends of the oath they swore: if "It" returned again, they would come do battle again.

Stephen King's Sometimes They Come Back (1991 - USA) TV Movie

Tim Matheson, Brooke Adams, William Sanderson, Nicholas Sadler.

A school teacher (Matheson) returning to the town where he grew up is haunted by the ghosts of two high school thugs who were killed in a freak accident along with his brother 30 years before. The boys had been walking to the library to pay for fines for three overdue books.

Stepping Out (1991 - Canada / USA) PG

Liza Minnelli, Shelley Winters, Sheila McCarthy, Nora Dunn, Andrea Martin.

In this amateur night version of A Chorus Line, Mavis (Minnelli) is a tap-dance instructor who helps the students face their individual problems while

rehearsing for the big show. One of the students, Dorothy (Martin), is a mousy librarian who is allergic to everything.

Storm Center (1956 - USA) NR

Bette Davis, Brian Keith, Kim Hunter, Paul Kelly.

A fiery small town librarian Alicia Hull (Davis) fights censorship and suppression of free speech by refusing to expurgate a book on communism. A very strong, positive image of a librarian.

Strangler, The (1940 - UK) NR

Judy Campbell, Henry Edwards, Cameron Hall, George Hayes, Sebastian Shaw.

A crime reporter (Campbell) links up with a mystery writer (Shaw) to catch a strangler. A brief scene takes place in the library. Original British title: **East of Picadilly.**

Striptease (1996 - USA) R

Demi Moore, Armand Assante, Burt Reynolds.

When Erin Grant (Moore) loses her daughter in a divorce, she becomes a stripper in order to earn enough money to appeal her daughter's custody. Detective Garcia (Assante) questions her after a customer is killed. They get off to a bad start when he assumes that she is a hooker. "This isn't exactly a library you're working in," he tells her.

Summer School (1987 - USA) PG-13

Mark Harmon, Kirstie Alley, Robin Thomas, Courtney Thorne-Smith, Dean Cameron.

A totally forgettable movie about a high school teacher (Harmon) who gets stuck teaching remedial English to a bunch of misfits in summer school. In one scene, he takes them to the school library so they can do book reports.

Superman (1978 - USA) PG

Christopher Reeve, Margot Kidder, Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman, Ned Beatty

An entertaining retelling of the Superman saga. Arch-villain Lex Luthor (Hackman) utilizes a personal library (located in an abandoned subway station) to research a kryptonite meteorite.

Sure Thing, The (1985 - USA) PG-13

John Cusack, Daphne Zuniga, Anthony Edwards, Tim Robbins, Nicollette Sheridan.

College freshman Gib Gibson (Cusack) decides to visit his friend in Califor-

nia during winter break. A girl at Gib's college decides head west too, so she can visit her boyfriend. The two are thrust together on a road trip from hell, and somewhere along the way they find each other's company tolerable. There is a brief library scene.

Suspect (1987 - USA) R

Cher, Dennis Quaid, Liam Neeson, John Mahoney.

A public defender (Cher) is trying to get a deaf mute (Neeson) out of a murder charge. One of the jurors (Quaid) provides some unexpected help. They spend time together in a law library.

Tales from the Crypt: Maniac at Large (1992 - USA) TV Program

Blythe Danner, Salome Jens, Clarence Williams III, Adam Ant.

With a serial killer making headlines, Margaret, a neophyte librarian (Danner), wants to head home. Her supervisor (Jens) assures her that the papers are just drumming up the story to sell more papers, but Margaret is convinced that the danger is real.

Tale of a Vampire (1992 - USA) R

Julian Sands, Suzanna Hamilton, Kenneth Cranham, Michael Kenton, Catherine Blake.

A vampire (Sands) seduces a librarian (Hamilton) who resembles his lost love in contemporary London.

Tell-Tale Heart, The (1963 - UK) NR

Laurence Payne, Annette Carell, Adrienne Corri.

Poe (Payne) dreams that he is a crippled librarian who falls in love with the girl living across the street. Very loosely based on the story by Edger Allen Poe. Also released under the title **The Hidden Room of 1,000 Horrors.**

They Might Be Giants (1971 - USA) NR

Murray Abraham, Jack Gilford, George C. Scott, Joanne Woodward.

A psychotic paranoid (Scott) believes that he is Sherlock Holmes and his psychiatrist (Woodward) is Dr. Watson. Wilbur Peabody (Gilford), an archivist/librarian who helps "Holmes" with his research, is also the sanest person in the film.

This Happy Breed (1944 - UK) NR

Robert Newton, Celia Johnson, John Mills, Stanley Holloway, Alison Leggatt.

This adaptation of a Noel Coward play presents the saga of a British family

from 1919 through 1939. Aunt Sylvia (Leggatt) is a librarian, although she has decided to give up her career. Directed by David Lean.

Three O'Clock High (1987 - UK) **PG-13**

Casey Siemaszko, Anne Ryan, Richard Tyson, Jeffery Tambor, Phillip Baker Hall.

A high school journalist (Siemaszko) has to fight a tough new kid in school (Tyson). He tries several ruses to avoid the fight, including getting another kid to confront him in the library. Tyson knocks this kid into the shelves which collapse domino fashion.

Time Machine (1962 - USA) **NR**

Rod Taylor, Yvette Mimieu, Alan Young, Sebastion Cabot, Whit Bissell.

H.G. Well's tale about a scientist (Taylor) who invents a time machine and travels into a future where books are forgotten.

Tiny Toon's Music Television (1990 - USA) **G**

This collection of animated cartoons for the TV Series Tiny Toon's Adventures features parodies of music videos. In the segment titled Respect, Babs dances up a storm in the library to the beat of Aretha Franklin's R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

Transylvania Twist (1990 - USA) **PG-13**

Monique Gabrielle, Jay Robinson, Angus Scrimm, Brinke Stevens, Robert Vaughn.

A librarian asks his nephew (Robinson) to recover a 200 year overdue book. During his trip to the castle he meets Marissa (Gabrielle), a gorgeous rock star and heir to a castle in Transylvania. There they must confront the other heir, the person who checked out the book, Uncle Byron (Vaughn).

Traxx (1988 - USA) **R**

Shadoe Stevens, Priscilla Barnes, Robert Davi, Hugh Gillin, John Hancock.

Ex-mercenary and would-be cookie baker Traxx (Stevens) turns to crime busting to raise money for his cookie business. Traxx and the mayor (Barnes) meet one evening in the library where she seduces him. As they embrace, the catalog cards stream out of the drawers like a fountain.

Tree Grows in Brooklyn, A (1945 - USA) **NR**

Dorothy McGuire, Joan Blondell, Lloyd Nolan, Peggy Ann Garner, Lillian Bronson.

In turn of the century Brooklyn, the Nolan family enjoys life despite their

poverty and Papa's alcoholism. Francie (Garner) gets assistance from the librarian (Bronson) in her quest to read everything in the card catalog in order.

True Colors (1991 - USA) R

John Cusack, James Spader, Mandy Patinkin, Richard Widmark, Dina Merrill.

Ambitious law student (Cusack) has to spend Christmas at law school and uses the library to read magazines about his roommate's (Spader) rich, influential friends. Set in the University of Virginia Law School.

Twilight Zone: Time Enough At Last (1957 - USA) TV Program

Burgess Meredith.

A nearsighted bank teller (Meredith) spends his lunch hours in the back vault reading. When he becomes the only survivor of a nuclear attack he suddenly has all the time world to read.

Two Jakes, The (1990 - USA) R

Jack Nicholson, Harvey Keitel, Meg Tilly, Madeleine Stowe, Eli Wallach.

This sequel to Chinatown has private eye Jake Gittes (Nicholson) digging into the background of an adulterer (Tilly). During a visit to the library, the librarian give Jake a hard time.

UHF (1989 - USA) PG-13

"Weird Al" Yankovic, Kevin McCarty, David Bowie, Anthony Geary, Billy Barty.

The manager of a small TV station (Yankovic) hits it big with a mix of crazy programs. A trailer for **Conan the Librarian** features a patron asking for a book on astronomy. Conan picks him up and asks threateningly "Don't you know the Dewey Decimal Classification?" Later, Conan slices a borrower in half for returning an overdue book.

Unnamable II: The Statement of Randolph Carter, The (1992 - USA) R

Mark Kinsey Stephenson, Maria Ford, John Rhys-Davies, Julie Strain, David Warner.

The last half hour of this film takes place in the library where the Randolph (Stephenson) and Alyda (Ford) are chased by a monster (Strain) all through the stacks. They end up in the Rare Book Room where they find the missing pages of a manuscript that helps them defeat the creature. A policeman gets killed in the stacks. Best quote: "My god, its gone into the stacks. You can get lost there even in the daytime."

Verdict, The (1982 - USA) R

Jack Albertson, Paul Newman, James Mason, Charlotte Rampling.

A down-and-out Boston lawyer (Newman) fights for justice and his own self-esteem in a medical negligence case. The lawyers spend a lot of time researching in law books.

Very Good Young Man, A (1919 - USA) NR

Bryant Washburn, Helene Chadwick, Julia Faye, Anna Q. Nilsson.

When a young librarian's (Washburn) marriage proposal is turned down because he is "morally faultless", he tries to tarnish his reputation with gambling, stealing, and carousing. He fails miserably at all three tasks in this early silent feature.

War of the Worlds, The (1953 - USA) NR

Gene Barry, Ann Robinson, Les Tremayne, Robert Cornthwaite.

H.G. Well's classic novel about an alien invasion of earth. Sylvia (Robinson) is a library science instructor.

Web of Evidence see **Beyond This Place.**

Wet Gold (1984 - USA) TV Movie

Deborah Atkinson, Tom Byrd, Brian Kerwin, Burgess Meredith, Brooke Shields.

Laura (Shields), a waitress, meets a drunken old man (Meredith) who fills her with exciting stories of a sunken treasure boat. Although her boyfriend (Byrd) keeps telling her that the old man's stories are all false, she believes him. Laura goes to the library, where she finds an old newspaper article describing the wreck.

Wetherby (1985 - UK) R

Vanessa Redgrave, Ian Holm, Judi Dench, Tim McInnerny, Suzanna Hamilton.

When a stranger commits suicide in the small town of Wetherby, his life does not go unnoticed. This film centers on an examination of the people who were touched by his death. One of those touched by him is Mrs. Pilboroughs (Dench), a librarian.

What's New Pussycat? (1965 - France / USA) NR

Peter Sellers, Peter O'Toole, Romy Schneider, Paula Prentiss, Woody Allen.

A deranged fashion editor (O'Toole) visits an even crazier psychiatrist (Sellers). Victor (Allen) is chased around the library by a bad guy who wants

his girlfriend's book. She eventually hits the bad guy with the book and knocks him unconscious.

When Worlds Collide (1951 - USA) NR

Richard Derr, Barbara Rush, Peter Hanson, Larry Keating.

A scientist (Derr) tries to convince the world that a rogue planet is on a collision course with the earth. A group of scientists build a rocket so some people can escape to safety. All of the essentials of civilized life are packed to go including a small library of books which are microfilmed. Titles include: *The Bible, Anatomy of the Human Body, Practical Mathematics*, an encyclopedia, *Standard Agriculture, The Story of Mankind*, and *Shakespeare*.

Wicker Man, The (1973 - UK) R

Edward Woodward, Christopher Lee, Diane Cilento, Britt Ekland, Ingrid Pitt.

Police Sgt. Howie (Woodward) is asked to investigate the disappearance of a young girl on a remote Scottish island. He discovers a secretive, tightly knit pagan society, and asks the librarian (Pitt) to help him learn more about them.

Wife on Trial, A (1917 - USA) NR

Mignon Anderson, Leo Pierson, L. Wells.

Phyllis Narcissa (Anderson) is an underpaid children's librarian who agrees to marry a rich, but paralyzed, young man. When she is attacked by a burglar near the end of this silent feature, he leaps from the bed miraculously cured, to save her.

Wings of Desire (1988 - Germany) PG-13

Bruno Ganz, Peter Falk, Solveig Dommartin, Otto Sanders, Curt Bois.

The story of an angel who longs to be mortal. A large library in Berlin is the setting for an early scene in which the angels are at work comforting people. The angels can hear the often despairing thoughts of the patrons as they sit in the carrels. In an unusual twist, the crowded library is the noisiest place in the city. This is one of the most interesting and touching library scenes ever to be found in a film. Original title: **Der Himmel Uber Berlin**.

With Honors (1994 - USA) PG-13

Joe Pesci, Brendan Fraser, Moira Kelly, Gore Vidal, Patrick Dempsey.

When the only copy of Monty's (Fraser) senior thesis slips through the basement window of the library, his college career changes forever. The homeless man who finds it (Pesci) will give it back, one page at a time.

Woman of Desire (1993 - USA) R

Jeff Fahey, Bo Derek, Steven Bauer, Robert Mitchum, John Matshikiza.

Jack, a yacht captain (Fahey), is accused of murdering his boss and raping the victim's wife (Derek), but nothing is how it first appears. Jack seeks the help of veteran attorney Walter J. Hill (Mitchum) to help prove his innocence. A brief scene takes place in a law firm library.

Wonder Man (1945 - USA) NR

Danny Kaye, Huntz Hall, Otto Kruger, Virginia Mayo, Vera-Ellen.

After being killed by a gangster, the ghost of nightclub entertainer, Buzzy (Kaye), teams up with his bookish twin Edgar Dingle (Kaye) to help the police nail his murderer. While researching in the library, Edger meets and falls in love with Ellen, the librarian (Mayo).

Worlds Apart see Seventh Coin

X-Files: Conduit (1993 - USA) TV Program

David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson.

When teenager Ruby Morris disappears one night during a camp-out, no one but her mother seems to care. Mulder (Duchovny) suspects she was abducted by extra-terrestrials and searches for signs of alien involvement, while Scully (Anderson) maintains that the girl ran away. The opening scene takes place in a library.

You're a Big Boy Now (1967 - USA) NR

Peter Kastner, Geraldine Page, Rip Torn, Julie Harris.

Bernard (Kastner) is a 19-year old page in the New York Public Library who is trying to make his way through the usual rites of passage in a series of rather unusual encounters. His mother (Page) tries her best to retain his innocence, but his rare books librarian father (Torn) has other ideas. The film reaches a bizarre climax when the father tries to seduce their landlady in the incunabula vault by showing her rare volumes of illustrated erotica. Many scenes were shot on location in the New York Public Library. This film was Francis Ford Coppola's master thesis for the UCLA Film School.

Compiled by: Steven Schmidt, Martin Raish, Ann O'Brien, Connie Patsiner, Virginia Waite, Sharon Fish, Ellen Flexman.

E-Mail Reference Service... HUH?

by
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Background

This article seeks to share thoughts that stemmed from my involvement in an e-mail reference service offered by the Monroe County Public Library (MCPL) in Bloomington, Indiana. The reference service, named "HUH?", began in the Spring of 1996 through the joint efforts of the MCPL and the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) at Indiana University on the Bloomington campus.

The acronym "HUH?" stands for "Helping Other Hoosiers." The name actually sparked from the creative thoughts of the MCPL staff while the literal meaning of the acronym was introduced by Dr. Thomas Gillespie, a faculty member of the SLIS. HUH? serves to provide quality electronic reference service to users who have access to either electronic mail or the World Wide Web. Questions can be submitted to HUH? twenty-four hours a day through the World Wide Web, whereas they are answered only when HUH? is staffed. The World Wide Web address of HUH? is <http://www.monroe.lib.in.us/reference/huh.html>, and its e-mail address is huh@monroe.lib.in.us. The MCPL's home page can be found at <http://www.monroe.lib.in.us/>.

Stumbling-Blocks Addressed

As with many other innovative projects, stumbling-blocks often emerge. Some of the difficulties encountered in the course of implementing HUH? were: low response rate, difficulty in conducting a reference interview through e-mail, and proper presentation of information.

1. Low Response Rate

The rate of response to reference questions as of Spring 1996 was not as high as was originally expected, and appeared to be a major difficulty for HUH?. Whereas the cause(s) of the low response rate was not known, it might be linked to three relevant factors: identification of information users; information needs assessment; and/or the readiness of potential users in the local community to use electronic forms of access.

A. Identification of Users

While e-mail access enables us to embrace users from both inside and outside the local community into our service boundary, identifying and prioritizing different groups of users to be served become vital. Only when the primary group(s) of users are identified would limited library resources then be utilized cost-effectively.

B. Information Needs Assessment

Apart from identifying users, we should also assess their information needs. This is to ensure that what we may have perceived to be the user's need, (which, however, may be unexpressed), is the users' actual need. Cargill (1992) reminded us of the need to know our patrons better and suggested that "we must organize services to meet the actual information needs, habits, and preferences of patrons — not what librarians think is wanted" (p.82). Thus we may then ask, for instance, what type of information service the local business community needs. Would they have ready reference questions pertaining to stocks, or business research questions on certain industries or lines of business?

C. Readiness of Potential Users

After identifying and/or prioritizing groups of users to be served and uncovering their information needs, we still need to tackle one more stumbling block: whether or not users have E-mail access to our electronic reference service. This obstacle is often not as large for the business sector as it is for household residents in the local community.

2. Difficulty in Conducting a Reference Interview

Goals of conducting a reference interview include determining the nature, quantity, as well as the level of information users need (Sutton & Holt, 1995); however, these goals may not be effectively achieved when the reference interview is conducted via e-mail, as e-mail does not allow verbal communication. Difficulties in conducting e-mail reference interviews have been addressed in the library and information science literature. For instance, Abels (1996) indicated that the lack of real-time interaction in an e-mail reference interview would cause a delay in response time and would require reference librarians to use "a different set of communication skills" (p. 348). Indeed, HUH? staff encountered such a case in which a user submitted a question that was not specific enough for the staff to answer. A staff member invited the user to further define his or her question, however, the question submitted later was only the original one, rephrased but still without specific details.

3. Proper Presentation of Information

There were times when the staff needed to figure out how the answer, once found, would best be relayed to the user. Areas of concern involved which style of writing would better reflect the image of a public library, how much information would be appropriate in an e-mail message, grammar and accuracy in typing, etc.

Survival Kit

Tremendous energies were devoted to HUH? by people both in the MCPL and from SLIS. A kit was used to introduce and implement the HUH? service. Included in the kit was information on the following: marketing of information, collaboration, flexibility, and procedures to follow.

1. Marketing of Information

A variety of strategies were adopted to market HUH? in the local community. They included, for example, sending out HUH? T-shirts and postcards to individuals and groups in the community, contacting local media such as radio stations, contacting local schools, sending advertising messages to on-line discussion lists, etc.

2. Collaboration

Many people were involved in the course of the HUH? project last spring. To name a few, Susan Jackson provided reference training for the HUH? staff, and Christopher Jackson dealt with technical issues. The many MCPL reference librarians who participated as team leaders in HUH? contributed to the quality of the service. Collaborative efforts were also observed within the HUH? team as the staff tried to help each other. Team members actually facilitated the process of searching for answers to reference questions, ensured the carrying out of appropriate procedures, gave other team members suggestions on how to phrase answers in appropriate ways, checked accuracy of typing, etc.

3. Flexibility

Flexibility can serve as a strategic tool to implement innovative projects such as HUH?. For instance, HUH? originally accepted reference questions only when it was staffed (two hours on a week-day). Later, its service hours were extended to twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, in an attempt to resolve the problem of unexpected low response rates.

4. Procedures

Specific procedures in conducting e-mail reference services are important for at least three reasons. Procedures are necessary for training e-mail reference staff, ensuring quality reference service, and creating or securing congruity in the library's "on-line image." With HUH?, procedures were written in a manual which gave the staff specific instructions on such things as when and how to open the "e-mail reference desk," whether or not to include users' questions in reply messages, what to do when there is not sufficient time to reply to reference questions, how to write the closing part of a reply message, whether or not to sign the staff's own name or initials, etc.

HUH?'s Value to the Library, the Community, and the Field

The HUH? service has value to the MCPL, the local community, and the library science field as a whole. To the library and the local community, HUH? service provides benefits in at least two ways. It helps to enhance the librarians' awareness of services and engages them in the actual process of marketing their services to the community; and it reaffirms the MCPL's commitment to provide quality e-mail reference service to the local community. To the library science field, HUH? adds to existing ventures in moving toward successful library services in the electronic age.

Conclusion

HUH? is among existing attempts to provide library reference service via e-mail. It exemplifies how a public library visualizes its role in its community and actually takes steps to realize its mission in the electronic age. While e-mail reference service is still in its infancy (Bushallow-Wilbur, DeVinney & Whitcomb, 1996), more study on such services are needed in order for us to gain insight into how we can improve library reference services electronically. Hopefully, the issues expressed here will help stimulate ideas from other library practitioners in the field.

Acknowledgments

Credits are given to all who have been involved in designing, promoting, implementing, and monitoring the HUH? reference service. Special thanks go to Susan Jackson, Reference Librarian in the Monroe County Public Library, who thoughtfully provided reference training to the HUH? staff and patiently gave me help over the course of my involvement with HUH? service.

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Telephone Reference: A Selected Bibliography

by

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The following bibliography was presented at the 1996 Indiana Library Federation Conference in Indianapolis, at a program entitled "Telephone Reference - Chicago Style." The articles and books cited range from one of the earliest articles about telephone reference, to the most recent study on the subject.

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A study of telephone reference questions received by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, a medium-sized public library in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Garnett, Emily. "Reference Service by Telephone." *Library Journal* 61 (December 1, 1936): 909-911.

One of the earliest articles about telephone reference in the literature.

Mulac, Carolyn . "As Shown by Our Survey..." *Illinois Libraries* 73:6 (November 1991): 545-547.

Preliminary results of a survey of reference sources used at the Chicago Public Library Information Center.

Mulac, Carolyn M. "Who is the Majorette Leader of the Senate? Or How Can I Preserve My Favorite Carrot?" *Illinois Libraries* 73:6 (November 1991): 574-576.

A brief humorous look at telephone reference queries.

Neumann, Kathleen M. and Gerald D. Weeks. "Reference Materials in a Telephone Reference Service: A Model for Telereference." *RQ* 20:4 (Summer 1981): 394-402.

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- Parhad, Browyn. "Managing Telephone Reference Services: Problems and Solutions." *The Reference Librarian* 3 (Spring 1982): 121-125.
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A Practical approach to starting a telephone reference service. Includes a list of frequently consulted reference books and the Detroit Public Library TIP Service's subject indexing terms.

To Measure and Manage Space

by
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Indianapolis, IN

The Evaluation Problem

In 1994, the director of the Krannert Library of the University of Indianapolis posed a practical research question pointing to a critical factor in terms of future growth of the Krannert Library and the university whose programs the library supports: "Is there adequate seating for students given the recent trend in the increase in student body size?"¹ Indeed, the question corresponds with one of the three norms that form the basis for analyzing library space as set forth by Heather M. Edwards in her book *University Library Building Planning* (Scarecrow, 1990). Two other norms concerning space are library staff (office and processing) and book storage (stacks).²

The subject of seating is important. As Edwards has commented, "It is not the building staff itself, but good furniture and layout which are necessary for the success of the library in establishing a satisfactory relationship between user and information."³

Description of the Library, University, and Student Body

The holdings of Krannert Memorial Library of the University of Indianapolis were reported as 141,000 volumes in 1994.⁴ The library had 121,000 book titles and 1,130 periodical subscriptions that year.⁵ There are three special collections which are not considered part of the general collection, (ie. special permission is required for admission and use). They are the Krannert Collection of Rare Books, the Indianapolis Historical Collection, and a special collection of Evangelical United Brethren materials.

The University of Indianapolis is primarily an undergraduate institution, although it does offer thirteen graduate degree programs including Master of Accounting; Master of Arts in Art, English, Psychology, Applied Sociology, History, and Elementary Education; Master of Business Administration (including an Executive Master of Business Administrative program); Master of Science in Biology, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy; and Master of Health Science in Physical Therapy.⁶ The Krannert School of Physical Therapy of the Graduate Division is nationally recognized.⁷

Enrollment for all students in 1994 totaled 3,583.⁸ Full-time students (235 graduate and 1,450 undergraduate) totaled 1,685 for 1994.⁹ Residence halls are capable of housing 800 students, slightly less than half of the school's full-time enrollment.¹⁰ A simple calculation based on the registrar's totals would place the percentage of full-time students living on campus at less than 50 percent. The University of Indianapolis is clearly a school with a large commuting student body. Indeed, to include 1,898 part-time students only swells the number of commuters.

A Review of the Literature and the Formation of Standards

Mark Leggett, the manager of the Business, Science and Technology Division of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, stated in a lecture that literature on the interior design of library facilities is scarce and difficult to find.¹¹ Mr. Leggett's experience developed from his attempt to redesign a reference desk, however, he was referring to interior facilities generally when he remarked: "There's really very little out there to be found."¹² This writer, having made several trips to Bloomington, IN, for the relevant references he was able to find, has to concur that information relating to interior physical facilities is not readily accessible.

Some research was consulted, such as a study conducted by the Buffalo Organization for Social and Technological Innovation (BOSTI), which Heather M. Edwards views as relevant to the concerns of library managers. BOSTI found that of space used, largely by those working in the public sector, the factors directly affecting job satisfaction were: "floor area, temperature/air quality, lighting, noise, ease of communication, comfort,... and privacy."¹³ Floor area is a main emphasis of the published standards for evaluating the physical plans of libraries. Other considerations, especially privacy, are also significant.

Importantly, in the BOSTI study an "open plan office with partitioning on three sides of each work station was found to facilitate far better communication than the totally open office plan, as well as providing much needed privacy."¹⁴ The effect of three-sided enclosures suggests that the presence of nearby or bordering stacks as enclosure would provide a desired level of privacy in a library.

Actual occupancy of seats in a library was calculated in an interesting way by Lynda H. Schneekloth and Ellen Bruce Keable. In addition to counting seats occupied by people in the Newman Library of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the two researchers also counted the number

of seats occupied by debris. The term "debris" was defined as "material (such as books, magazines, and backpacks) occupying a chair or table which effectively filled that space... For every 100 seats occupied by users, 80.3 seats were occupied by debris."¹⁵ The debris factor diminished as the library became crowded, "suggesting that spreading out is a luxury that disappears during heavily used times."¹⁶

Interestingly, Schneekloth and Keable found that "the Newman Library is perceived full when seating has reached the 50 percent capacity of people occupancy with debris occupying other seating areas."¹⁷ Obviously, perception is an inexact guide, yet perception is a truth to the observer and could force some people to turn around and leave. Schneekloth and Keable suggested that management make an effort to keep tables and chairs free of debris during peak study times.¹⁸

In summary, layout and area, particularly the idea of space enclosures, were found important by the Buffalo Organization for Social and Technological Innovation. Perception of activity and interaction patterns, especially a sensitivity to others' territories demonstrated by an expanding and retreating debris line (or "spread out" factor), emerge from the research of Schneekloth and Keable. One is reminded of how people reposition themselves in an elevator, creating a measured distance among themselves. In other words, area is as much a matter of perception as it is a matter of physical measurement. Indeed, perception can prove to be an overriding factor in measurement.

From the 1950's on, many people have tried to arrive at desirable physical measures for libraries. A brief chronology given by Edwards lists eight people who had published guidelines up to 1970: Smith (1954), Russell and Doi (1957), Metcalf (1965), Bareither and Schellinger (1968), Ellsworth (1968), and Havard-Williams (1970).¹⁹ In 1967, an attempt initiated by the Association of College and Research Libraries and supported by the Association of Research Libraries presented a mandate to a committee chaired by Downs to complete a list of criteria "that would result in excellent library service and facilities."²⁰ The committee "selected and analyzed fifty leading university libraries, and any library could then be measured against a library or group of libraries to which it aspired. The standards given consisted primarily of concrete, quantitative data."²¹ A follow-up committee decided, in the midst of a sustained disagreement over the use of quantitative or qualitative standards, that the Downs committee approach would yield invalid results and recommended "the use of common techniques rather than quantitative standards."²²

A separate effort to provide university library guidelines was made by the Planning and Management Division of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) in Colorado. The library standards were part of a larger effort aimed at covering an entire range of higher education activities. The standards for university libraries are specific, providing quantitative measures of physical space within a library.²³

This writer has had the WICHE standards and the published standards of K.D. Metcalf. In researching this study, however, he has reserved the right to apply whatever standard seems to pertain to the situation at the University of Indianapolis, regardless of author.

The Methodology and Reported Results

In the relatively new area of space management, potentially assignable areas are being measured. In his standards, Metcalf gives the fewest categories in recommending desirable seating choices. His list omits individual rooms (the province of faculty at the University of Indianapolis and, hence, safely excluded from consideration) and group rooms. A comparison seating (types of stations) in the Krannert Memorial Library to those in Metcalf's standards is given below:

<u>Type of Station</u>	<u>Metcalf's Recommendation</u>	<u>In the Krannert Library</u>
Lounge chairs	Not more than 15%	23.84%
Individual desks and carrels	Up to 85%	38.67%
Group seating	Not more than 20%	35.53%

(For the source of totals, see Tables 1 through 4 at the end of the text.)

The Krannert Memorial Library is overly filled with sofas and lounge chairs by 8.84 percent, seriously short of individual seating and carrel space by 46.33 percent, and in excess of Metcalf's group seating recommendation by 15.53 percent.

Another measure often applied to university libraries is the recommended number of reader stations in relation to the FTE (full-time equivalent) user enrollment being served by the institution. The most appropriate percentage of stations to users is 20 percent, according to Godfrey Thomp-

son, for colleges "where less than 50 percent of the FTE enrollment resides on campus"²⁴, which is the situation at the University of Indianapolis. Twenty percent means one seat for every five students. When lounge chairs and sofas are included as reading stations, Krannert Memorial Library exceeds Thompson's recommendation by 4.39 percent. The library's 403 seats divided by 1,685, (the FTE enrollment of the school) yield 23.9 percent. This resulting percentage is actually closer to the more frequently published recommendation of 25 percent, specified by Metcalf, WICHE, Havard-Williams, and Ellsworth.²⁵

Having established the general adequacy of seating at the time, this writer will project his calculations to answer the library director's original question: "Is there adequate seating for students given the recent trend of increase in student body size?" Using Godfrey Thompson's recommendation of one seat for every five students and averaging the annual increases in FTE enrollments for the past five years (62.75 more students per year over a five-year period according to the registrar),²⁶ the capacity of Krannert Memorial Library will reach Thompson's recommended percentage of 20 percent in the year 1999 when the library would enter the year 2000 feeling the beginning of a pinch.

This writer admits that he has a real problem counting sofas and lounge chairs as anything other than reading stations (as opposed to workstations or carrels). Only one study activity can be carried out on sofas -- specifically, reading. In the Krannert Memorial Library, often a footstool or end table is found next to a lounge chair; however, it is difficult to write on these as it puts the body in an unnatural position. In other words, a person can read in comfort in a lounge chair; but he could not take notes or write with ease for a prolonged period of time without a flat surface in front of him (i.e. a table or carrel space). In sum, this writer would apply the term "reader stations" to all seating, including lounge chairs and sofas. He would, however, reserve the terms "work stations" and "study stations" for chairs at tables and carrels, where writing activity could be carried out for sustained periods of time. This distinction will explain the format of the tables found in the appendixes, which separate lounge chairs and sofas from all other categories.

If the reader accepts the writer's more rigid definition, then seating capacity stands at 18.1 percent (derived from 305 work or study stations divided by 1,685, the present enrollment), almost two percent short of Thompson's recommendation. Clearly, the library is below recommended capacity now.

Estimating desired reader space is another common measure in a university library. Sonja Johnson, director of the Bureau of Facilities Planning at Indiana University-Bloomington, gives a simple, straightforward formula for measuring needed reader space: "Count the total number of actual reader stations [which would include lounge chairs and sofas] in the library and multiply by twenty-five square feet. Include stations at the card or on-line catalog, index tables, etc., as reader stations for this purpose."²⁷ There are no stations in any real sense at the card and on-line catalogs of the Krannert Memorial Library.

Measuring as Johnson suggested (403 seats at Krannert multiplied by 25) yields 10,075 square feet of seating, or 23.6 percent of the library's total floor space of 42,682 square feet for the first, second, and third floors. Measuring across the widths of the second and third floors shows seating to be one fourth of the width (or 25 percent) on each floor. Krannert Memorial Library more than meets the recommendation of 20 percent. The next measure to be described in this text adds support to the statement just made. Square feet per station is a supporting measure commonly taken of interior space and the furniture within it. Godfrey Thompson gives the clearest statement among all the authors mentioned: "Each study station shall be assumed to require twenty-five to thirty-five square feet of floor space, depending on its function."²⁸ It is the qualification "depending on its function" which complicates the application. This writer chose to use Metcalf's recommendations, which suggests less space is needed than Thompson's.²⁹

A spot-check of selected locations was made at Krannert. On the first floor, two round tables seating four students each shared 150 square feet, counting the surrounding space to the stacks. This surrounding space is in excess of doubling the ASF (assigned square footage) for both tables.

<u>Type of Station</u>	<u>Requirement in ASF (Assigned Sq. Ft.)</u>		
	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Generous</u>
Lounge chairs	20	25	30
Tables for four	22.5	25	27.5
Individual carrels	20	22.5	25

(The table of categories is not fully reproduced.)

Two long tables in the law section, each seating four occupants, shared 119 square feet, counting the distance to the stacks, again in excess of doubling the ASF for both tables. Of the two study areas on the first floor just described, two study areas on the second floor, and four study areas on the third floor (the quiet floor, a critical section), every station and study area exceeded, in terms of the total square feet surrounding the stations, the recommended space for the types of stations selected.

Recommended carrel dimensions are difficult to find, although it is possible to create a recommendation by adjusting the dimensions recommended for audio visual carrels. The recommendations given by Edwards are forty-eight inches wide and forty-two inches deep.³⁰ The recommendation for depth can be reduced by one half, allowing for the space occupied by any object sharing space with the patron -- an adjustment that proved extremely accurate in establishing widths for index tables. (See explanation given in Table 1.) With that adjustment, this standard becomes forty-eight inches wide and twenty-one inches deep. None of the carrels in the Krannert Memorial Library meets the recommendation for width. Deep carrels are fourteen inches short of the recommendation; shallow carrels are ten inches short. For depth (the adjusted measure), deep carrels exceed the recommendation by three inches; shallow carrels only one rather insignificant inch short of the recommendation. In passing, it should be mentioned that nine tables out of all tables in the library (those described as short medium, long narrow, and long in the closing tables) fail to meet the recommended width of four feet for tables with chairs on both sides.³¹ No other variations from recommended norms are reported.

This writer wanted to make an original contribution to the research literature. He wondered why so little is written about the size of the work space in front of the student on a table. Only when dimensions for carrel space is given, is this very immediate work space specified in the recommended measures. The amount of satisfactory immediate work space on tables has to be guessed, at best.

Determining the average work space necessary per occupant was the original purpose behind the construction of the tables found at the end of this article. The table provides space per occupant for all types of tables and carrels. The total of all "space per occupant" calculations for tables and carrels (lounge chairs and sofas excluded) in the Krannert Memorial Library is 1,541,512 square feet. When that figure is divided by the total number of possible occupants for all tables and carrels (305), the division yields an

average of about five square feet per student, which is accommodating enough since the depth of the space is rarely at issue.

Interpretation of the Results

The Krannert Memorial Library is short of carrels by 46.33 percent, although there might be a slight compensation because of the excess of 15.53 percent in group seating.

By counting lounge chairs and sofas as "reading stations," along with the other categories of furniture that provide accompanying seating, the Krannert Memorial Library exceeds the recommended allotment of space for study stations per total number of FTE enrollment given by Thompson. Recalculated using "work stations" or "study stations" alone (by this writer's distinction), the library has an 18.57 percent allotment of space to "work stations." To answer the library director's critical question, the seating accommodations will be adequate to the year 1999. When measuring the *use* of space, (redefining the use of space and the problem), the library is in a cramped condition already.

In terms of reader space, the amount of space given to student seating conforms to the recommendations for reader-station space using Sonja Johnson's formula. In terms of study areas spot-checked by this writer, each study area exceeded the recommended assigned square feet required for the selected study stations, and this writer admits he tended to select what might prove to be cramped areas. They were not.

The carrels have less width than recommended standards; and the author will interject that he would have felt comfortable with a wider carrel, as subjective as that comment is.

In connection with calculating space per occupant by type of station in square feet, it is hoped this writer's contribution is meaningful. This is the space the occupant feels. It is the occupant's private area, of which expansion is welcomed and contraction is felt as an infringement on rights. It is comforting to know that each student has almost exactly five square feet of work surface to himself.

In summary, the Krannert Memorial Library's space is comfortably close to most published standards. In fact, it exceeds many such standards.

Advantages and Disadvantages of the Methods Employed

The advantage of the methods used in this evaluation is that they are quantitative, and the methods are backed by experts. The disadvantage is that many psychological factors alter the application and the practical meanings of the results. People do not use space as it is mathematically allotted. Earlier we mentioned Schneekloth and Keable's "debris" factor. The writer witnessed one student whose debris occupied a full round table -- all four seats. Further spreading out was impossible. Schneekloth and Keable were being realistic in counting seats occupied by debris. Heather M. Edwards has pointed out:

It should be borne in mind that so-called four-, six-, and eight-seat tables rarely accommodate the stated number of readers and are thus uneconomical in terms of space usage. Despite having the requisite work surface area, visual disturbance is generally too great, and readers will seek a more private location.³²

Along with the "visual disturbance", one is reminded of the very human trait of people repositioning themselves within an elevator to achieve even distances among themselves. Human beings spread out as much as their belongings will allow. Remember that Schneekloth and Keable found that a library is perceived as filled when it reaches fifty-percent capacity. People are inclined to claim more space than they can personally occupy.

It is understandable why the follow-up committee to Downs' committee rejected quantitative standards. One really has to ask whether the measures calculated in this article are applicable to the reality of how people use space.

Recommendations

This writer would recommend that the Krannert Memorial Library eliminate all tables of less than four feet in width. Even the round tables that are four feet in diameter place individuals too close together due to the "pull in" effect. He also recommends the elimination of what he would call "swirl" carrels (four carrels joined together in a pattern).

While these occasional carrel arrangements have ample space surrounding them by published standards, people are really sitting too close together for any real privacy.

The writer would recommend that all furniture removed be replaced by new carrels of the recommended forty-eight inch width to bring the library's number of carrels closer to Metcalf's recommendation of eighty-five percent.

Tables

Table 1

Types of Reader and Study Stations Designated by Shape and Size,
Found in the Krannert Library of the University of Indianapolis

Round Tables

Dimensions: 4' (feet) in diameter

Area for one table: 12.57 square feet (result of 4 [radius of 2, or 2 times itself] times pi, as 3.14159)

Seating: 4 chairs to a table

Space per occupant: 3.14 (result of 12.57 divided by 4, the number of chairs)

NOTE: WHAT FOLLOWS DECIMAL POINTS ABOVE AND BELOW REPRESENTS TENTHS OF SQUARE FEET, NOT SQUARE INCHES.

Square Tables

Dimensions: 4' x 4'

Area for one table: 16 square feet

Seating: 4 chairs, one to each side

Space per occupant: 4 square feet (result of 16 square feet divided by 4)

Short Medium Tables

Dimensions: 3' x 5'

Area for one table: 15 square feet

Seating: 4 chairs, 2 to each long side

Space per occupant: 3.75 (result of 15 square feet divided by 4)

Medium Tables

Dimensions: 4' x 6'

Area for one table: 24 square feet

Seating: 4 chairs, 2 to each long side

Space per occupant: 6 square feet (result of 24 square feet divided by 4)

Long Narrow Tables

Dimensions: 2'-6" x 8' (or 2.5' x 8')

Area for one table: 20 square feet

Seating: 6 chairs, 3 to each long side

Space per occupant: 3.333333 square feet (after decimal point, tenths of inches; could be considered 3 square feet and 4 square inches)

Long Tables

Dimensions: 3' x 8'

Area for one table: 24 square feet

Seating: 4 chairs, 2 to each long side; except on third floor, where there are 6 to a table, 3 to each long side

Space per occupant: on all floors, but the third floor: 6 square feet; on third floor: 4 square feet

Odd Index Table (only one on all three floors)

Dimensions: 3' x 4'

Area for table: 12 square feet

Seating: 2 chairs, 1 to each short side

Space per occupant: 6 square feet

One Oddly Dimensioned Table (only one on all three floors)

Dimensions: 3'-6" x 7'-6", converted to tenths of feet as 3.5' x 7.5'

Area for table: 26.25 square feet, or 26 square feet and 3 square inches

Seating: 2 chairs, both to one long side

Area per occupant: total area reduced to one half because one half of the table holds microfilm readers; consequently, area for persons: 6.56 (result of 13.125, one half the area of the table, divided by 2)

Carrels, Shallow

Dimensions: 1'-10" (deep) x 3'-2" (wide); converted to tenths of a foot as 1.83333 and 3.16333

Area for enclosure: 5.7994 (what follows decimal point being tenths of a square foot; could be considered 5 square feet and 9.6 square inches, approximately)

Seating: one person to a carrel

Carrels, Deep

Dimensions: 2' (deep) x 2'-10" (wide), converted to tenths of a foot as 2.83333 for latter number

Area for enclosure: 5.6666 (in tenths of square feet after decimal; could be rendered as 5 square feet and 8 square inches)

Seating: one person to a carrel

Computer Tables

Dimensions: 4' x 6'

Area for one table: 24 square feet

Seating: 2 chairs per table, both to one long side

Area per occupant: total area of table reduced by three-fourths because computers are set in center of table, occupying one half of the width of the table, plus an additional one fourth of space lost behind the computers, leaving only one fourth of surface in front of computers to students; space per student: 3 square feet (result of 1/4 of area, 6 square feet, being divided by 2 students)

Index Tables

Dimensions: 4' x 7'-6", converted to 4' x 7.5'

Area for one table: 30 square feet

Seating: 6 chairs, 3 to each long side

Area per occupant: total of area of table reduced by one half because book cases holding the indexes occupy one half the total width, running directly down the center of the table width-wise; space per student: 2.5 square feet, or 2 square feet and 6 square inches (result of 15', half of total area, being divided by 6 occupants)

Table 2

<u>Reader and Study Stations, First Floor</u>				
<u>Type of Station</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Potential Occupants</u>	<u>Space Per Occupant</u>	<u>Total Space for Occupants</u>
Round Table	5	20	x 3.14	= 62.8 sq. ft. (10ths of ft. after decimal)
Long Narrow Table	1	as used, with one side flush to wall and 1/2 of surface filled with microfilm readers, only 2 occupants	5	given conditions to the left: 10

Continued, next page

Table 2, Continued

Odd Index Table	1	2	6	12
Oddly dimensioned Table	1	2	6.56	13.12
Computer Tables	4	8	3	24
Index Tables	<u>3</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>45</u>
Totals:	15	52		166.92

*Lounge chairs and sofas (seating not used with tables or writing surface; hence, "reading" stations, not "work" or "study" stations by the author's distinction): 19 potential occupants.
(sofas seating 2 persons counted as an equivalent of 2 lounge chairs)
(sofas seating 3 persons counted as an equivalent of 3 lounge chairs)*

Table 3

<u>Reader and Study Stations, Second Floor</u>				
<u>Type of Station</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Potential Occupants</u>	<u>Space Per Occupant in Square Ft.</u>	<u>Total Space for Occupants for Type</u>
Round Tables	2	8	x 3.14	= 25.12
Square Tables	2	8	4	32
Short Medium Table	1	4	3.75	15
Medium Tables	8	32	6	192
Long Narrow Table	1	6	3'-4", or 3.3333'	20
Carrels, Shallow	<u>57</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>5.7994</u>	<u>330.57</u>
Totals:	71	115		614.69

*Lounge chairs and sofas ("reading" stations only): 46 potential occupants
(sofas seating 2 persons counted as an equivalent of 2 lounge chairs)
(sofas seating 3 persons counted as an equivalent of 3 lounge chairs)*

Table 4

<u>Reader and Study Stations, Third Floor</u>				
<u>Type of Station</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Potential Occupants</u>	<u>Space per Occupant in Square Ft.</u>	<u>Total Space for Occupants Per Type</u>
Round Tables	4	16	x 3.14	= 50.24
Short Med. Tables	2	4	7.5	30
Medium Tables	6	24	6	144
Long Tables (See special conditions for this type on the third floor in Table 1, "Types of Reader or Study Stations")	4	24	4	96
Carrels, Deep	<u>70</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>5.6666</u>	<u>396.662</u>
Total:	86	138		716.902

*Lounge chairs and sofas ("reading" stations only): 33 potential occupants
(sofas seating 2 persons counted as an equivalent of 2 lounge chairs)
(sofas seating 3 persons counted as an equivalent of 3 lounge chairs)*

Endnotes

1. Young.
2. Edwards, 9.
3. Ibid., 6.
4. *American Library Directory, 47th ed.*, 606
5. Ibid, 606
6. *1993-95 Academic Catalog*, 61
7. *Peterson's Guide to Four-Year Colleges, 1995*, 1033.
8. Gibbs
9. Ibid, 10
10. *1993-1995 Academic Catalog*, 12
11. Leggett
12. Ibid
13. Edwards, 125
14. Ibid

15. Scheekloth and Keable, 18
16. Ibid
17. Ibid
18. Ibid
19. Edwards, 14
20. Ibid, 15
21. Ibid
22. Ibid
23. Ibid
24. Thompson, 210
25. Edwards, 17
26. Gibbs
27. Johnson, 45
28. Thompson, 210
29. Edwards, 17
30. Ibid, 113
31. Ibid, 124
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Collaboration in New York City: The First Five Years of CLASP

by

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<http://www.nypl.org/branch/services/clasp/clasp.html>

We called it CLASP (Connecting Libraries and Schools Project) because we liked the images evoked by the word "clasp". An adult clasping the hand of a child as they enter the local public library. The clasp of a handshake initiating the meeting of teacher and librarian. The hands of a student clasping a book signifying a love of reading. A necklace-type clasp linking the schools with public libraries.

The CLASP Pilot Project

The New York Public Library (NYPL) received the largest private grant ever given to support public library-school collaboration (*Public Libraries*, March/April 1992). The goal of the collaboration was to ensure that every school child in grades K - 8, received a basic array of public library services, including a library visit with card registration, orientation to the public library for their teachers and parents, a summer reading program, and afterschool library activities. The NYPL's tradition of programming to attract children and young adults into public libraries provided the foundation for CLASP. Preceded by a one-year planning grant (*SLJ*, November 1990), the three-year pilot project resulted in 4,465 programs, reaching 120,875 students, parents, and educators. New library cards were issued to 22,742 children, teenagers, and adults. In three NYC school districts, twenty-two librarians worked on the project — some for a few months — some for several years.

CLASP targeted public school students in kindergarten through eighth grade. However, student behavior and attitudes are influenced by adults both at home and at school. Parents provide a home environment that forms attitudes toward reading and are also a key factor in the ability of students to travel to the library. Teachers have daily, extended contact with students that can reinforce ideas introduced by librarians. School administrators set the tone for services within the schools. School librarians are the natural allies of public librarians and enhancing their status within the educational hierarchy is essential. CLASP developed programs to reach these significant adults as well as students.

The three school districts that were funded by the CLASP grant contained 107 schools and twenty-three of the eighty-two NYPL branches. Grant money provided an opportunity to try new staffing patterns, supplement book budgets, and provide program support. In addition to offering the basic program of library services, CLASP was able to implement several special projects. Now that the CLASP pilot is completed, what have we learned? What techniques can other librarians use? What is the future for CLASP?

Institutionalization of CLASP Initiatives

When we reported at the halfway point of the project (*Wilson Library Bulletin*, September 1993), we could already list successes. "Open School Nights", when schools are filled with parents meeting teachers, provide an excellent opportunity for library staff to greet parents and direct them to the local library. A poignant example is one of a parent, an immigrant who had never traveled more than five blocks from her new home, who met the local children's librarians at an Open School Night. The next day she traversed the seven blocks to the public library — confident that a friendly face would be waiting for her there. Because of the success of the pilot project, Open School Night activities were expanded from the twenty-three CLASP branches to all NYPL branches. By paying local branch staff members two or three hours overtime, information tables can be set up in schools on these special occasions without decreasing public service hours at the library.

When CLASP staff adapted the "Assignment Alert", we were hoping that teachers would warn the public library about upcoming homework assignments. We quickly learned, however, that school librarians share our problem of assignments that tax existing library resources and frustrate students. "Assignment Alert" has become a good focal point for faculty meetings where school and public librarians can discuss the impact of homework on libraries. The CLASP-designed form is now available system wide, receiving the legitimacy of an NYPL form number and distribution to all children's and young adult librarians.

CLASP-prepared summer reading lists, supported by a budget that allowed purchase of additional copies of books, were hailed for overcoming the problems of school reading lists with inappropriate or unavailable titles. Because of their success, the preparation and distribution of these lists was expanded to a citywide effort. In 1995, for the first time, lists were specifically designed for distribution by the public schools and the three New York City library systems. Jointly prepared by librarians of the Office of School

Library Services, The New York Public Library, Queens Borough Public Library, and Brooklyn Public Library, these lists provide a unified message about the importance of summer reading. In 1996, the impact was further enhanced by a budget to purchase copies of all titles for all eighty-two NYPL branches.

Activities Targeted to Special Populations

Not all CLASP activities are feasible or appropriate for system-wide implementation. Some special projects require so much preparation time that they can only be accomplished with additional staff, such as CLASP librarians whose responsibilities do not include branch desk coverage. Other activities are specifically designed for special populations that reside in particular communities.

In northern Manhattan, where 85% of the students are Spanish-speaking, we were concerned not only about reaching students but bridging the generation gap between children mastering English and parents fluent in Spanish. Bilingual picture books, as well as titles available in both Spanish and English, provided the opportunity for "In Tandem Reading Aloud." One librarian reads a page in Spanish then a second librarian reads the same story in English. As the two librarians alternate, students enjoy the story in a language comfortable to them, but also learn new vocabulary in a less familiar language. For parents, we also suggested sharing books in this fashion with their children as a way of providing simultaneous English and Spanish lessons. When a parent reads in Spanish then the child reads in English, it demonstrates that a sharing of stories can transcend language differences.

Nothing is more heartbreaking to a librarian than the older child who has not mastered reading and now equates books with failure. The "Reading Helpers" program was piloted in Staten Island to attack this problem. Older children who are reading below grade level are trained by CLASP librarians in reading aloud techniques and then scheduled to share stories with small groups of children in lower grades. Preparation includes repetitive practice, reading the story to peers, and visits to the public library to select books. At the beginning of the program, children's librarians select a group of appropriate titles. But as the students develop evaluative skills, they begin to find other good books. Since the books are on grade for the younger students, the helper is not stigmatized by reading below level. At the end of the term, an awards ceremony provides a certificate of achievement and recognition — often the first time reading and success have been linked for these students.

The Joint Meetings of School and Public Librarians, initially scheduled in the South Bronx, had two goals: to bring together public librarians and school librarians from the same neighborhood, and to provide professional networking for school librarians. The biggest difficulty in holding these meetings is arranging the release of school librarians. By working with administrators in the district office, we could select dates that did not conflict with other school priorities. By making the programs so exciting that the principals did not want their school excluded; we were able to maximize attendance. Some programs attracting good audiences have included appearances by authors or illustrators, Internet or technology training, and book talks by young adult and children's librarians.

Although some activities provided support for school librarians or curriculum needs, we never lost sight of our primary goal — to bring children into the public library. With the help of school librarians, we designed the "Passport Project" to provide an incentive for visits to a neighborhood branch. The school librarians passed out "Passports to Reading" to every third grade student. On each visit to a public library branch, one page of the passport was stamped by the children's librarian. After six visits, the child brought the passport back to the school librarian who awarded a book as a prize. Enthusiasm for the project extended beyond the students involved, as expressed by the second grade student who could hardly wait for the chance to get a passport "next year."

Middle school students in all districts have been a particularly reticent group, resistant to any effort to excite them about libraries. We were therefore enthusiastic when Caryn Sipos and Gary Morrison described the "Stump the Librarian" contest that they pioneered in the Bay Area Youth-at-Risk project. Although implementation has varied from one site to another (*School Library Journal*, August 1995), the concept taps the adolescent I-know-it-all world view. Public librarians schedule a date to bring ready reference resources to the school and challenge students to ask a question for which the librarians cannot find the answer. Prizes are awarded, but the prize ticket must be redeemed at a local public library. Preparation requires speaking to faculty meetings and classes of students. Not only do the students become excited about formulating a stumper, but teachers learn what can or cannot be answered in a library inquiry.

Replication of CLASP in Other Locations

The CLASP private grant funding ended in 1994. Because of enthusiastic support from the participants, plans were developed to phase CLASP into

all New York City community school districts. Through the initiative of the New York City Council, CLASP funding continued uninterrupted in the NYPL pilot districts. A CLASP district was also established in each of the boroughs served by Queens Borough Public Library and Brooklyn Public Library. These five districts are the first phase of our city-wide implementation plan. The Tall Tree Initiative for Library Services was begun by the Reader's Digest Foundation in 1995. This model library services program for children in Westchester County is designed to build on the success of both the Library Power and CLASP programs, enhancing school and public library programs simultaneously. In Germany, the Bertelsmann Foundation was also interested in establishing "Public Libraries and Schools — New Forms of Partnerships." After hearing about CLASP success in New York City, they have launched their five-year project in six cities throughout the country.

Bringing CLASP Activities to Your Library

Although a large private grant provides an opportunity to demonstrate an effective collaborative program, school and public librarians should not wait to begin working together. Many successful CLASP activities were developed with skills that librarians already have and with small budget allocations. Book talking was used with teachers as well as students. Storytelling was modeled for parents as an introduction to literacy. Reading aloud was expanded to books in non-English languages.

In CLASP, we identified three levels of partnership: communication, cooperation, collaboration. Communication can be as simple as knowing the names and phone numbers of staff in your local schools and public libraries. Cooperation expands services as each agency maintains program control while inviting participation from the other. Collaboration requires joint planning and provides an opportunity to do something together that could not be undertaken alone. However, just as a pyramid requires each level to be solid in order to support the next, effective joint efforts require communication as a prerequisite to cooperation, and cooperative activities inevitably lead to collaborative undertakings.

As your first step toward climbing the partnership pyramid, identify the things that you are doing now. You may already mail program flyers to each other or schedule annual class visits. You could be surprised to find there is already more connectivity than you realize.

Review these activities to determine if a minor change will expand services. You may want to share subscriptions to professional journals or

prepare information packets to distribute to teachers during class visits. One key element in effective communication is maintaining continuity. When a good contact leaves, find out the name of the replacement so your organizations can continue working together.

For a first cooperative venture select a small project, such as an open house or teacher workshop, that you have always wanted to undertake. Develop a budget for it, including all the things you said you couldn't afford, such as "READ" posters for all classroom teachers, bookmark or pencil incentives for students, and light refreshments for parents. It is surprising how much can be done with a small additional allocation that can often be raised by parents or funded by local supporters. Test your expectations of each other as you implement the project. You will be able to establish trust as you learn about resources and constraints.

If you feel you are ready for a large undertaking, like the Passport Project or Stump the Librarian, allow plenty of time for planning. Since the project will be new, it will need to go through the official channels of approval in both organizations. Clearly define responsibilities and deadlines so that all necessary tasks are completed. Be sure to tell everyone about your new project — you will be the best one to excite participants and answer questions about impact. Schedule a review after the project is completed, but don't forget that we learn from our mistakes as well as our successes.

The Lesson of CLASP

CLASP began at NYPL before we had an on-line public catalog or access to the Internet. The lack of technology required us to develop connections that were personal — librarians visiting schools to invite children and teachers into the public library. Now with OPACs, CD-ROMs, and electronic mail, we have new ways to work together and communicate. This will enhance, but not eclipse, the success of CLASP in connecting people — librarians, students, parents, and educators — to create an environment that supports learning at school, at home, and at the library.

CLASP Chronology

"NYPL and Public Schools Forge New Ties to Solve Old Problems," *School Library Journal* (November 1990): 12.

One year of planning to develop formal working relationship between schools and NYPL begins with \$485,000 grant from DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund.

“New York Public Library Receives Grant for Library-School Initiative,”
Public Libraries (March/April 1992): 71.

Pilot project receives \$3.6 million to create new links between teachers, school and public librarians, and parents to encourage reading and use of neighborhood libraries.

Del Vecchio, Stephen. “Connecting Libraries and Schools with CLASP,”
Wilson Library Bulletin (September 1993): 38-40.

CLASP, half-way through its three year pilot phase, reports success with Summer reading lists, Open School Night outreach, and Parents and Libraries program.

Schaffner, Judith. “Yo! I Stumped the Librarian!” *School Library Journal* (August 1995): 42.

Middle school librarian describes excitement generated by CLASP activity.

Simmons, Jeff. “Library Program gets an A,” *New York Daily News* (April 14, 1996): 34.

City Council funds are sought to expand CLASP to five more NYC school districts.

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