

# Illinois Libraries

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## Table of Contents

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Rediscovering Readers' Advisory — and Its Rewards . . . . .	Ted Balcom	583
The Niles Public Library District		
Referendum . . . . .	Duncan J. McKenzie	586
A Special Resource Library for Special Needs: The Illinois Birth to Three Clearinghouse. . . . .		
	Chet Brandt	588
ILLINET Online — The Great Pyramid of the State of Illinois. . . . .		
	Darrell L. Jenkins	591
Trends in State Totals of Illinois Public Library Statistics from 1969/70 to 1985/86 . . . . .		
	Herbert Goldhor	594
Data Collected from the Private Academic Libraries in Illinois for Academic Year July 1985-June 1986. . . . .		
	John Caldwell	597
The Library: Minds Alive on the Shelves . . . . .		
	Dan Miller	603
Business Reference Sources for the Public Library . . . . .		
	Mary Frances Grosch	607
A Selective Annotated Bibliography of the Federalist ERA. . . . .		
	Lynnette Jane Lasky	613

### Explanation of Symbols

N/A Not Available.

( ) Estimated.

- a. Does not include law library.
- b. Does not include phonodiscs.
- c. Does not include documents.
- d. Includes all serial titles.

e. Included in audio materials.

f. Book titles.

g. Includes books circulated through LCS.

h. Total of three campuses.

i. 4,896 hours.

j. Included in circulation, plus 101,168 x-rays.

k. Not in library budget.

m. Included in books.

n. Included in periodicals.

p. Included in books and periodicals.

q. Equipment.

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# The Library: Minds Alive on the Shelves

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Dan Miller

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Although we all appreciate the library as an important part of our intellectual lives, everyone perceives experiences, objects, and institutions in their own, unique way. By reviewing brief quotations describing the unique perceptions of great thinkers regarding the institution of the library, our appreciation of libraries may be further enhanced.

In addition to our own increased appreciation of libraries, quotations, which can be located in hundreds of available collections, also have many practical uses. Librarians can use quotations effectively to enliven library lessons or speeches and lend authority to concepts, procedures, and facts that they present. The teaching librarian can also use scholarly quotations to effectively stimulate thought in those who are participating in group library lessons. Librarians can use particular quotes or pools of quotations for theme topics or as the basis for poster or collage projects, or they may also display apt quotations on signs or bulletin boards or feature a "thought for the day."

Presented below by categories are examples of particularly appropriate quotations for use in libraries. They may encourage you to discover the hundreds more that exist and that may inspire, inform, or promote within your patrons serious thought about the many aspects of the library.

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Dan L. Miller, Principal, Thomas Jefferson Junior High School, Waukegan, Illinois.

### Definition

The library is not merely a collection of books, or a storehouse, but an aggressive and active source of education.

— John Cotton Dana

Libraries are the encouragers of literature, the preservers of books, and the promulgators of civilization.

— F. S. Merryweather

The library is the center of historical book preservation. . . . It is the core of the information revolution energizing our country. As such, it embodies the ideals of the experiment called America where society is based on ability, merit and the democratic ideal that is *what* you know, not whom.

— Frederic Alan Maxwell

A sanatorium for the mind.

— Diodorus Siculus

A library is but the soul's burial ground.

— H. W. Beecher

Libraries are the best consolations, retreats, harbours, refuges of the soul of man.

— Holbrook Jackson

Libraries are the concert halls of the finest voices gathered from all times and places.

— J. P. Richter

Libraries are the wardrobes of literature, whence men, properly informed, might bring forth something for ornament, much for curiosity, and more for use.

— George Dyer

Libraries are as the shrines where all the relics of the ancient saints, full of true virtue, and that without delusion or imposture, are preserved.

— Francis Bacon

A gathering of good books is an organization of the wise.

— John Cotton Dana

### Significance of Libraries

I have often thought that nothing would do more extensive good at small expense than the establishment of a small circulating library in every county.

— Thomas Jefferson

Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries, in a thousand years, have set in the best order the results of their learning and wisdom.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

The true university of these days is a collection of books.

— Thomas Carlyle

It is man's duty to have books. . . . A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life.

— Henry Ward Beecher

A great library contains the diary of the human race.

— Rev. George Dawson

### Description

These are not books, lumps of lifeless paper, but *minds* alive on the shelves. From each of them goes out its own voice . . . and just as the touch of a button on our set will fill the room with music, so by taking down one of these volumes and opening it, one can call into range the voice of a man far distant in time and space, and hear him speaking to us, mind to mind, heart to heart.

— Gilbert Highet

Shelved around me lie the mummied authors.

— Bayard Taylor

A great library easily begets affection, which may

deepen into love.

— Augustine Birrell

His very soul was on fire when in the midst of a library.

— F. S. Merryweather

The assembled souls of all men held wise, imprisoned until some one takes them down from a shelf and reads them.

— Samuel Butler the Younger

(A library) is a city of necromancers . . . in which they raise the dead. . . . Do I want to speak to Cicero? I invoke him. Do I want to chat in the Athenian market-place, and hear news two thousand years old? I write down my charm on a slip of paper, and a grave magician calls me up Aristophanes, etc; it is a world beyond the grave, a land of ghosts.

— E. Bulwer-Lytton

With awe, around their silent walks I tread;  
These are the lasting mansions of the dead.

— George Crabbe

The old, dead authors thronged him round about, and Elzevir's grey ghosts from leathern graves looked out.

— John Greenleaf Whittier

It seems as though all the souls of all the writers . . . were reposing there, as in some dormitory or middle state.

— Charles Lamb

A library, whether small or large, is a sea which we must chart for ourselves and explore for ourselves, our own intelligence for compass, and with a fair wind behind us or full steam ahead, we need not fear to reach the Islands of the Blest.

— Holbrook Jackson

### Atmosphere

I go into my library, and all history rolls before me. I breathe the morning air of the world while the scent of Eden's roses yet lingered in it, while it vibrated only to the world's first brood of nightingales, and to the laugh of Eve. I see the pyramids building; I hear the shoutings of the armies of Alexander; I feel the ground shake beneath the march of Cambyses. I sit as in a theatre — the stage is time, the play is the play of the world.

— Alexander Smith

There is a grace cometh from hearing . . . and so the ear thrills to the rustle of the leaves. . . . It is

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the sound of all sounds the most companionable, this whispering of the leaves of books. You who love them have heard it in the quietness of your room, and you have been comforted; or, perchance, in the wizard silence of Bodley's Library at Oxford, where it has gone up to the painted beams as incense of sound; or in the echoing space of the vast rotunda of the cosmopolis of books in Bloomsbury. . . . Most pleasing and most comfortable of sounds, so that book-lovers who hear it are made confident and rapt beyond themselves. Happy the man . . . that knows this joyful music.

— Holbrook Jackson

Studying at a public library is like staying at an inn.

— Edmund Gosse

It is a place for the soft rustle of pages and the quiet stir of thoughts over the reading tables.

— John Ciardi

### Philosophy

The school can compel to knowledge; the library must allure to knowledge.

— John Cotton Dana

A city without a library is a desert.

— Holbrook Jackson

Libraries are not made; they grow.

— Augustine Birrell

No place affords a more striking conviction of the vanity of human hopes than a public library.

— Samuel Johnson

The world may be kind or unkind, it may seem to us to be hastening on the wings of enlightenment and progress to an imminent millennium, or it may weight us down with the sense of insoluble difficulty and irremediable wrong; but whatever else it be, so long as we have good health and a good library, it can hardly be dull.

— Earl of Balfour

Nothing more precious than a great library, nothing more noble.

— Holbrook Jackson

The library should be a commonplace to everyone. To use it should be as natural when one needs news or knowledge, fiction or fact, as it is to use the trolley when one needs transportation.

— John Cotton Dana

When we are collecting books, we are collecting

happiness.

— Vincent Starrett

### The Home Library

The walls of books around him, dense with the past, formed a kind of insulation against the present world and its disasters.

— Ross Macdonald

Some covet to have libraries in their houses, as ladies have cupboards of plates in their chambers, only for show; as if they were only to furnish their rooms, and not their minds.

— Sir William Waller

A room without books is as a body without a soul.

— Cicero

Next to acquiring good friends, the best acquisition is that of good books.

— Charles Caleb Colton

To the collector, books are treasures to be protected, to the bibliophile books are friends to be enjoyed.

— Holbrook Jackson

You should never dust books until the rare hour arrives when you want to read a particular volume; then warily approach it with a snow-white napkin, take it down from its shelf, and, withdrawing to some back apartment, proceed to cleanse the tome.

— Augustine Birrell

Own all the books you can, use all the books you own, and as many more as you can get.

— William Roberts

To gain glory by books you must not only possess them but know them; their lodgings must be in your brain and not on your book-shelf.

— C. Elton

I would rather be a poor man in a garret with plenty of books than a king who did not love reading.

— Thomas Babington Macaulay

The man who has a library of his own collection is able to contemplate himself objectively, and is justified in believing in his own existence.

— Augustine Birrell

When a lover of books sits in his library, he is conscious of the company of friendly geniuses who speak to him out of the grave.

— Holbrook Jackson

In my library I have all the knowledge of the world

that I need.

— Lionel Johnson

Books that stand thin on the shelves, yet so as the owner of them can bring forth every one of them into use, are better than far greater libraries.

— Thomas Fuller

Books are not entirely valued or intimately loved unless they are ranged about us as we sit at home.

— Edmund Gosse

It is one thing to own a library; another to use it wisely.

— Sir John Lubbock

Here is a library like an arsenal, stored with all the requisites of any campaign. The owner buys all the books that come his way: it is true he will not read them; but he will have them magnificently bound, and ranged on the shelves with a mighty show, and there he will salute them several times a day, and will bring his friends and servants to make their acquaintance.

— C. Elton

That place that does contain  
My books, the best companions, is to me  
A glorious court, where hourly I converse  
With the old sages and philosophers;  
And sometimes, for variety, I confer  
With kings and emperors, and weigh their counsels.

— Beaumont and Fletcher

Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries, in a thousand years, have set in the best order the results of their learning and wisdom.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

We may sit in our library and yet be in all quarters

of the earth.

— Sir John Lubbock

My library was dukedom large enough.

— William Shakespeare

I often derive a peculiar satisfaction in conversing with the ancient and modern dead, — who yet live and speak excellently in their works. — My neighbours think me *often alone*, — and yet at such times I am in company with more than five hundred mutes — each of whom, at my pleasure, communicates his ideas to me by dumb signs — quite as intelligently as any person living can do by uttering of words.

— Laurence Sterne

### Humor

Never lend books, for no one ever returns them; the only books I have in my library are books that other folk have lent me.

— Anatole France

There are seventy million books in American libraries, but the one you want to read is always out.

— Tom Masson

### Advice

Let your bookcases and your shelves be your gardens and your pleasure-grounds. Pluck the fruit that grows therein, gather the roses, the spices, and the myrrh.

— Judah Ibn Tibbon

Choose an author as you choose a friend.

— Earl of Roscommon

Every library should try to be complete on something, if it were only the history of pinheads.

— O. W. Holmes