

BEST QUOTES ON LIBRARIES

There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration.

—Andrew Carnegie

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

--J. P. Richter

My grandma always said that God made libraries so that people didn't have any excuse to be stupid.

—Joan Bauer

His library was a fine dark place bricked with books, so anything could happen there and always did. All you had to do was pull a book from the shelf and open it and suddenly the darkness was not so dark anymore.

—Ray Bradbury

A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.

—Andrew Carnegie

In a library we are surrounded by many hundreds of dear friends, but they are imprisoned by an enchanter in these paper and leathern boxes; and though they know us, and have been waiting two, ten, or twenty centuries for us,—some of them,—and are eager to give us a sign and unbosom themselves, it is the law of their limbo that they must not speak until spoken to; and as the enchanter has dressed them, like battalions of infantry, in coat and jacket of one cut, by the thousand and ten thousand, your chance of hitting on the right one is to be computed by the arithmetical rule of Permutation and Combination,—not a choice out of three caskets, but out of half a million caskets, all alike.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

It seems to me that anyone whose library consists of a Kindle lying on a table is some sort of bloodless nerd.

—Penelope Lively

Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries.

—Anne Herbert

‘Our library isn’t very extensive,’ said Anne, ‘but every book in it is a friend. We’ve picked our books up through the years, here and there, never buying one until we had first read it and knew that it belonged.’

—L. M. Montgomery

It’s funny that we think of libraries as quiet demure places where we are shushed by dusty, bun-balancing, bespectacled women. The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy and community. Librarians have stood up to the Patriot Act, sat down with noisy toddlers and reached out to illiterate adults. Libraries can never be shushed.

—Paula Poundstone

I had the best teachers a library card could pay for.

—Reginald Dwayne Betts

When a 5-year-old walks into kindergarten, takes a book, and holds it upside down, you know there is no reading readiness there. I heard of many projects like Books for Babies, which is run by the Friends of the Library in tiny Winters, California: volunteers scour birth announcements and go stroller-spotting, offering each new baby a box with a T-shirt, a cap, two books, and an application to join the library.

—Patrick Losinski

Here I sit in the deep cushioned armchair, the crickets rasping, buzzing, chirring outside. It’s the library, my favorite room, with the floor a medieval mosaic of flat square stones the color of old book-bindings...rust, copper, tawny orange, pepper-brown, maroon. And there are deep comfortable maroon leather chairs with the leather peeling off, revealing a marbled pattern of ridiculous pink. The books, all that you would fill your rainy days with, line the shelves; friendly, fingered volumes.

--Sylvia Plath

Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.

--Lady Bird Johnson

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

--Henry Ward Beecher

One of my fondest childhood memories is of walking that mile to the library in my small, rural community, passing through the door of the venerable, clapboard, one-room building with its pine-plank floors warped with age and its comfortable, ubiquitous, musty smell to discover the most fantastic of unknown and fascinating worlds in the wonderful, worn books of its collection.

--Dan L. Miller

It was from my own early experience that I decided there was no use to which money could be applied so productive of good to boys and girls who have good within them and ability and ambition to develop it as the founding of a public library.

--Andrew Carnegie

A library is a landmark of civilization, a monument to the people's desire to learn. Whether the place looks monumental or not really doesn't matter. A library is a service organization, not a building. Whether it is a classic-pillared marble temple, a downtown store front or just a bookmobile is not nearly as important as what's inside and how it is used.

--*Changing Times*

(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

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

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

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

It was a common complaint amongst the Arts students that their library was in dire need of refurbishment. To call the old building shabby chic was being kind. It didn't have automated stacks or self-service machines like the Management and Sciences library on the other side of campus, and the carpets and bookcases looked like they were probably the Victorian originals.

But on days like this one, where the springtime sunshine streamed in through the high windows and set the dust motes dancing, Harriet sincerely felt that those BSc lot could stuff their vending machines and state of the art study pods. The Old Library was clearly suited for those who had poetry in their souls, rather than numbers in their heads.

—Erin Lawless

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

--Thomas Carlyle

A great library contains the diary of the human race. The great consulting room of a wise man is a library.

--Rev. George Dawson

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

--Oliver. W. Holmes

Libraries are not made; they grow. Good as it is to inherit a library, it is better to collect one.

--Augustine Birrell

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

--Samuel Johnson

A sanatorium for the mind.

--Diodorus Siculus

In a library the books that aren't dirty are the ones that are dusty.

--E. C. McKenzie

A man's library is a sort of harem, and tender readers have a great prudence in showing their books to a stranger.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

--Tom Masson

A library is but the soul's burial ground.

--H. W. Beecher

Shelved around me lie the mummied authors.

--Baynard 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 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

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

--George Crabbe

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

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

--John Greenleaf Whittier

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

In my library I have all the knowledge of the world that I need.

--Lionel 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 weigh 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

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

--Holbrook Jackson

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

--Holbrook Jackson

A city without a library is a desert.

--Holbrook Jackson

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

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

--F. S. Merryweather

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

--Charles Lamb

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

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

--Edmund Gosse

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

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

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.

--Charles Isaac Elton

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

--John Cotton Dana

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

--John Cotton Dana

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

--John Cotton Dana

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

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

--John Ciardi

We may sit in our library and yet be in all quarters of the earth.

--Sir John Lubbock

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

When we are collecting books, we are collecting happiness.

--Vincent Starrett

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

The great thing about a book is having it in one's home like a medicine or an analgesic, a stimulus or a soporific when the drugstores are all closed. Late at night one's private library is like a medicine chest. One cannot tell what one will be in the mood for or what one's spirit will most urgently crave. Or if the analogy seems too medicinal, perhaps the refrigerator or cookie jar will do.

--Irwin Edman

Please return this book: I find that though many of my friends are poor arithmeticians, they are nearly all good bookkeepers.

--Sir Walter Scott

I much prefer working with kids whose life could be completely upended by a reading of a book over a weekend. You give them a book to read—they go home and come back a changed person. And that is so much more interesting and exciting.

--Russell Banks

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

Every time an old person dies, it is as if a library has burned to the ground.
--African Proverb

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

At eleven-thirty on a rainy Thursday morning we counted the persons in the north hall of the reading-room in the Library. There were one hundred and seven men and fourteen women. Our conclusions, interesting, and well thought out, were: men are more scholarly, curious, persistent, indifferent to weather, romantic, earnest, intellectual, early-rising, conscientious, creative, sober, and unoccupied, than women. But we may be wrong.

--E. B. White

The atmosphere of libraries, lecture rooms and laboratories is dangerous to those who shut themselves up in them too long. It separates us from reality like a fog.

--Alexis Carrel

I do not know that I am happiest when alone; but this I am sure of, that I never am long in the society even of her I love...without a yearning for the company of my lamp and my utterly confused and tumbled over library.

--Lord Byron

For myself, public libraries possess a special horror, as of lonely wastes and dragon-haunted fens. The stillness and the heavy air, the feeling of restriction and surveillance, the mute presence of these other readers, 'all silent and all damned,' combine to set up a nervous irritation fatal to quiet study.

--Kenneth Grahame

Collected information is our collective conscious. And libraries are its caretakers.

--Unknown

A man should keep his little brain attic stocked with all the furniture that he is likely to use, and the rest he can put away in the lumber-room of his library, where he can get it if he wants it.

--Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

A house is no home unless it contain food and fire for the mind as well as for the body.

--Margaret Fuller

What a sad want I am in of libraries, of books to gather facts from! Why is there not a Majesty's library in every country town? There is a Majesty's gaol and gallows in every one.

--Thomas Carlyle

Your borrowers of books—those mutilators of collections, spoilers of the symmetry of shelves, and creators of odd volumes.

--Charles Lamb

It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own.

--Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Any ordinary man can...surround himself with two thousand books...and thenceforward have at least one place in the world in which it is possible to be happy.

--Augustine Birrell

Books are a delightful society. If you go into a room filled with books, even without taking them down from their shelves, they seem to speak to you, to welcome you.

--William E. Gladstone

What laborious days, what watchings by the midnight lamp, what rackings of the brain, what hopes and fears, what long lives of laborious study, are here sublimized into print, and condensed into the narrow compass of these surrounding shelves!

--Horace Smith

What a place to be in is an old library! It seems as though all the souls of all the writers that have bequeathed their labors to these Bodleians were reposing here, as in some dormitory or middle state. I do not want to handle, to profane the leaves, their winding-sheets. I could as soon dislodge a shade. I seem to inhale learning, walking amid their foliage; and the odor of their old moth-scented coverings is fragrant as the first bloom of those scintial apples which grew amid the happy orchard.

--Charles Lamb

A large library is apt to distract rather than to instruct the learner; it is much better to be confined to a few authors than to wander at random over many.

--Seneca

From this slender beginning I have gradually formed a numerous and select library, the foundation of all my works, and the best comfort of my life, both at home and abroad.

—Edward Gibbon

No possession can surpass, or even equal a good library, to the lover of books. Here are treasured up for his daily use and delectation, riches which increase by being consumed, and pleasures which never cloy.

--J. A. Langford

A library may be regarded as the solemn chamber in which a man may take counsel with all who have been wise, and great, and good, and glorious among the men that have gone before him.

--Rev. George Dawson

We enter our studies, and enjoy a society which we alone can bring together. We raise no jealousy by conversing with one in preference to another: we give no offense to the most illustrious by questioning him as long as we will, and leaving him as abruptly. Diversity of opinion raises no tumult in our presence; each interlocutor stands before us, speaks or is silent, and we adjourn or decide the business at our leisure.

--Walter Savage Landor

My books are my tools, and the greater their variety and perfection the greater the help to my literary work.

--Tryon Edwards

The gloomy recess of an ecclesiastical library is like a harbor, into which a far-traveling curiosity has sailed with its freight, and cast anchor. The ponderous tomes are bales of the mind's merchandise. Odors of distant countries and times steal from the red leaves, the swelling ridges of vellum, and the titles in tarnished gold.

--Robert Aris Willmott

As a kid, I went to the library because, in books, there were people really living lives, and unlike my parents, they talked to me about important things.

—Gregory Sherl

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

--Ross MacDonald

The dust and silence of the upper shelf.

--Bob Macaulay

A library is a hospital for the mind.

--Unknown

The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history.

--Carl Rowan

I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.

--Jorge Luis Borges

This Library has to be one of the best places to be walled up alive.

--John Russell

When I got my library card, that's when my life began.

--Rita Mae Brown

The library is a place where most of the things I came to value as an adult had their beginnings.

--Pete Hamill

I warned myself that it would take only a few wars...or a single period of brutality or savagery...to destroy forever the ideas passed down with the help of these frail objects in fiber and ink.

--Marguerite Yourcenar

A library is thought in cold storage.

--Herbert Samuel

The habit of reading is one of the greatest resources of mankind; and we enjoy books that belong to us much more than if they are borrowed. A borrowed book is like a guest in the house; it must be treated with punctiliousness, with a certain considerate formality. You must see that it sustains no damage; it must not suffer while under your roof. You cannot leave it carelessly, you cannot mark it, you cannot turn down the pages, you cannot use it familiarly. And then, some day...you really ought to return it.

--William Lyon Phelps

I told the Englishman that my alma mater was books, a good library. Every time I catch a plane, I have with me a book that I want to read. And that's a lot of books. If I weren't out there every day battling the white man, I could spend the rest of my life reading. Just to satisfy my curiosity.

--Malcolm X

The fact that a book is in the public library brings no comfort. Books are the one element in which I am personally and nakedly acquisitive. If it weren't for the law I would steal them. If it weren't for my purse I would buy them.

--Harold Laski

My education was the liberty I had to read indiscriminately and all the time, with my eyes hanging out.

--Dylan Thomas

As a child I lived to read books. The library was a window to the world, a pathway to worlds and people far from my neighborhood....And even today, as I travel around the world...I often visit places I used to dream about because of the books I'd read. The library made a difference in my life.

--Ed Bradley

We all know that libraries are the fountain of knowledge, bubbling up history, science, the arts, and a wealth of information for all. During my formative years, I always thought of the library when I wanted to know more about anything. Librarians have always been among the most thoughtful and helpful people. They are teachers without a classroom. No libraries, no progress.

--Willard Scott

The part of my education that has had the deepest influence wasn't any particular essay or even a specific class, it was how I was able to apply everything I learned in the library to certain situations in my life....The selection is unlimited from our past history and ancestors up to our current controversial issues and role models. The library takes me away from everyday life and allows me to see other places and learn to understand other people unlike myself. I enjoy the discovery process as well as the way reading in the library passes the time.

--Gloria Estefan

As a growing boy one public building had more to do with my development as a creative cartoonist than all the state capitols, city halls courthouses, police stations, etc., combined: the library. It was a font of information, inspiration and entertainment—and it still is! Let's steer our little people to its wondrous treasures.

--Bill Keane

One of the greatest of all our attributes is curiosity. Without it we could never have advanced beyond the cave. It is the underlying pressure which pushes us to our highest achievements. But, to be effective, curiosity must be satisfied. This where the library plays its vital role in our lives....It is thus that we learn, and at the heart of that learning is the public library. Without it, untold numbers of our citizens would be deprived of the means to serve their curiosity, would be deprived of learning, would be deprived of the very foundations of an education. Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.

--Walter Cronkite

A library is a belief in people
A belief in the perfectability of man
in man's questing
in the intrinsic good of man
and an organization of information and personnel to assist him in his quest.

--Roy Marks

A library is a belief in the right to information which will help one learn how to come to terms with himself first, and then with his fellow man and his Creator in a stress-filled and promise-filled world.

--Roy Marks

A library is a place where you learn what teachers were afraid to teach you.

—Alan M. Dershowitz

The library is not the arbitrator for selecting beliefs, opinions, or values for preferred use. The library collection can only mirror the concepts to be found within the society it serves.

--Gerald R. Shields

Behold the lean librarian of fifty years ago...
He shook the Tree of Knowledge and upon the library shelf
Put the fruit in winter storage, and devoured it all himself.
His books were gathered for himself, in dusty quietude;
Unhandled on the silent shelves in gapless tiers they stood...
And so he lived his peaceful days and kept his treasures well,
Dwelling in airless alcoves with their educated smell.
In the still nooks of studious dreams, with folios and dust,
He made his public library a very private trust.

--Sam Walter Foss

A book is as worthless as a wooden block as long as it remains in the library unread.

--Sam Walter Foss

Here find distilled since thought began—
And given away as soon as sought—
The essence of the thought of man,
The vintage of the juice of thought,
Here to the poorest child belong
Old Plato's thought and Homer's song.
And here for all great Newton's cosmic scheme
And Chaucer's morning tales and Dante's star-wide dream.

Here is the rapture of all seers,
Here all the beauty that endures,
Here all the visions of all years,—
Reach forth your hand and they are yours.
Here take, without a price or fee,
The Soul of Shakespeare given free;
Here by the laurelled sons of fame be taught
And hold familiar parle with all the lords of thought.

The cunning wizards of the mind
Here all their guarded secrets tell,
The necromancers of mankind
Are ranged in aisles of miracle.
Here stand, that all who will may see,
The vials of the alchemy
Of man's best dreams exhaled through ages long,—
The music of the eternal mind distilled in deathless song.

--Sam Walter Foss

Librarians sometimes feel as if the best books in their stacks—the library's real wealth—are really useless lumber so far as the bulk of the reading population is concerned. These books are taken out and read only by a small percentage of the library's clientele. The books of all time are passed by with a sniff of contempt by searchers after the latest ephemeral sensation, which will be forgotten tomorrow.

--Sam Walter Foss

It is the business of the librarian to show, by example and by precept, that we are still living in ignorance of many things; that nescience is still more extensive than knowledge; and that partial ignorance is more common than full enlightenment.

--Sam Walter Foss

The public library ought to be the rendezvous of the artisan and the mechanic. Its stacks should be thronged with laborers, and its books should be thumbed by the men who do the hard work of the world—men who come in contact with the basic realities of life....The public library should make itself a clubhouse for men who work, as well as a cushioned retreat for men who think. It should be as democratic as the public sidewalks.

--Sam Walter Foss

The men who know many things should be welcomed in the public library; but the men who know few things should be welcomed even more warmly, for their need of the public library is greater.

--Sam Walter Foss

The city that makes it easy for its people to obtain books will develop a citizenship that will be worth all the money it costs.

--Sam Walter Foss

Jane Austen's books, too, are absent from this library. Just that one omission alone would make a fairly good library out of a library that hadn't a book in it.

--Mark Twain

I was actually at the door which leads into the library itself. I must have opened it, for instantly there issued, like a guardian angel barring the way with a flutter of black gown instead of white wings, a deprecating, silvery, kindly gentleman, who regretted in a low voice as he waved me back that ladies are only admitted to the library if accompanied by a Fellow of the College or furnished with a letter of introduction.

--Virginia Woolf

The best of my education has come from the public library...my tuition fee is a bus fare and once in a while, five cents for an overdue book. You don't need to know very much to start with, if you know the way to the public library.

--Lesley Conger

An hour spent in the library is worth a month in the laboratory.

—Unknown

I discovered the Colored Branch of the Carnegie Public Library less than a block away from where we lived on East Henry Street. I liked going there to read all day.

At first the words, without pictures, were a mystery. But then, suddenly, they all began to march across the page. They gave up their secret meanings, spoke of other worlds, made me know that pain was a part of other people's lives. After a while, I could read faster and faster and faster and faster. After a while, I no longer believed in the world in which I lived.

I loved the Colored Branch of the Carnegie Public Library.

--James Alan McPherson

Mr. [Samuel] Johnson's library...is four pairs of stairs up, in two garrets....I saw a number of good books, but very dusty and confusedly placed...manuscript leaves scattered up and down which I looked upon with a degree of veneration, as they perhaps might be pieces of *The Rambler*, or of *Rasselas*....no place can be more favorable for meditation than such a retirement as this garret. I could not help indulging a scheme of taking it for myself many years hence, when its present great possessor will in all probability be gone to a more exalted situation. This was in a strong sense 'building my castle in the air.'

--James Boswell

Work every day in the reading room at the British Museum....When I lay too late in the mornings (which was most often the case) I did not go to the Museum until after dinner....

...I made a stand against late rising by using an alarm clock and actually succeeded in getting up regularly at 8 every morning until the end of the year, when the clock broke and I began immediately to relapse. I got a new clock, but did not quite regain my punctuality, which by and by, made me so sleepy in the afternoon that I got into the habit of taking a nap in the Museum over my books.

--George Bernard Shaw

Is it possible that libraries will become 'book museums,' and that the specimens on display under glass will be curious examples of an archaic medium that educated, informed and enlightened so much of the world for so many hundreds of years?

--Ben Jacobs & Helena
Hjalmarsson

I started reading. I read everything I could get my hands on...By the time I was thirteen I had read myself out of Harlem. I had read every book in two libraries and had a card for the Forty-Second Street branch.

--James Baldwin

What is more important in a library than anything else—than everything else—is the fact that it exists.

--Archibald MacLeish

Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light nor dark. The pleasure they give is steady, unorgastic, reliable, deep and long-lasting. In any library in the world, I am at home, unselfconscious, still and absorbed.

--Germaine Greer

As library annual reports have indicated for some time—here one need only cite, for example, the famous passage found in column 1,303 of the Annual Report of the Library at Alexandria for 250 B.C—the disappearance, exchange, and loss of umbrellas is a phenomenon closely associated with libraries.

--Norman D. Stevens

If this nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need more new ideas for more wise men reading more good books in more public libraries.

--John F. Kennedy

Instead of going to Paris to attend lectures, go to the public library, and you won't come out for twenty years, if you really wish to learn.

--Leo Tolstoy

Libraries keep the records on behalf of all humanity...the unique and the absurd, the wise and fragment of stupidity.

--Vartan Gregorian

He that revels in a well-chosen library, has innumerable dishes and all of admirable flavor.

--William Godwin

My library
was dukedom large enough.

--William Shakespeare

A great library cannot be constructed—it is the growth of ages.

--John Hill Burton

It is paradoxical, but true, that not a single great library in the world has been formed by a great scholar.

--Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach

Th' first thing to have in a libry is a shelf. Fr'm time to time this can be decorated with litrachure. But th' shelf is the main thing.

--Peter Finley Dunne

There is nowhere in the world where sleep is so deep as in the libraries of the House of Commons.

--Chips Channon

Mr. Cobb took me into library and showed me his books, of which he had a complete set.

--Ring Lardner

If you file your waste-paper basket for 50 years, you have a public library.

--Tony Benn

To add a library to a house is to give that house a soul.

--Cicero

Lady Dorothy Nevill, so Sir Edmund Gosse tells, preserved her library by pasting in each volume the legend: 'This book has been stolen from Lady Dorothy Nevill.'

--Lady Dorothy Nevill

Never lend books—nobody ever returns them; the only books I have in my library are those which people have lent me.

--Anatole France

I have now a library of nearly 900 volumes, over 700 of which I wrote myself.

—Henry David Thoreau

A person's library consists of all the books he has that no one wants to borrow.

--Unknown

There are too many books in every public library, and not enough people to dust them.

--Evan Esar

To maintain your library intact, buy three copies of every book; one to show, one to loan, and one to read.

--Evan Esar

A scholar is someone who owns more hard-cover books than paperbacks.

--Unknown

If this nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need more new ideas for more wise men reading more good books in more public libraries. These libraries should be open to all—except the censor. We must know all the facts and hear all the alternatives and listen to all the criticisms. Let us welcome controversial books and controversial authors. For the Bill of Rights is the guardian of our security as well as our liberty.

--John F. Kennedy

It is intensely frustrating to acquire insight in public places without being allowed to exclaim 'Ah-ha!'

--Robert Sommer

He was hypnotized by the book in front of him. Other books were spread across the table, like he was taking a bath in books.

--Jerry Spinelli

The dim, dusty room...the cozy chairs, the globes, and best of all, the wilderness of books in which [Jo] could wander where she liked, made the library a region of bliss to her.

--Louisa May Alcott

When I was in my early teens, I started with the first book on the bottom shelf and went through the lot, one by one. I didn't read a few books. I read the Detroit Public Library.

--Thomas Edison

With our diplomas from eighth grade, Mr. Dorman handed each of us a small buff card, our first adult library card, a symbol marking the end of childhood.

--Beverly Cleary

Any kid who grows up twenty years from now will be able to go to a library and browse the world's knowledge on a computer.

--Bill Gates

My most prized possession was my library card from the Oakland Public Library.

--Bill Russell

I went to the library, opened up an encyclopedia, and looked up *ballet*...And I went, 'Wow! I can do this! I can go to New York. I can do this for a living. I can actually grow up to be what I want to be!'

--Lourdes Lopez

Whenever I felt bad,...I went to the library. In fact, I went there when I felt good too. I was there every day. I got mad one time at Christmas when I found out the library was closed.

--Jerry Spinelli

When I was young, I not only liked the pictures and the stories in library books but the feel and the smell of the books themselves.

--Judy Blume

When I was young, we couldn't afford much. But, my library card was my key to the world.

--John Goodman

Books on every topic. With pictures. Without pictures. Hard books. Boring books. Books about submarines. Books about real stuff. Books about made-up stuff. Books that quenched and books that made you thirsty. Books to learn from. Books to grow your mind. Wonderful, wonderful books. That's what the public library gave to millions over all the years.

--Paul Sassone

When I read about the way in which library funds are being cut and cut, I can only think that American society has found one more way to destroy itself.

--Isaac Asimov

I remember being in the public library and my jaw just aching as I looked around at all those books I wanted to read. There just wasn't time enough to read everything I wanted to read.

--Charles Kuralt

My old analogy is that we've moved from guides in the information desert to guides in the information jungle. It used to be challenging to find that little cactus when resources were so scarce. Now we are in a jungle with vegetation all around, helping people select the edible from the poisonous..

--Doug Johnson

A man's bookcase will tell you everything you'll ever need to know about him.

--Walter Mosley

Read meanwhile...
Hunt among the shelves,
as dogs do grasses...

--Randall Jarrell

Ten guards and the warden couldn't have torn me out of those books. Months passed without even thinking about being imprisoned....I had never been so truly free in my life.

--Malcolm X

When I discovered libraries, it was like having Christmas every day!

--Jean Fritz

My dream was to live in this heavenly building and know all its secrets...to be allowed to go behind the curving book-clad walls into the stacks and have keys to unlock the cabinets of bookish rarities.

--Germaine Greer

One community facility that has been profoundly affected by the deinstitutionalization of mentally ill individuals and our failure to provide treatment for them are the public libraries. Many libraries have become day centers for mentally ill people who are homeless or living in board-and-care homes. A 2009 survey of 124 public libraries, randomly selected from all parts of the United States, asked about 'patrons who appear to have serious psychiatric disorders.' The librarians reported that such individuals had 'disturbed or otherwise affected the use of the library' in 92 percent of the libraries and 'assaulted library staff members' in 28 percent. Eighty-five percent of the libraries had had to call the police because of the behavior of such patrons. This included benign activities such as a 'patron rearranging reference books by size and refuses to stop' and less benign activities such as a man running 'through the circulation area, near the children's department, repeatedly without clothing.'

—E. Fuller Torrey

For high school media specialists in a one-to-one setting, the roles have changed quite a bit. Teaching research and copyright skills, collaborative instruction, and project support continue to be essential responsibilities. However, there has also been a significant shift in the need to become an expert in instructional technology to support the needs within a one-to-one setting. Working closely with the instructional technology facilitator, our focus has moved from traditional instruction to assisting students and teachers in the use of various available applications and to help students produce products and projects using these new tools while developing new skills in the process.

--Kaye McKinney

Innovative school districts are rethinking the traditional school library and re-envisioning it as a digital media creation space. These informal learning spaces allow the school librarian to take on new roles as digital media mentors. They empower students to follow their interests/ passions, and use digital media for that learning.

--Keith R. Krueger

In an age when hardly anybody checks out books anymore, libraries are struggling to stay relevant....In the digital age, no public library can afford to think of itself as a mere repository of material anymore, or even, for that matter, of information.

--Sommer Mathis

Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.

—Laura Bush

You must read dreadful dumb books and glorious books, and let them wrestle in beautiful fights inside your head, vulgar one moment, brilliant the next. You must lurk in libraries and climb the stacks like ladders to sniff books like perfumes and wear books like hats upon your crazy heads.

—Ray Bradbury

Cuts to school librarian positions betray an ignorance of the key role school librarians play in a child's education, especially in this era of Google, when today's students are flooded with an unprecedented volume of information....The value of school librarians has been measured in countless studies demonstrating that strong school library programs help students learn more and score higher on standardized achievement tests.

—Carl Harvey II

People can lose their lives in libraries. They ought to be warned.

—Saul Bellow

I have an enormous affection for that old-fashioned institution, the library. And for librarians. Our libraries are deeper than Google. And they're warm. They're welcoming. They're not policed. They're not infected by advertisements.

—Colum McCann

A book is a fragile creature; it suffers the wear of time; it fears rodents, the elements and clumsy hands. So the librarian protects the books not only against mankind but also against nature and devotes his life to this war with the forces of oblivion.

—Umberto Eco

Why do we even *need* libraries anymore? Unemployed man using internet connection to apply for jobs. Reference librarian helping senior citizen with genealogy research. Family saving money by borrowing books and DVDs instead of buying them. Teens at an after-school program (and not getting into trouble). Kids signing up for summer reading program.

—*Library Journal*

Being a writer in a library is rather like being a eunuch in a harem.

—John Braine

For me, the card catalog has been a companion all my working life. To leave it is like leaving the house one was brought up in.

—Barbara Tuchman

Library: A resting place where the dead never die.

—Dan L. Miller

The traditional impression of libraries as places for quiet reading, research, and borrowing books—and of librarians as schoolmarmish shush-ers—is outdated, as they have metamorphosed into bustling civic centers...There are three areas where libraries function as vibrant centers of America's towns: technology, education, and community.

—Deborah Fallows

Heaven would be a comfortable chair, a library, Diet Coke, and an occasional cheese pizza. Sex once in a while.

—Jayden Hunter

Many people rely on libraries for their computer and internet use. According to a 2015 Pew Research Center report, more than a quarter of Americans who had visited a public library in the past year had used a computer, the internet, or a WIFI connection there, with the usage numbers higher among minorities and low-income groups.

—Deborah Fallows

The library in West Hartford, Connecticut, offers conversational-English classes for immigrants. The library in Seattle provides citizenship classes. The library in Duluth, Minnesota, has a seed-lending program for local gardeners. The library in Washington, D.C., offers tango dancing on Saturday afternoons. In libraries, I have practiced yoga and tai chi, sipped lattes in coffee shops, and watched Millennials with laptops arrange their virtual startup offices at long reading-room tables.

—Deborah Fallows

Libraries serve as anchors in times of distress: The library in Ferguson, Missouri, kept its doors open even when schools were closed, and libraries in New Jersey became places of refuge after Hurricane Sandy.

—Deborah Fallows

A man's library opens up his character to the world.

—Matthew Pearl

At the moment that we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better. It's an enormous force for good.

—Barack Obama

A library book...is not, then, an article of mere consumption but fairly of capital, and often in the case of professional men, setting out in life, is their only capital.

—Thomas Jefferson

Whatever it is that you're feeling, whatever it is you have a question about, whatever it is that you long to know, there is some book, somewhere, with the key. You just have to search for it.

—Adriana Trigiani

A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library

—Shelby Foote

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

For him that stealeth a Book from this Library, let it change into a serpent in his hand and rend him. Let him be struck with Palsy, and all his Members blasted. Let him languish in Pain crying aloud for Mercy and let there be no surcease to his Agony till he sink in Dissolution. Let Bookworms gnaw his Entrails in token of the Worm that dieth not, and when at last he goeth to his final Punishment, let the flames of Hell consume him for ever and aye.

—*Curse Against Book
Stealers
Monastery of San
Pedro, Barcelona*

I read books in the library, huddling on a bean bag in a corner and getting lost in somebody else's victories and troubles. I never had much time for fiction before. I preferred real life. Mathematics. Solutions. Things that actually have a bearing on my life. But I can understand now why people read, why they like to get lost in somebody else's life. Sometimes I'll read a sentence and it will make me sit up, jolt me, because it is something that I have recently felt but never said out loud. I want to reach into the page and tell the characters that I understand them, that they are not alone, that I'm not alone, that it's okay to feel like this. And then the lunch bell rings the book closes and I'm plunged back into reality.

—Cecelia Ahern

I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of any thing than of a book! When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library.

—Jane Austen

My experience with public libraries is that the first volume of the book I inquire for is out, unless I happen to want the second, when that is out.

—Oliver Wendell
Holmes

Throughout my formal education I spent many, many hours in public and school libraries. Libraries became courts of last resort, as it were. The current definitive answer to almost any question can be found within the four walls of most libraries.

—Arthur Ashe

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 1000 years, have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom. The men themselves were hid and inaccessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette; but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age.

—Ralph Waldo
Emerson

‘Children, don’t speak so coarsely,’ said Mr Webster, who had a vague notion that some supervision should be exercised over his daughters’ speech, and that a line should be drawn, but never knew quite when to draw it. He had allowed his daughters to use his library without restraint, and nothing is more fatal to maidenly delicacy of speech than the run of a good library.

—Robertson Davies

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;
Calling their victories, if unjustly got,
Unto a strict account, and, in my fancy,
Deface their ill-placed statues.

—Francis Beaumont

No possession can surpass, or even equal a good library, to the lover of books. Here are treasured up for his daily use and delectation, riches which increase by being consumed, and pleasures that never cloy.

—John Alfred Landlord

In my day the library was a wonderful place.... We didn’t have visual aids and didn’t have various programs...it was a sanctuary.... So I tend to think the library should remain a center of knowledge.

—Norman Mailer

A good library is a place, a palace where the lofty spirits of all nations and generations meet.

—Samuel Niger

Information helps you to see that you're not alone. That there's somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who've all longed and lost, who've all been happy. So the library helps you to see, not only that you are not alone, but that you're not really any different from everyone else.

—Maya Angelou

A library card is a wallet-sized miracle.

—Pete Croatto

The first thing naturally when one enters a scholar's study or library, is to look at his books. One gets the notion very speedily of his tastes and the range of his pursuits by a glance round his book-shelves.

—Oliver Wendell
Holmes

The library is not a shrine for the worship of books. It is not a temple where literary incense must be burned or where one's devotion to the bound book is expressed in ritual. A library, to modify the famous metaphor of Socrates, should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas—a place where history comes to life.

—Norman Cousins

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

—William Dyer

A man will turn over half a library to make one book.

—Samuel Johnson

Libraries

The medicine chest of the soul.

—*Inscription over the
Door of the Library
at Thebes*

Nutrimendum spiritus.

(Food for the soul.)

—*Inscription on the
Berlin Royal
Library*

A little library growing each year is an honorable part of a man's history.

—Henry Ward Beecher

New Laws of Librarianship:

Libraries serve humanity.

Respect all forms by which knowledge is communicated.

Use technology intelligently to enhance service.

Protect free access to knowledge.

Honor the past & create the future.

—Michael Gorman

Ranganathan's Five Laws:

Books are for use.

Books are for all; or Every reader his book.

Every book its reader.

Save the time of the reader.

A library is a growing organism.

—Shiyali Ramamrita
Ranganathan

My mother and my father were illiterate immigrants from Russia. When I was a child they were constantly amazed that I could go to a building and take a book on any subject. They couldn't believe this access to knowledge we have here in America. They couldn't believe that it was free.

—Kirk Douglas

Here is where people,
One frequently finds,
Lower their voices
And raise their minds.

—Richard Armour

The student has his Rome, his Florence, his whole glowing Italy, within the four walls of his library. He has in his books the ruins of an antique world and the glories of a modern one.

—Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow

If it is noticed that much of my outside work concerns itself with libraries, there is an extremely good reason for this. I think that the better part of my education, almost as important as that secured in the schools and the universities, came from libraries.

—Irving Stone

Siberia. That was in the library. There, in that muddy village, was a great institution. Not physically, to be sure, but in every other way imaginable. It was a small log cabin, immaculately attended to with loving care; it was well lighted with oil lamps and it was warm. But best of all, it contained a small but amazing collection from the world's best literature, truly amazing considering the time, the place, and its size. From floor to ceiling it was lined with books—books, books, books. It was there that I was to become acquainted with the works of Dumas, Pasternak's translations of Shakespeare, the novels of Mark Twain, Jack London, and of course the Russians. It was in that log cabin that I escaped from Siberia—either reading there or taking the books home. It was between that library and two extraordinary teachers that I developed a lifelong passion for the great Russian novelists and poets. It was there that I learned to line up patiently for my turn to sit at a table and read, to wait—sometimes months—for a book. It was there that I learned that reading was not only a great delight, but a privilege.

—Esther Hautzig

I received the fundamentals of my education in school, but that was not enough. My real education, the superstructure, the details, the true architecture, I got out of the public library. For an impoverished child whose family could not afford to buy books, the library was the open door to wonder and achievement, and I can never be sufficiently grateful that I had the wit to charge through that door and make the most of it.

—Isaac Asimov

Books are what teach you about life. Books teach you empathy. But you can't buy books if you barely got enough to make rent. So that library is a vital resource! You shut a library,...you don't just shut down a building, you shut down hope.

—Jojo Moyes

If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are the banks.

—Wendell Ford

The closest thing we will ever come to an orderly universe is a good library.

—Ashleigh Brilliant

Access to knowledge is the superb, the supreme act of truly great civilizations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free libraries stand virtually alone in accomplishing this mission.

—Toni Morrison

God forbid that any book should be banned. The practice is as indefensible as infanticide.

—Rebecca West

A book is made from a tree. It is an assemblage of flat, flexible parts (still called 'leaves') imprinted with dark pigmented squiggles. One glance at it and you hear the voice of another person, perhaps someone dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, the author is speaking, clearly and silently, inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people, citizens of distant epochs, who never knew one another. Books break the shackles of time, proof that humans can work magic.

--Carl Sagan

How clearly I remember my childhood experiences of being catapulted into a book world....That first tumble into Wonderland is not easily forgotten, and it's also something that can't quite be replicated in adult life with the same intensity. The worlds you inhabit in childhood are stitched into the fabric of who you will grow to be.

—Ammi-Joan
Paquette

That perfect tranquillity of life, which is nowhere to be found but in retreat, a faithful friend and a good library.

—Aphra Behn

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.

—Cicero

More people have to start spending as much time in the library as they do on the basketball court. If they took the ideas that they could escape poverty through education, I think it would make a more basic and long-lasting change in the way things are done.

--Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Libraries were full of ideas—perhaps the most dangerous and powerful of all weapons.

—Sarah J. Maas

The list of gifted teachers and librarians who find their jobs in jeopardy for defending their students' right to read, to imagine, to question, grows every year.

—Judy Blume

'Ah college years, those were the days. Pure freedom ... leaving home for the first time...the parties...'

'What about the tutorials, the lectures, the large building with all the books called the 'library'?'

'Is that what those were?' Gerry blithely replied.

—E. A. Bucchianeri

What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it feels about education.

—Harold Howe

The old man was peering intently at the shelves. 'I'll have to admit that he's a very competent scholar.'

'Isn't he just a librarian?' Garion asked, 'somebody who looks after books?'

'That's where all the rest of scholarship starts, Garion. All the books in the world won't help you if they're just piled up in a heap.'

—David Eddings

We find paradise in every library and bookshop.

—Lailah Gifty Akita

And on the subject of burning books: I want to congratulate librarians, not famous for their physical strength or their powerful political connections or their great wealth, who, all over this country, have staunchly resisted anti-democratic bullies who have tried to remove certain books from their shelves, and have refused to reveal to thought police the names of persons who have checked out those titles.

So the America I loved still exists, if not in the White House or the Supreme Court or the Senate or the House of Representatives or the media. The America I love still exists at the front desks of our public libraries.

—Kurt Vonnegut

The library is inhabited by spirits that come out of the pages at night.

—Isabel Allende

‘Have you really read all those books in your room?’

Alaska laughing, ‘Oh God no. I’ve maybe read a third of ’em. But I’m going to read them all. I call it my Life’s Library. Every summer since I was little, I’ve gone to garage sales and bought all the books that looked interesting. So I always have something to read.’

—John Green

My library is an archive of longings.

—Susan Sontag

My alma mater was books and a good library. I don’t think anybody ever got more out of going to prison than I did. I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity.

—Malcolm X

A library is a good place to go when you feel unhappy, for there, in a book, you may find encouragement and comfort. A library is a good place to go when you feel bewildered or undecided, for there, in a book, you may have your question answered. Books are good company, in sad times and happy times, for books are people—people who have managed to stay alive by hiding between the covers of a book.

—E. B. White

I like libraries. It makes me feel comfortable and secure to have walls of words, beautiful and wise, all around me. I always feel better when I can see that there is something to hold back the shadows.

—Roger Zelazny

Don’t mark up the Library’s copy, you fool! Librarians are Unprankable. They’ll track you down! They have skills!

—Charles Ogden

Books permit us to voyage through time, to tap the wisdom of our ancestors. The library connects us with the insight and knowledge, painfully extracted from Nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all our history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contribution to the collective knowledge of the human species. I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.

—Carl Sagan

Without libraries what have we? We have no past and no future.

—Ray Bradbury

When you handle books all day long, every new one is a friend and a temptation.

—Elizabeth Kostova

Adult librarians are like lazy bakers: their patrons want a jelly doughnut, so they give them a jelly doughnut. Children's librarians are ambitious bakers: 'You like the jelly doughnut? I'll get you a jelly doughnut. But you should try my cruller, too. My cruller is gonna blow your mind, kid.'

—John Green

I had found my religion: nothing seemed more important to me than a book. I saw the library as a temple.

—Jean-Paul Sartre

We can imagine the books we'd like to read, even if they have not yet been written, and we can imagine libraries full of books we would like to possess, even if they are well beyond our reach, because we enjoy dreaming up a library that reflects every one of our interests and every one of our foibles—a library that, in its variety and complexity, fully reflects the reader we are.

—Alberto Manguel

Libraries are not child-care facilities, but sometimes feral children raise themselves among the stacks.

—Neil Gaiman

To build up a library is to create a life. It's never just a random collection of books.

—Carlos María
Domínguez

Among the many worlds which man did not receive as a gift of nature, but which he created with his own mind, the world of books is the greatest. Every child, scrawling his first letters on his slate and attempting to read for the first time, in so doing, enters an artificial and complicated world; to know the laws and rules of this world completely and to practice them perfectly, no single human life is long enough. Without words, without writing, and without books there would be no history, there could be no concept of humanity. And if anyone wants to try to enclose in a small space in a single house or single room, the history of the human spirit and to make it his own, he can only do this in the form of a collection of books.

—Hermann Hesse

The public library is where place and possibility meet.

—Stuart Dybek

At night, when the library lamps are lit, the outside world disappears and nothing but the space of books remains in existence.

—Alberto Manguel

I took to the Bodleian library as to a lover and ... would sit long hours in Bodley's arms to emerge, blinking and dazed with the smell and feel of all those books.

—Laurie R. King

He kissed me for a long moment, holding my shoulders, perhaps to keep me from pressing my whole body against his. Then he tried to lift my bag.

'My God,' he said. 'What happened?'

'I found out one may check out twenty books at a time from the school library.'

—Laura Whitcomb

The library knows that it is a temporary fix. We have a stamp for the inside front cover: BROKEN SPINE NOTED. It is like a bracelet worn by a diabetic. When you return the book with this message stamped inside, we know you're not the one responsible for this horrible thing. It was some other bastard before you. The book has a preexisting condition.

—Don Borchert

This place is a mystery. A sanctuary. Every book, every volume you see, has a soul. The soul of the person who wrote it & the soul of those who read it & lived it & dreamed with it. Every time a book changes hands, every time someone runs his eyes down its pages, its spirit grows & strengthens. In this place, books no longer remembered by anyone, books that are lost in time, live forever, waiting for the day when they will reach a new reader's hands, a new spirit.

—Carlos Ruiz Zafón

The venerable dead are waiting in my library to entertain me and relieve me from the nonsense of surviving mortals.

—Samuel Davies

But to her, libraries were like hotels: secret villages inhabited by passing strangers from a thousand different worlds brought together just for a few hours.

—Simon Sebag
Montefiore

I loved the library simply because it was a library. I love libraries. I like reading, but I love libraries. Being surrounded by books makes me feel safe, the way some people need trees or mountains around them to feel secure. Not me—nature’s not what I cling to. I cling to books.

—Emily Wing Smith

Sometimes he spent hours together in the great libraries of Paris, those catacombs of departed authors, rummaging among their hoards of dusty and obsolete works in quest of food for his unhealthy appetite. He was, in a manner, a literary ghoul, feeding in the charnel-house of decayed literature.

—Washington Irving

Leaving behind the babble of the plaza, I enter the Library. I feel, almost physically, the gravitation of the books, the enveloping serenity of order, time magically dessicated and preserved.

—Jorge Luis Borges

Library books were, I suddenly realized, promiscuous, ready to lie down in the arms of anyone who asked. Not like bookstore books, which married their purchasers, or were brokered for marriages to others.

—Elizabeth McCracken

Rows and rows of books lined the shelves and I let my eyes linger on the sturdy spines, thinking how human books were, so full of ideas and images, worlds imagined, worlds perceived; full of fingerprints and sudden laughter and the sighs of readers, too. It was humbling to consider all these authors, struggling with this word or that phrase, recording their thoughts for people they’d never meet.

—Kim Edwards

The library made me feel safe, as if every question had an answer and there was nothing to be afraid of, as long as I could sort through another volume.

—Dee Williams

I set one foot in a library and I feel my own internal volume lower. A library is a physical equivalent of a sigh. It’s the silence, sure, but it’s also the certainty of all those books, the way they stand side by side with their still, calm conviction. It’s the reassurance of knowledge in the face of confusion.

—Deb Caletti

Libraries
Are
Necessary
Gardens,
Unsurpassed
At
Growing
Excitement.

—J. Patrick Lewis

As soon as I got into the library I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. I got a whiff of the leather on all the old books, a smell that got real strong if you picked one of them up and stuck your nose real close to it when you turned the pages. Then there was the the smell of the cloth that covered the brand-new books, books that made a splitting sound when you opened them. Then I could sniff the the paper, that soft, powdery, drowsy smell that comes off the page in little puffs when you're reading something or looking at some pictures, kind of hypnotizing smell.

I think it's the smell that makes so many folks fall asleep in the library. You'll see someone turn a page and you can imagine a puff of page powder coming up real slow and easy until it starts piling on a person's eyelashes, weighing their eyes down so much they stay down a little longer after each blink and finally making them so heavy that they just don't come back up at all. Then their mouths open and their heads start bouncing up and down like they're bobbing in a big tub of of water for apples and before you know it... they're out cold and their face thunks smack-dab on the book.

That's the part that makes librarians the maddest. They get real upset if folks start drooling in the books.

—Christopher Paul
Curtis

I had to return to the library. I could already smell the books' muskiness and in my mind turned over pages with as many differing textures as a forest; pages that were brittle and fragile which had to be coaxed to turn; pages that were soft and scented, presenting their words as if the were a gift in the palm of a hand, and pages that fell open heavily of their own accord as if weighted by the importance of their message. But more than anything else I was compelled by their mystery, by all the stories they had yet to tell me.

—Christine Aziz

Rooms, corridors, bookcases, shelves, filing cards, and computerized catalogues assume that the subjects on which our thoughts dwell are actual entities, and through this assumption a certain book may be lent a particular tone and value. Filed under Fiction, Jonathon Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* is a humorous novel of adventure; under Sociology, a satirical study of England in the eighteenth century; under Children's Literature, an entertaining fable about dwarfs and giants and talking horses; under Fantasy, a precursor of science fiction; under Travel, an imaginary voyage; under Classics, a part of the Western literary canon. Categories are exclusive; reading is not--or should not be. Whatever classifications have been chosen, every library tyrannizes the act of reading, and forces the reader—the curious reader, the alert reader--to rescue the book from the category to which it has been condemned.

—Alberto Manguel

I feel that the care of libraries and the use of books, and the knowledge of books, is a tremendously vital thing, and that we who deal with books and who love books have a great opportunity to bring about something in this country which is more vital here than anywhere else, because we have the chance to make a democracy that will be a real democracy.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

It was a pity that most people didn't actually go to libraries anymore, not when they could sit in the comfort of their own quarters and access files electronically. Want to read the new hot interstellar caper novel, or the latest issue of *Beings* holozine? Input the name, touch a control, and zip—it's in your datapad. . . .

There were, of course, old-fashioned beings who would still actually trundle down to where the files were. On some worlds the most ancient libraries kept books—actual bound volumes of printed matter—lined up neatly on shelves, and readers would walk the aisles, take a volume down, sniff the musty-dusty odor of it, and then carry it to a table to leisurely peruse.

There weren't many of those readers left, and they were growing rarer all the time . . . But there were some who still knew how to actually turn a page—and for those who were willing to do so, the rewards could be great indeed.

—Michael Reaves and
Steve Perry

You can learn from a glance at anyone's library, not what they are, but what they wish to be.

—Alan Bradley

Learn to love good books. There are treasures in books that all the money of the world cannot buy, but that the poorest laborer can have for nothing.

--Robert G. Ingersoll

Interlibrary loans are a wonder of the world and a glory of civilization. Libraries really are wonderful. They're better than bookshops, even. I mean bookshops make a profit on selling you books, but libraries just sit there lending you books quietly out of the goodness of their hearts.

—Jo Walton

This is overdue. Quite a bit, I'm afraid. I apologize. We moved to Topeka when I was very small, and Mother accidentally packed it up with the linens. I have traveled a long way to return it, and I know the fine must be large, but I have no money. As it is a book of fairy tales, I thought payment of a first-born child would be acceptable. I always loved the library. I'm sure she'll be happy there.

—Ellen Klages

What thrills have been mine as I stood perched on one leg like a stork, half way up a ladder, utterly oblivious of time and space, drinking in equal parts Jules Verne and the dust of the Central Library...!

—Robert Haven
Schauffler

In the gradual growth of every student's library, he may or may not continue to admit literary friends and advisers; but he will be sure, sooner or later, to send for a man with a tool-chest. Sooner or later, every nook and corner will be filled with books, every window will be more or less darkened, and added shelves must be devised. He may find it hard to achieve just the arrangement he wants, but he will find it hardest of all to meet squarely that inevitable inquiry of the puzzled carpenter, as he looks about him, 'Have you really read all these books?'

Yet if you asked him in turn, 'Have you actually used every tool in your tool-chest?' you would very likely be told, 'Not one half as yet, at least this season; I have the others by me, to use as I need them.' Now if this reply can be fairly made in a simple, well-defined, distinctly limited occupation like that of a joiner, how much more inevitable it is in a pursuit which covers the whole range of thought and all the facts in the universe. The library is the author's tool-chest. He must at least learn, as he grows older, to take what he wants and to leave the rest.

—Thomas Wentworth
Higginson

Don't join the book burners. Don't think you're going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they never existed. Don't be afraid to go in your library and read every book.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

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

--Holbrook Jackson

I may seem sweet and nice but if you borrow my book and forget to return it, I will break a level of crazy that will make your nightmare seem like a happy place.

—*someecards*

The reflections and histories of men and women throughout the world are contained in books.... America's greatness is not only recorded in books, but it is also dependent upon each and every citizen being able to utilize public libraries.

—Terence Cooke

You must live feverishly in a library. Colleges are not going to do any good unless you are raised and live in a library every day of your life.

—Ray Bradbury

In a good bookroom you feel in some mysterious way that you are absorbing the wisdom contained in all the books through your skin, without even opening them.

—Mark Twain

She closed the book and put her cheek against it. There was still an odor of a library on it, of dust, leather, binding glue, and old paper, one book carrying the smell of hundreds.

—Shannon Hale

I smiled at the stacks, inhaling again. Hundreds of thousands of pages that had never been turned, waiting for me. The shelves were a warm, blond wood, piled with spines of every color. Staff picks were arranged on tables, glossy covers reflecting the light back at me. Behind the little cubby where the cashier sat, ignoring us, stairs covered with rich burgundy carpet led up to the worlds unknown. I could just live here.

—Maggie Stiefvater

A library bears similar qualities to a hospital. Librarians are like doctors, books the prescriptions.

—Trudy Wallis

Madam Pince, our librarian, tells me that it is 'pawed about, dribbled on, and generally maltreated' nearly everyday—a high compliment for any book.

—J. K. Rowling

Television and film are our libraries now. Our history books.

—David Strathairn

Each spine with its shelf-mark code in familiar typewriter font, each date stamp a footprint of readers gone before and each shelf with its alphabetical ordering—these things align to provide the orderliness so cherished in a library. There is safety and structure amongst the stacks. Everything has a place, and you have found yours.

—Daniel Gray

The only advice, indeed, that one person can give another about reading is to take no advice, to follow your own instincts, to use your own reason, to come to your own conclusions. If this is agreed between us, then I feel at liberty to put forward a few ideas and suggestions because you will not allow them to fetter that independence which is the most important quality that a reader can possess. After all, what laws can be laid down about books? The battle of Waterloo was certainly fought on a certain day; but is Hamlet a better play than Lear? Nobody can say. Each must decide that question for himself. To admit authorities, however heavily furred and gowned, into our libraries and let them tell us how to read, what to read, what value to place upon what we read, is to destroy the spirit of freedom which is the breath of those sanctuaries. Everywhere else we may be bound by laws and conventions—there we have none.

—Virginia Woolf

The wonderful thing about libraries and bookstores—even the television or the radio—is that no one is forcing you to read anything, or to go to any particular movie, or to watch something on television or listen to something on the radio. You have free choice.

--Judith Krug

It is clear that censorship is not a cut and dried issue. There is a danger in thinking it is, for then the debate falters and understanding ends. We must realize that censorship will be with us always. It is a weapon to protect the order of society and the peace of communities. However, it is a two-edged sword and must be handled with care and caution. Of all professions librarianship must ensure that both sides of the debate remain alive. If the censorship side predominates, truth and moral progress suffer; if the anti-censorship side predominates, the drift to selfishness and anarchy presents a clear danger to the cohesion and order of the social system, the destruction of which brings us to barbarism, tyranny, and the loss of all freedom.

—S. D. Neill

I couldn't live a week without a private library—indeed, I'd part with all my furniture and squat and sleep on the floor before I'd let go of the 1500 or so books I possess.

—H. P. Lovecraft

When a librarian really believes that a book is harmful, that its content is contrary to the welfare of the community, or that it is destructive of good taste, even if those are his opinions only, he has not only the right, but also the obligation to do what he properly can to keep that book out of the hands of those whom he thinks might be injured by it.

—Jesse Shera

Information overload is not the issue. If it were, you'd walk into the library and die. As soon as you connected to the Web, you'd just explode. In fact, the most information rich place in the world is the most relaxing: it's called nature. It has more varied horizons, more detail, more input of all sorts. As a matter of fact, if you want to go crazy, get rid of all your information: it's called sensory deprivation. The thing about nature is, it's information rich, but the meaningful things in nature are relatively few—berries, bears and snakes, thunderstorms, maybe poison oak.

--David Allen

The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library

—Albert Einstein

Nothing sickens me more than the closed door of a library.

—Barbara Tuchman

If your library does not have works of ancient Greek authors, then you live in a house without light.

—George Bernard Shaw

Eratosthenes, the mapmaker who was the first man to accurately measure the size of the Earth, was a librarian.

—Ken Jennings

Research, as the college student will come to know it, is relatively thorough investigation, primarily in libraries, of a properly limited topic, and presentation of the results of this investigation in a carefully organized and documented paper of some length.

--Cecil B. Williams and
Alan H. Stevenson

Many scholars of the past burrowed into library stacks, read the printed literature on a topic, consulted with a mentor, and emerged with their research. Today, the smartest person in the room is the room. While there are many instances of scholarly collaboration throughout history, none rise to the level of what's possible today, when dozens or scores or hundreds of people from around the world can connect simultaneously and in real time. NYU professor Clay Sirkky says that most people 'overestimate the value of access to information and underestimate the value of access to each other.'

—Angela Maiers

The library in summer is the most wonderful thing because there you get books on any subject and read them each for only as long as they hold your interest, abandoning any that don't, halfway or a quarter of the way through if you like, and store up all that knowledge in the happy corners of your mind for your own self and not to show off how much you know or spit it back at your teacher on a test paper.

— Polly Horvath

All the books we own, both read and unread, are the fullest expression of self we have at our disposal. ... But with each passing year, and with each whimsical purchase, our libraries become more and more able to articulate who we are, whether we read the books or not.

—Nick Hornby

Judith stood before her little library in the dark November dawn, with a candle in her hand, scanning the familiar titles with weary eyes.... these last few days she had taken to waking at dawn, to lying for hours wide-eyed in her little white bed, while the slow day grew. But to-day it was intolerable, she could bear it no longer.... She would try a book; not a very hopeful remedy in her own opinion, but one which [those] who were troubled by sleeplessness, regarded, she knew, as the best thing under the circumstances.

—Amy Levy

Dalton's records, carefully preserved for a century, were destroyed during the World War II bombing of Manchester. It is not only the living who are killed in war.

—Isaac Asimov

I saw first-hand the transformative power libraries had, the connections and comfort they offered, and the trusted relationships that were nurtured with offering authoritative, timely and relevant information. Now more than ever, all of these points are important in our public libraries.

—Annie Miskewitch

I felt a mix of pride and amazement walking onto Howard's campus that day. Howard alumni, of which I am one, are an obnoxious fraternity, known for yelling the school chant across city blocks, sneering at other historically black colleges and universities, and condescending to black graduates of predominantly white institutions. I like to think I am more reserved, but I felt an immense satisfaction in being in the library where I had once found my history.

—Ta-Nehisi Coates

'Come with me,' Mom says.
To the library.
Books and summertime
go together.

--Lisa Schroeder

Reading books is like wearing winter clothes; it covers and warms up the body of your naked soul.

--Munia Khan

One of the greatest gifts my brother and I received from my mother was her love of literature and language. With their boundless energy, libraries open the door to these worlds and so many others. I urge young and old alike to embrace all that libraries have to offer.

—Caroline Kennedy

With a library you are free, not confined by temporary political climates. It is the most democratic of institutions because no one—but no one at all—can tell you what to read and when and how.

—Doris Lessing

Happiness is an island of solitude with books. Not material things—but wisdom.

--Anna May Wong

'Twas a cold Yuletide evening, and I wandered the stacks, shelving multiple titles that the patrons brought back. We toiled overtime at our library here, 'cause the powers that be cut our staffing this year.

--David Davis

Sitting in the brightly lit library, surrounded by books, in total silence, that was my personal zenith.

--Irvine Welsh

They spent pork-barrel money like a tidal-wave sea, but no funds trickled down far enough to reach me. Our books numbered few and were falling apart, and I sat mending pages with a crestfallen heart.

--David Davis

Kids who are trying to 'make it' in a broken home need to read books about other kids who face similar situations. They need to know that they are not alone in their experiences—that others feel pain and anger, loneliness and frustration....They can learn the possible alternatives that exist by seeing what others (even fictional 'others') do. In this way they may realize that they do have lives of their own independent of their parents.

—Beverly Haley

When an old man dies, a library burns down.

--African Proverb

My pen is my harp and my lyre; my library is my garden and my orchard.

--Judah Halevi

In a library, you can find small miracles and truth, and you might find something that will make you laugh so hard that you will get shushed, in the friendliest way. I have found sanctuary in libraries my whole life, and there is sanctuary there now, from the war, from the storms of our families and our own minds. Libraries are like mountains or meadows or creeks: sacred space. So this afternoon, I'll walk to the library.

--Anne Lamott

Such fascinating things, libraries. She closes her eyes. She could walk inside and step into a murder, a love story, a complete account of somebody else's life, or mutiny on the high seas. Such potential; such adventure—there's a shimmer of malfeasance in trying other ways of being.

--Ashley Hay

Hundreds of thousands of people live in my library. Some are real, others are fictional. The real ones are the so-called imaginary characters in works of literature, the fictional ones are their authors. We know everything about the former, or at least as much as we are meant to know, everything that is written about a given character in a novel, a story or a poem in which she or he figures...The rest doesn't matter. Nothing is hidden from us. For us, a novel's characters are real.

--Jacques Bonnet

If I have nothing but a room full of books, it is enough for me to survive life.

--Lailah Gifty Akita

I can hear the library humming in the night,
a choir of authors murmuring inside their books
along the unlit, alphabetical shelves,
Giovanni Pontano next to Pope, Dumas next to his son,
each one stitched into his own private coat,
together forming a low, gigantic chord of language.

--Billy Collins

All the books in the library are contemporary. Great poems are like granaries: they are always ready to enlarge their store.

--William H. Gass

When a child is born, I once explained to the kids, some dads lay down bottles of wine for them that will mature when they grow up into ungrateful adults. Instead, what you're going to get from me, as each of you turns sixteen, is a library of the one hundred books that gave me the most pleasure when I was a know-nothing adolescent.

--Mordecai Richler

When I was little, my ambition was to grow up to be a book. Not a writer. People can be killed like ants. Writers are not hard to kill either. But not books: however systematically you try to destroy them, there is always a chance that a copy will survive and continue to enjoy a shelf-life in some corner on an out-of-the-way library somewhere in Reykjavik, Valladolid or Vancouver.

--Amos Oz

The library—whether it be in a school or public setting—has the distinct advantages of having an adult ready to collaborate in connecting literature and readers plus an accessible collection of titles that appeal to varying levels of interest, enthusiasm, and skill.

—Donna Bessant

In Berlin, I worked from home, were the only other women sat sedately on my bookshelves. They were good company, it has to be said, but a little quiet.

—Luisa Weiss

If you are a teacher, administrator, or parent, you should make a conscious decision to choose to read the literature of the young people with whom you work or live. Reading should be viewed as one of your 'professional responsibilities' because it creates the base for making connections to the lives of your students and to your curriculum.

—Donna Bessant

Until then I had thought each book spoke of the things, human or divine, that lie outside books. Now I realized that not infrequently books speak of books: it is as if they spoke among themselves. In the light of this reflection, the library seemed all the more disturbing to me. It was then the place of a long, centuries-old murmuring, an imperceptible dialogue between one parchment and another, a living thing, a receptacle of powers not to be ruled by a human mind, a treasure of secrets emanated by many minds, surviving the death of those who had produced them or had been their conveyors.

—Umberto Eco

Books, books, books!
I had found the secret of a garret room
Piled high with cases in my father's name;
Piled high, packed large,—where, creeping in and out
Among the giant fossils of my past,
Like some small nimble mouse between the ribs
Of a mastodon, I nibbled here and there
At this or that box, pulling through the gap,
In heats of terror, haste, victorious joy,
The first book first. And how I felt it beat
Under my pillow, in the morning's dark,
An hour before the sun would let me read!
My books!

—Elizabeth Barrett
Browning

Books are the preservation of all that has been and all that is; they are the prediction of all that will come. They are the foundation of our culture, a record of our heritage.

—Jeanneine P. Jones

All that man has done, thought, gained or been—it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books.

--Thomas Carlyle

It is a melancholy fact that in spite of the millions of dollars expended upon our schools, grammar and high, upon our colleges and our public libraries, a genuine love of literature is imparted to only a very small portion of our population.

--Sam Walter Foss

Through the cloudy trees I could see the protrusion of the new tower. It was going to be a beautiful new tower and it was going to cost a great deal of money. Some thought of buying new books for the library instead of putting up a tower, but no one would see the books. People would be able to see the tower five miles off when the leaves were off the trees.

—John Cheever

Walking into a school library can be like walking into Willy Wonka's factory—just about anything could be going on inside those doors and it's often amazing and sweet....The explosion of graphic novels and comics written specifically for your readers, the development of ebooks and audiobooks, and the proliferation of fan fiction and other online sharing of writing has expanded our definition of reading. This means a librarian's collection lives outside the library's walls as well as within, and librarians must keep up with and promote a diverse and wide-range of materials.

—Michelle Gattley

Although we don't tend to think of libraries as media technologies, they are. The public library is, in fact, one of the most important and influential informational media ever created—and one that proliferated only after the arrival of silent reading and movable-type printing. A community's attitudes and preferences toward information take concrete shape in its library's design and services. [...] The library provides, as well, a powerful symbol of our new media landscape: at the center stands the screen of the Internet-connected computers; the printed word has been pushed to the margins.

--Nicholas Carr

In the Sinai Desert, in Egypt, a monastery called St. Catherine's hosts the world's oldest continually operating library, used by monks since the fourth century. In addition to printed books, the library contains more than 3,000 manuscripts, accumulated over the centuries and remarkably well preserved by the dry and stable climate. The monks at St. Catherine's were particularly fond of reusing older parchment for their religious texts. Today the library holds at least 160 palimpsests—likely the largest collection in the world.

—Jo Marchant

Doing research on the Web is like using a library assembled piecemeal by pack rats and vandalized nightly.

--Roger Ebert

I always tell people that I became a writer not because I went to school but because my mother took me to the library. I wanted to become a writer so I could see my name in the card catalog.

—Sandra Cisneros

Rich people have small TVs, small cars, but big libraries.

--Manoj Arora

Libraries might seem fated to become the civic counterparts of yesterday's Borders or Barnes & Noble, but in nearly every city we visited they were newly prominent. By most measures of use—classes and programs offered, daily attendance, visits to the website, everything except calls to reference librarians for the research people can now do on Google—libraries are becoming more rather than less popular and central to civic life. The soft measures of impact are powerful: Walk into a random public library, and you'll see waiting lines for computers, librarians helping with the job searches or other practical concerns, desk space for young entrepreneurs. According to a recent Pew survey, Millennials use libraries more than their Gen X or Boomer elders do.

—James Fallows

THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S ROLE IN PROMOTING READING

Strategies to promote reading within the building, attract students to the library, and help students appreciate the library through the initiative of the library staff:

- Book of the day—Each day school announcements will 'advertise' a book. The announcement reader can summarize the description on the book jacket to interest students in the book. The library staff will display the book in the library for a day and then check it out.
- Extended library hours —8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with students using the library before school with a pass.
- Racks of paperback books—Create high interest, attractive, and easy-access book displays for students.
- Spontaneous rewarding of students for carrying a leisure-reading book with them during the school day. The principal could ask to see students' library books at any time and reward them with certificates or other incentives.
- Sponsor reading competitions such as Battle of the Books among homerooms or between schools.

- ❑ Conduct research scavenger hunts.
- ❑ Hold a luncheon for select students and give them the first opportunity to preview new books.
- ❑ Encourage teachers to hold events and activities in the library so that students come to view the library as an interesting and popular school destination.
- ❑ Sponsor a paperback book exchange.
- ❑ Create bibliographies for different interests and also for various problems students face.
- ❑ Promote the library and library activities in the school newspaper and parent newsletter.
- ❑ Award certificates or other incentives after a student reads and completes a librarian-created survey/questionnaire.
- ❑ Prepare a brochure or other handout for students and parents explaining library services and policies.
- ❑ Deliver book talks or talks on topics that students can later explore in specific books.
- ❑ Create a bulletin board or display case where students can post their reviews of favorite books they have read. Encourage them, also, to post their reviews on such websites as Amazon.com.

—Dan L. Miller

Now that summer vacation is coming, what do we do with our time? Summer is traditionally the time for young people to play, and play should certainly be a part of any vacation. But now that you as young people are becoming more mature and are being held accountable for increasingly more responsibilities, you should also be preparing yourself for the coming school year. If there is a summer job or odd jobs you can get to earn extra money, that will certainly be a productive way to spend the summer. In addition, you also should be continuing your academics throughout the summer. Make use of the library and the bookmobile to read as many novels as you can during the summer. Reading is a pleasurable way to pass the summer and at the same time you will be dramatically increasing your reading skills. Chose a few non-fiction books also that deal with areas in which you have an interest—space, science, exploring, computers, animals, biographies, for instance. It would also be helpful to buy or lend from a library a book on study skills. Something with a title like ‘How to do Better in School’ or ‘How to Improve Your Study Habits’ would be most beneficial.

Whatever you do this summer, try to help yourself get a head start on the next school year. Read up while you rest up!

—Dan L. Miller

When you stand inside somebody's library, you get a powerful sense of who they are, and not just who they are now but who they've been. . . . It's a wonderful thing to have in a house. It's something I worry is endangered by the rise of the e-book. When you turn off an e-book, there's no map. All that's left behind is a chunk of gray plastic.

--Leah Price

If your department budget or personal budget does not allow purchase of new books, find inexpensive way to stock books. Haunt garage sales, annual second-hand book and library sales, the Goodwill and Salvation Army book sections. Be bold enough to advertise in the school paper or local paper for unloved books. Approach local merchants for their help in a worthy book project, or ask the PTA to solicit stray books (no questions asked) from homes of students. Talk the librarian into giving you attractive dust jackets for the bulletin board or for your desk or the blackboard. Announce television, movie, or video events that are taken from books or lead into reading. Use display space for students' responses to what they have read: drawings, paintings, collages, or personal writing in response to reading.

—Jane Christensen

Change library procedure. When students visit the library, someone always complains, 'There aren't any good books here.' By working with the librarian, try the next week to have blindfolds ready for everyone in class. One by one they are led to a section of the library where they must pick a book—any book from the shelf. That is his or her special book to read. After all, if there is 'nothing down there,' just any old book will do.

—Jane Christensen

Start a family library so your child's favorite books can be enjoyed again and again. Of course, few families can afford to buy every book their children like. But with a little planning, you can have a library that will spark your child's interest in reading. Here's how:

- Buy paperback books. To make them last, cover them with clear contact paper.
- Encourage your kids to swap books with friends. Host a neighborhood 'read-in,' with everyone bringing favorite books to your house. Afterwards, they can exchange or borrow books.
- Look for a used book store. You can often buy books for a very reasonable price. Your library may also hold a used book sale.
- Give books for gifts. Establish a family tradition of giving books for holidays. If you're not sure which book to choose, give a gift certificate to a bookstore.

—*The Parent Institute*

Libraries, in my view, may indeed be built along straight lines, but they should all allow for the quiriness of their users in going about their searches. The mark of genius in their arrangements of materials is shown when order is happily combined with idiosyncrasy.... I think of Francie Nolan, the heroine of Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, conscientiously reading her way through the collection at her neighborhood public library, working alphabetically through the shelves, but treating herself occasionally by asking the librarian for a good book for a girl her age.

—Peggy Sullivan

Medical research in the twentieth century mostly takes place in the lab; in the Renaissance, though, researchers went first and foremost to the library to see what the ancients had said.

—Peter Lewis Allen

23 THINGS THAT ANNOY THE *** OUT OF LIBRARIANS**

1. When people think that we actually shush people.
2. Or they tell their kid 'you need to be quiet or the librarian will tell you off'.
3. When you get a request for a book that hasn't even been released yet.
4. When a book is returned and it's absolutely ruined.
5. Or when someone has clearly been eating their dinner while reading a book.
6. When you try to spend time doing a witty display...but people don't appreciate it.
7. When someone forgets their library card—you're going to a library how can you forget it?
8. When you're helping a kid with their homework but you don't understand it yourself.
9. When you've shown a customer how to use the computer 2984656 times that day and then they ask how to turn it on again.
10. When someone returns a DVD but forgets to put the DVD back in the box.
11. When the Summer Reading Challenge starts and you've got to get all clued up with the random theme.
12. And start planning mazes, games, and events around things kids love that you've never heard of.
13. When a kid is clearly lying to you that they've read their book for the Summer Reading Challenge.
14. So you have to give them a little quiz and you realise they've basically only read the blurb.
15. When someone complains that one of the puzzles doesn't have the right pieces.
16. When you're eavesdropping on the book club's discussion and just as you're getting into it a customer has the audacity to ask for help.

17. When you're shelving and realise that the person that did it before you has clearly never heard of the alphabet.
18. Or the Dewey decimal system.
19. But tbf you also often forget the alphabet and have to sing it under your breath.
20. When librarians are portrayed as old and dowdy in films and TV.
21. Or ridiculously sexy in porn.
22. When people ask you what you like to read but you have too many favourites and can't choose just one.
23. And finally, when people say 'oh no one goes to a library any more' and yet you're busy serving people in said library all day.

Libraries are the greatest places ever!

—Cassie Smyth

If I were founding a university I would begin with a smoking room; next a dormitory; and then a decent reading room and a library. After that, if I still had more money that I couldn't use, I would hire a professor and get some text books.

--Stephen Leacock

- Librarians are an essential part of lifelong learning.
- The school librarian and is a teacher.
- Learning begins before schooling.
- Good schools require a good school libraries.
- People in a learning society need libraries throughout their lives.
- Public support of libraries is an investment in people and communities.
- All people in a learning society deserve access to good library service.

Of approximately 140,000 librarians in 44,000 libraries:

- 48% are in School libraries
- 23% in public libraries
- 15% in academic libraries
- 14% in special libraries

Your librarian is a 20th century Renaissance person: a manager...system designer...resource allocator...subject expert...budget analyst...collection builder...proposal writer...data base searcher...fund raiser... public relations expert... information broker... and much more.

—KASL News

The fiction stacks at the Homewood Library, their volumes alphabetized by author, baffled me. How can I learn to choose a novel? That I could not easily reach the top two shelves helped limit my choices a little. Still, on the lower shelves I saw too many books: Mary Johnson, *Sweet Rocket*; Samuel Johnson, *Rasselas*; James Jones, *From Here to Eternity*. I checked out the last because I had heard of it; it was good. I decided to check out books I had heard of. I had heard of the *Mill on the Floss*. I read it, and it was good. On its binding was printed a figure, a man dancing or running; I had noticed this figure before. Like so many children before and after me, I learned to seek out this logo, the Modern Library colophon.

—Annie Dillard

This was the most private and obscure part of life, this Homewood Library; a vaulted marble edifice in a mostly decent Negro neighborhood, the silent stacks of which I plundered in deep concentration for many years. There seemed then, happily, to be an infinitude of books.

I no more expected anyone else on earth to have read a book I had read than I expected someone else to have twirled the same blade of grass. I would never meet those Homewood people who were borrowing *The Field Book of Ponds and Streams*; the people who read my favorite books were invisible or in hiding, underground. Father occasionally raised his big eyebrows at the title of some volume I was hurrying off with, quite as if he knew what it contained—but I thought he must know of it by hearsay, for none of it seemed to make much difference to him. Books swept me away, one after the other, this way and that; I made endless vows according to their lights, for I believed them.

—Annie Dillard

Come on in.

Pull open the wooden door with those giant oversized handles that are smooth and worn down to a light brown finish. Drag your boots over the dirty green carpeted floor that bubbles up in the corners and splashes tiny dust clouds into shimmery orange sunbeams with every step. Feel the calm and comforting library quiet settle like a blanket over your body and your brain as you shuffle past the counters and make your way inside...

Massive atlases, worn-out hardcovers, and crinkly plastiwrapped kid's books fill rusty metal bookshelves and cover that overly-lacquered table at the front—dented from that time someone smacked it with their wheelchair in 1988. Yellowed pages with pencil lines, cracked bindings and broken spines, cover every corner of the place...

Feel our shared histories softly swirl together through old books and stamped checkout cards as you smile and soak up all the little library smells of AWESOME!

—Neil Pasricha

A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them.

--Lemony Snicket

Readers often say that they love the scent of old books. 'A combination of grassy notes with a tang of acids and a hint of vanilla over an underlying mustiness' is how an international team of chemists describes the particular smell of decaying tomes.

—*openingthebook.com*

The library was a little old shabby place. Francie thought it was beautiful. The feeling she had about it was as good as the feeling she had about church. She pushed open the door and went in. She liked the combined smell of worn leather bindings, library past and freshly inked stamping pads better than she liked the smell of burning incense at high mass.

—Betty Smith

It's helpful to think about what makes a library useful. The ideal library is one where a reader can not only locate any item she is searching for, but also where each new item that enters the collection has an uncontroversial position among the shelves. The location also tells you something about the book. Nestled in a cascade of hierarchical, branching categories, the placement tells you what kind of book you're looking at, what its fellows are. Thus, every library inevitably has an ideology; its organizational logic tells you what kinds of things hang together, what kinds of things do not. A library's system not only demonstrates principles of similarity and difference, it defines them.

—Nadia Berenstein

Libraries raised me.

--Ray Bradbury

Few pleasures, for the true reader, rival the pleasure of browsing unhurriedly among books: old books, new books, library books, other people's books, one's own books—it does not matter whose or where. Simply to be among books, glancing at one here, reading a page from one over there, enjoying them all as objects to be touched, looked at, even smelt, is a deep satisfaction. And often, very often, while browsing haphazardly, looking for nothing in particular, you pick up a volume that suddenly excites you, and you know that this one of all the others you must read. Those are great moments—and the books we come across like that are often the most memorable.

—Aidan Chambers

If your library is not ‘unsafe,’ it probably isn’t doing its job.

--John Berry

Congratulations on the new library, because it isn’t just a library. It is a space ship that will take you to the farthest reaches of the Universe, a time machine that will take you to the far past and the far future, a teacher that knows more than any human being, a friend that will amuse you and console you—and most of all, a gateway, to a better and happier and more useful life.

--Isaac Asimov

My earliest memories of the library were from my bedroom window. My parents and I lived in a beautiful two story, white clapboard house in Rochester, New York when I was growing up. The house was located two blocks from a branch of the Rochester Public Library on the corner of Augustine Street and Dewey Avenue. As early as I can remember, Mom took me and my siblings to the library where we checked out books and enjoyed reading them. I was so excited when I got old enough to go to the library by myself and pick out books. By the time I was 12 or 13, I couldn’t wait for school to end on Friday because it meant that I after I got home from school, I could go to the library. I would pick out as many books as I could carry. For the next three days after my chores were done, Mom knew just where to find me—sitting on the window seat in my room reading my library books. I have visited libraries in many of the cities and towns I have traveled through, however I will always remember the window seat in my room and my view of the Dewey Avenue library.

— Liz Erickson

Within library buildings there are numerous components, including the collections, computer workstations, reference services, the patrons and library staff, individual and group study areas, and exhibits. The library is home to a potentially infinite number of activities. Unique and stimulating discoveries are made by scholars browsing the stacks or searching in journal databases. Others experience themselves as part of a community in libraries. One’s community may be that of the university, city, or small town. All of these elements considered together constitute the library as place, yet there is something mysterious about libraries that is almost beyond explanation.

—Stacy Shotsberger
Russo

For this quiet, unprepossessing, passive man who has no garden in front of his subsidised flat, books are like flowers. He loves to line them up on the shelf in multicoloured rows: he watches over each of them with an old-fashioned gardener’s delight, holds them like fragile objects in his thin, bloodless hands.

—Stefan Zweig

I had an excellent local library growing up. I had the kind of parents who could be persuaded to drop me off in the library on their way to work in summer holidays, and the kind of librarians who did not mind a small, unaccompanied boy heading back into the children's library every morning and working his way through the card catalogue, looking for books with ghosts or magic or rockets in them, looking for vampires or detectives or witches or wonders. And when I had finished reading the children's library I began on the adult books.

They were good librarians. They liked books and they liked the books being read. They taught me how to order books from other libraries on inter-library loans. They had no snobbery about anything I read. They just seemed to like that there was this wide-eyed little boy who loved to read, and would talk to me about the books I was reading, they would find me other books in a series, they would help. They treated me as another reader—nothing less or more—which meant they treated me with respect. I was not used to being treated with respect as an eight-year-old.

—Neil Gaiman

My books hold between their covers every story I've ever known and still remember, or have now forgotten, or may one day read; they fill the space around me with ancient and new voices.

--Alberto Manguel

I care not how humble your bookshelf may be, or how lonely the room which it adorns. Close the door of that room behind you, shut off with it all the cares of the outer world, plunge back into the soothing company of the great dead, and then you are through the magic portal into that fair land whither worry and vexation can follow you no more. You have left all that is vulgar and all that is sordid behind you. There stand your noble, silent comrades, waiting in their ranks. Pass your eye down their files. Choose your man. And then you have but to hold up your hand to him and away you go together into dreamland.

—Arthur Conan Doyle

Libraries are a magical place. If it weren't for my local library growing up, I wouldn't be the reader or writer I am today. My family was too poor to afford books, so the library was all we had.

—Evette Williams

I ransack public libraries, and find them full of sunk treasure.

--Virginia Woolf

A library could show you everything if you knew where to look.

--Pat Conroy

Nothing like knowing you can go in and spend as much time as you want wandering and reading—without needing to spend any money. Nothing like the smell of the stacks, or the crinkling of the dust jackets as you pile one book on top of another. Nothing like your childhood summer reading program—and, for that matter, nothing like the librarians who made it so much fun

—Arianna Rebolini

When I was a child, it was a matter of pride that I could plow through a Nancy Drew story in one afternoon, and begin another in the evening. . . . I was probably trying to impress the librarians who kept me supplied with books.

--Kathleen Norris

As adults we choose our own reading material. Depending on our moods and needs we might read the newspaper, a blockbuster novel, an academic article, a women's magazine, a comic, a children's book, or the latest book that just about everyone is reading. No one chastises us for our choice. No one says, 'That's too short for you to read.' No one says, 'That's too easy for you, put it back.' No one says 'You couldn't read that if you tried—it's much too difficult.'

Yet if we take a peek into classrooms, libraries, and bookshops we will notice that children's choices are often mocked, censured, and denied as valid by idiotic, interfering teachers, librarians, and parents. Choice is a personal matter that changes with experience, changes with mood, and changes with need. We should let it be.

--Mem Fox

I consume libraries....I do things like get in a taxi and say, 'The library, and step on it.'

--David Foster Wallace

I was a hugely unchaperoned reader, and I would wander into my local public library and there sat the world, waiting for me to look at it, to find out about it, to discover who I might be inside it.

--Patrick Ness

Everything about libraries attracts me. The smell of dust, the wood, the leather, the curiosity to open every book. For me, libraries are the most beautiful environments in the world,. In addition to objective beauty, you also find a continuation and conservation of knowledge. I hope people walk away with a sense of curiosity and surprise that these cathedrals of knowledge can incite.

—Massimo Listri

The library is the epitome of organization with each of the thousands of tomes standing tall like sentinels guarding their dewey decimal-assigned slot on the shelves.

—Dan L. Miller

The thought of these vast stacks of books would drive him mad: the more he read, the less he seemed to know—the greater the number of the books he read, the greater the immense uncountable number of those which he could never read would seem to be.... The thought that other books were waiting for him tore at his heart forever.

--Thomas Wolfe

Another way to destroy a child's love or reading, of course, is to make sure there are no books of any kind around. And to give them nowhere to read those books. I was lucky. I had an excellent local library growing up. I had the kind of parents who could be persuaded to drop me off in the library on their way to work in summer holidays, and the kind of librarians who did not mind a small, unaccompanied boy heading back into the children's library every morning and working his way through the card catalogue, looking for books with ghosts or magic or rockets in them, looking for vampires or detectives or witches or wonders. And when I had finished reading the children's library I began on the adult books.

—Neil Gaiman

Libraries are about freedom. Freedom to read, freedom of ideas, freedom of communication. They are about education (which is not a process that finishes the day we leave school or university), about entertainment, about making safe spaces, and about access to information.

I worry that here in the 21st century people misunderstand what libraries are and the purpose of them. If you perceive a library as a shelf of books, it may seem antiquated or outdated in a world in which most, but not all, books in print exist digitally. But that is to miss the point fundamentally.

I think it has to do with nature of information. Information has value, and the right information has enormous value. For all of human history, we have lived in a time of information scarcity, and having the needed information was always important, and always worth something: when to plant crops, where to find things, maps and histories and stories—they were always good for a meal and company. Information was a valuable thing, and those who had it or could obtain it could charge for that service.

—Neil Gaiman

Libraries are places that people go to for information. Books are only the tip of the information iceberg: they are there, and libraries can provide you freely and legally with books. More children are borrowing books from libraries than ever before—books of all kinds: paper and digital and audio. But libraries are also, for example, places that people, who may not have computers, who may not have internet connections, can go online without paying anything; hugely important when the way you find out about jobs, apply for jobs or apply for benefits is increasingly migrating exclusively online. Librarians can help these people navigate that world.

—Neil Gaiman

We have an obligation to support libraries. To use libraries, to encourage others to use libraries, to protest the closure of libraries. If you do not value libraries then you do not value information or culture or wisdom. You are silencing the voices of the past and you are damaging the future.

—Neil Gaiman

I still have my own research library that I have built up over the years, which includes: two complete sets of encyclopedias, as well as huge collections of folklore, poetry, children's books, nonfiction (especially natural history and American and European history), books on writing, art books, cookbooks, biographies of writers, mysteries, science fiction and fantasy, and 19th through 21st century fiction. I haunt old bookstores and go to library sales, League of Women Voters sales, antique stores, and garage sales....In the matter of owning books for research, be over-prepared.

—Jane Yolen

When you are growing up there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully: the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you. The public library is a great equalizer.

--Keith Richards

The book can produce an addiction as fierce as heroin or nicotine, forcing us to spend much of our lives, like junkies, in book shops and libraries, those literary counterparts to the opium den.

--Phillip Adams

When I tell people I went to library school, the most common reaction is either 'You're joking, right?' or 'They have schools for librarians? Do they teach you how to properly sssh people?'

— Scott Douglas

He says he knows someone isn't from the same race as he when that person looks at his library and asks, 'Have you read all of these?' A true book lover knows that, no, he hasn't read them all. It's about the process, it's about when the right reference comes up, you have the right book to go to; it's about never being without something to occupy your eyes and mind.

--Jamie S. Rich

Almost I feel the pulsebeat of the ages,
Now swift, now slow, beneath my fingertips.
The heartthrobs of the prophets and the sages
Beat through these bindings; and my quick hand slips
Old books from dusty shelves, in eager seeking
For truths the flaming tongues of the ancients tell;
For the words of wisdom that they still are speaking
As clearly as an echoing silver bell.
Here is the melody that lies forever
At the deep heart of living; here we keep
The accurate recorded discs that never
Can be quite silenced, though their makers sleep
The still deep sleep, so long as a seeker finds
The indelible imprint of their moving minds.

—Grace Noll Crowell

In my living room there are two large bookcases, each one eight feet tall, and they have about five hundred books between them. If I step up to a shelf and look at the books one by one, I can remember something about each. As a historian once said, some stare at me reproachfully, grumbling that I have never read them. One may remind me vaguely of a time when I was interested in romantic novels. An old college text will elicit a pang of unhappiness about studying. Each book has its character, and even books I know very well also have this kind of wordless flavor. Now if I step back from the shelf and look quickly across both bookcases I speed up that same process a hundredfold. Impressions wash across my awareness. But each book still looks back in its own way, answering the rude brevity of my gaze, calling faintly to me out of the corner of my eye. At that speed many books remain wrapped in the shadows of my awareness—I know I have looked past them and I know they are there, but I refuse to call them to mind.

—James Elkins

The library ...is no mere cabinet of curiosities; it's a world, complete and uncompleteable, and it is filled with secrets.

—Matthew Battles

You know what I can't stand? I can't stand the words 'reading for pleasure.' All these parents—most of whom haven't read a single book since high school, unless maybe they picked up *THE DA VINCE CODE*—drag their kids in here every summer and say, 'Find something to read for pleasure,' which just means that most of the time the message these kids are getting is that reading is not pleasurable. Do you see how that works? It's like reading is a punishment. I hate that.

—Sue Halpern

A library should fill our leisure with adventure. It is a refuge from the commonplace and the dull, a sanctuary where all the trials, the tribulations, and the boredoms of the outer world are forbidden and where such an evil thing as a tax-collector may be forgotten and, peradventure, forgiven.

—E. Norman Torry

Libraries have always been mysterious, almost mystical places to me. There's something about the sheer vastness of them, the seemingly infinite number of books they protect and keep, that inspires a sense of wonder, making each visit feel like a quest for ancient secrets. Whenever I step into one, I always wander the stacks, choosing books by some invisible pull rather than by the author's name or the catalog. It's not efficient, but I can't help it. It feels more magical this way.

—Peng Shepherd

The library is dangerous—
Don't go in. If you do

You know what will happen.
It's like a pet store or a bakery—

Every single time you'll come out of there
Holding something in your arms.

Those novels with their big eyes.
And those no-nonsense, all muscle

Greyhounds and Dobermans,
All non-fiction and business,

Cuddly when they're young,
But then the first page is turned.

The doughnut scent of it all, knowledge,
The aroma of coffee being made

In all those books, something for everyone,
The deli offerings of civilization itself.

The library is the book of books,
Its concrete and wood and glass covers

Keeping within them the very big,
Very long story of everything.

The library is dangerous, full
Of answers. If you go inside,

You may not come out
The same person who went in.

—Alberto Ríos

The therapeutic effect of reading was not a new concept to the librarians running the VBC (Victory Book Campaign). In the editorial Warren published on the eve of commencing her tenure as director, she discussed how books could soothe pain, diminish boredom or loneliness, and take the mind on a vacation far from where the body was stationed. Whatever a man's need—a temporary escape, a comforting memory of home, balm for a broken spirit, or an infusion of courage—the librarians running the VBC were dedicated to ensuring that each man found a book to meet it.

—Molly Guptill Manning

Built-in shelves line my bedroom, adjacent to my Japanese platform bed, purchased for its capacious rim, the better to hold those books that must be immediately accessible. Yet still they pile on my nightstand, and the grid of shelves continues in floor-to-ceiling formation across the wall, stampeding over the doorway in disorderly fashion, political memoirs mixed in with literary essays, Victorian novels fighting for space with narrative adventure, the Penguin classics never standing together in a gracious row no matter how hard I try to impose order. The books compete for attention, assembling on the shelf above the sofa on the other side of the room, where they descend by the window, staring back at me. As I lie in bed with another book, they lie in wait.

—Pamela Paul

And, the treasure? A library card: key to all the doors in the story world.

—Trudy Wallis

Those who spend the greater part of their time in reading or writing books are, of course, apt to take rather particular notice of accumulations of books when they come across them. They will not pass a stall, a shop, or even a bedroom-shelf without reading some title, and if they find themselves in an unfamiliar library, no host need trouble himself further about their entertainment.

—M. R. James

A library is not just a reference service: it is also a place for the vulnerable. From the elderly gentleman whose only remaining human interaction is with library staff, to the isolated young mother who relishes the support and friendship that grows from a Baby Rhyme Time session, to a slow moving 30-something woman collecting her CDs, libraries are a haven in a world where community services are being ground down to nothing. I've always known libraries are vital, but now I understand that their worth cannot be measured in books alone.

—Angela Clarke

I loved college... I knew exactly why I was there and what I wanted to get out of it. I wished I could take every course in the curriculum and read every book in the library. Sometimes after I finished a particularly good book, I had the urge to get the library card, find out who else had read the book, and track them down to talk about it.

—Jeanette Walls

The shelves were supposed to be loaded with books—but they were, of course, really doors: each book-lid opened as exciting as Alice putting her gold key in the lock. I spent days running in and out of other worlds like a time bandit, or a spy. I was as excited as I've ever been in my life, in that library: scoring new books the minute they came in; ordering books I'd heard of—then waiting, fevered, for them to arrive, like they were the word Christmas.

—Caitlin Moran

Most libraries around the country provide much more than books—they have computers, printers and some even have telescopes and microscopes for patrons to check out. Several lend American Girl dolls so kids can check out the highly coveted and pricey toys for a few weeks at a time.

And starting last month, a New York library branch began experimenting with new offerings: neck ties, bow ties, handbags and briefcases intended for people with limited resources who are heading for job interviews, auditions or any other events for which they need to dress up.

‘They can use it for a school performance, or prom if they want a tie,’ said young adult librarian Michelle Lee, who came up with the idea for the Riverside branch of the New York Public Library. ‘It doesn’t matter what size you are, anybody could use them.’

The concept came to her in 2016 when she was teaching a free class at the library about job seeking and résumé making. She told the high school students in attendance: ‘You want to look professional. You shouldn’t be bringing a backpack to a job interview.’

She was surprised by their reaction.

‘For a lot of them it was eye-opening because they never thought about it,’ Lee said. ‘One of the students said he didn’t have anything like that. The other kids were like, ‘I don’t have nice things.’

—Allison Klein

Quotations, which can be located in hundreds of available collections, 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 of the day.’

—Dan L. Miller

Having fun isn’t hard when you’ve got a library card.

—Marc Brown

Libraries are a force for good. They wear capes. They fight evil. They don’t get upset when you don’t send them a card on their birthdays. (Though they will charge you if you’re late returning a book.) They serve communities. The town without a library is a town without a soul. The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this passport that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy, and ignorance. Libraries are the torch of the world, illuminating the path when it feels too dark to see. We mustn’t allow that torch to be extinguished.

—Libba Bray

There is no problem that a library card can’t solve.

—Eleanor Brown

Ever since we had arrived in the United States, my classmates kept asking me about magic carpets.

‘They don’t exist’ I always said. I was wrong. Magic carpets do exist. But they are called library cards.

—Firoozeh Dumas

Mr. O’Donnell was at the library counter, performing the sort of grim rituals librarians perform with index cards and stumpy pencils and those rubber stamps with columns of rotating numbers. ‘Ms. Auerbach! What will it be today? Camus? Cervantes?’ ‘Actually I’m looking for a book of poetry by Emily Dickinson.’

He paused somberly, toying with the twirled tip of his mustache. No matter how seriously librarians are engaged in their work, they are always glad to be interrupted when the theme is books. It makes no difference to them how simple the search is or how behind on time either of you might be running—they consider all queries scrupulously. They love to have their knowledge tested. They lie in wait, they will not be rushed.

—Hilary Thayer Hamann

But the central branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library was still a place of wonders to Tess, even if the book budget had been slashed and the hours cut. Her parents had made a lot of mistakes, a fact Tess compulsively shared on first dates, but she gave them credit for doing one thing right: Starting when she was eight, they gave her a library card and dropped her off at the downtown Pratt every Saturday while they shopped. Twenty-one years later, Tess still entered through the children’s entrance on the side, pausing to toss a penny in the algae-coated fish pond, then climbing the stairs to the main hall. If she could be married here, she would.

—Laura Lippman

Speaking of libraries: A big open-stack academic or public library is no small pleasure to work in. You’re, say, trying to do a piece on something in Nevada, and you go down to C Floor, deep in the earth, and out to what a miner would call a remote working face. You find 10995.497S just where the card catalog and the online computer thought it would be, but that is only the initial nick. The book you knew about has led you to others you did not know about. To the ceiling the shelves are loaded with books about Nevada. You pull them down, one at a time, and sit on the floor and look them over until you are sitting on a pile five feet high, at which point you are late home for dinner and you get up and walk away. It’s an incomparable boon to research, all that; but it is also a reason why there are almost no large open-stack libraries left in the world.

—John McPhee

I grew up in Brooklyn, New York.. a city neighborhood that included houses, lamp-posts, walls, and bushes. But with an early bedtime in the winter, I could look out my window and see the stars, and the stars were not like anything else in my neighborhood. [At age 5] I didn't know what they were. [At age 9] my mother ... said to me, 'You have a library card now, and you know how to read. Take the streetcar to the library and get a book on stars.' ... I stepped up to the big librarian and asked for a book on stars. ... I sat down and found out the answer, which was something really stunning. I found out that the stars are glowing balls of gas. I also found out that the Sun is a star but really close and that the stars are all suns except really far away I didn't know any physics or mathematics at that time, but I could imagine how far you'd have to move the Sun away from us till it was only as bright as a star. It was in that library, reading that book, that the scale of the universe opened up to me. There was something beautiful about it. At that young age, I already knew that I'd be very happy if I could devote my life to finding out more about the stars and the planets that go around them. And it's been my great good fortune to do just that.

—Carl Sagan

Everything I am is based on this ugly building on its lonely lawn—lit up during winter darkness; open in the slashing rain—which allowed a girl so poor she didn't even own a purse to come in twice a day and experience actual magic: traveling through time, making contact with the dead—Dorothy Parker, Stella Gibbons, Charlotte Brontë, Spike Milligan.

A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind; hospitals of the soul; theme parks of the imagination. On a cold, rainy island, they are the only sheltered public spaces where you are not a consumer, but a citizen, instead. A human with a brain and a heart and a desire to be uplifted, rather than a customer with a credit card and an inchoate 'need' for 'stuff.' A mall—the shops—are places where your money makes the wealthy wealthier. But a library is where the wealthy's taxes pay for you to become a little more extraordinary, instead. A satisfying reversal. A balancing of the power.

—Caitlin Moran

Books are a great equalizer. You may not have the money to travel the world, but with a library card as your passport your horizons for exploration and self-discovery are unlimited.

—Shireen Dodson

I have never said ‘shhh’ at work. Ever. In fact, in youth services, we encourage noise! It means kids are there interacting with each other and the space. Oh, and I don’t wear glasses on a chain, or my hair in a bun. And I’m 24 years old, not 65.

—Anonymous Librarian

In our post-truth world, libraries are more important than ever. Where else can anyone, regardless of their socio-economic standing, access the information so critical to navigating our digital world? The library is a place that ANYONE can come and visit, whether that be for 10 minutes or the whole day, and not have to buy a cup of coffee. If you believe in democracy, go sign up for a library card.

—Librarian Karrah as
told to Arianna
Rebolini

The greatest and cheapest university—where great teachers abound, the classes are free and there’s never any crowding—is just a library card away. Reading...is the best teacher.

—Mary Gordon

I took a writing course in summer school in 1939, when I was in high school. But it didn’t work. The secret of writing was, to go and live in the library two or four days a week for ten years. I graduated from the library having read every single book in it. And along the way I wrote every day of every week of every month, for every year. And in ten years, I became a writer.

—Ray Bradbury

Of all the places I have walked into, libraries must be the most magical. Have you ever opened the cover of a book and wondered what you would find inside? Where you would go? Whom you would meet? A story has the power to send you back in time or into the future, to transport you to other lands and kingdoms. I’ve met ogres, talking rabbits, and some of my best friends in the pages of books.

Librarians might just have the best jobs ever. With each library card they hand out, they offer a ticket to strange and marvelous worlds. Open a book and, like Reading Beauty, you might fall under a spell—the magic of a deep read. But chances are, unlike the Sleeping Beauty of the original fairy tale, you will never want the spell to be broken.

—Kimberly Long
Cockroft

Massive changes may have occurred in libraries in recent years, with new digital resources and services supplementing the old traditional resources and services, the dog-eared card catalogues ripped up and destroyed, workstations suddenly every-

where, but one essential aspect of ‘libraryness’ has not changed: libraries remain places dedicated to storage. Books continue to be published in greater and greater numbers—so great in fact that there are no accurate figures as to exactly how many are published: some say one every thirty seconds, others four thousand per day, others a million per year—and somehow, whether through the off-site storage of the physical books themselves, or microfilm copying, or digital scanning, we remain obliged to keep up with or afloat in this vast deluge of paper. Even the new, high-tech rebranded libraries opened to great fanfare in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in the 1990s could not get away from this essential fact of paper hoarding: they were called ‘Idea Stores.’

—Ian Sansom

At twenty-one, Richard Wright was not the world-famous author he would eventually be. But poor and black, he decided he would read and no one could stop him. Did he storm the library and make a scene? No, not in the Jim Crow South he didn’t. Instead, he forged a note that said, ‘Dear Madam: Will you please let this nigger boy have some books by HL Mencken?’ (because no one would write that about themselves, right?), and checked them out with a stolen library card, pretending they were for someone else. With the stakes this high, you better be willing to bend the rules or do something desperate or crazy. To thumb your nose at the authorities and say: What? This is not a bridge. I don’t know what you’re talking about. Or, in some cases, giving the middle finger to the people trying to hold you down and blowing right through their evil, disgusting rules. Pragmatism is not so much realism as flexibility.

—Ryan Holiday

In those days there was no money to buy books. Books you borrowed from the rental library of Shakespeare and Company, which was the library and bookstore of Sylvia Beach at 12 rue de l’Odéon. On a cold windswept street, this was a lovely, warm, cheerful place with a big stove in winter, tables and shelves of books, new books in the window, and photographs on the wall of famous writers both dead and living. The photographs all looked like snapshots and even the dead writers looked as though they had really been alive.

Sylvia had a lively, very sharply cut face, brown eyes that were as alive as a small animal’s and as gay as a young girl’s, and wavy brown hair that was brushed back from her fine forehead and cut thick below her ears and at the line of the collar of the brown velvet jacket she wore. She had pretty legs and she was kind, cheerful and interested, and loved to make jokes and gossip. No one that I ever knew was nicer to me.

I was very shy when I first went into the bookshop and I did not have enough money on me to join the rental library. She told me I could pay the deposit any time I had the money and made me out a card and said I could take as many books as I wished. There was no reason for her to trust me. She did not know me and the address I had given her, 74 rue Cardinal Lemoine, could not have been a poorer one. But she was delightful and charming and welcoming and behind her, as high as the wall and stretching out into the back room which gave onto the inner court of the building, were the shelves and shelves of the richness of the library.

—Ernest Hemingway

I took out my first library card...I spent most of my Saturdays at the library (no interruptions) breathing in the world of penniless shoeshine boys who, with goodness and perseverance, became rich, rich men, and gave baskets of goodies to the poor on holidays. The little princesses who were mistaken for maids, and the long-lost children mistaken for waifs, became more real to me than our house, our mother, our school or Mr. Freeman.

—Maya Angelou

Early each morning Pearlroth rode the subway into Manhattan. Most days he'd go straight to the New York Public Library's main branch on Fifth Avenue, and he'd be one of the first to ascend the front steps between the twin lion statues. He'd grab a card catalogue tray, sift through it and select ten or more books, then find a spot in the cavernous third-floor reading room. He always turned off the reading lamps, preferring the natural light beneath the towering carved-wood ceiling.

—Neal Thompson

Libraries. How I love them. My source of stories. And solitude. Where the musty smell of books greets me like the perfume in our grandmother's embrace. My old branch was two blocks from our London flat, and I went almost daily. The librarian and I both got teary when I said goodbye. And this library is almost as close! I'll get a library card tomorrow and carry back my first installment of books. Maybe I can also find a quiet corner to write in peace.

—Mitali Perkins

I was thrilled when my local library finally figured out how to offer ebooks to patrons. That night, I maxed out my library card and downloaded twenty books. The selection might still be small—only a few tens of thousands of ebooks—but I found abundant reading material. I ordered a pizza, stayed in, and read all night long—sheer bliss!

—Jason Merkoski

Over a hundred German scientists arrived here [Huntsville] at eleven o'clock on an April morning and by nightfall more than sixty had applied for cards at the free library.

—James A. Michener

I dashed to the library at the first opportunity; I refer to the venerable library of the University of Turin's Chemical Institute, at that time, like Mecca, impenetrable to infidels and even hard to penetrate for such faithful as I. One had to think that the administration followed the wise principle according to which it is good to discourage the arts and sciences: only someone impelled by absolute necessity, or by an overwhelming passion, would willingly subject himself to the trials of abnegation that were demanded of him in order to consult the volumes. The library's schedule was brief and irrational, the lighting dim, the file cards in disorder; in the winter, no heat; no chairs but uncomfortable and noisy metal stools; and finally, the librarian was an incompetent, insolent boor of exceeding ugliness.

—Primo Levi

It was in Durmond that I made the wonderful discovery of interlibrary loan, the greatest invention since the light bulb.[...] All the libraries were linked together, so no matter where I moved, as long as I had a library card I would be part of a web as powerful and beautiful as the one in *Charlotte's Web*. Just as Charlotte the spider wrote messages in her web that transformed Wilbur the ordinary pig into 'some pig,' this web would transform me. I would eventually collect nearly fifty different library cards. I was snagged forever in the wonderful web of the public library system.

—Kathryn Lasky

You can't learn to write in college. It's a very bad place for writers because the teachers always think they know more than you do—and they don't. They have prejudices. They may like Henry James, but what if you don't want to write like Henry James? They may like John Irving, for instance, who's the bore of all time. A lot of the people whose work they've taught in the schools for the last thirty years, I can't understand why people read them and why they are taught. The library, on the other hand, has no biases. The information is all there for you to interpret. You don't have someone telling you what to think. You discover it for yourself.

—Ray Bradbury

Live in the library! Live in the library, for Christ's sake. Don't live on your goddamn computer and the internet and all that crap. Go to the library.

—Ray Bradbury

Bibliotherapy is reading which gives children greater insight into themselves and helps them grow in appreciation of other people, understanding the world they live in and the forces that operate to make people think, feel, and behave as they do.

—Josette Frank

THE BIBLIOTHERAPEUTIC PROCESS:

Identification with characters, situations, or elements of the story is the first step in this process. Identification helps the reader realize that he is not the first person to encounter a particular problem, and it enables him to vicariously relive a particular experience. Thus, the reader is able to view this problem from a different perspective, which promotes personality adjustment and growth.

The second step is catharsis, or the release of tension. We suggest that the reader gratifies his impulses or desires (even the socially unacceptable drives) by his identification with the actions of the story characters. This gratification results in tension reduction and overall relaxation (catharsis).

Insight is the final phase. By achieving insight the reader understands, modifies, and changes his attitudes and behaviors. Bibliotherapeutic intervention's goal is to gain insight, and it is the responsibility of the teacher to guide students toward it.

—Ronald S. Lenkowsky
& Barbara E.
Lenkowsky

Since we know that many books have in many different ways changed the thinking of the world, we can easily believe that many an individual can and does have his life changed directly through the experience of reading a book.

—Karl Menninger

One can talk of a book more readily than one can of his own problems without the embarrassment of explicit self revelation...literature may contribute to one's understanding of his own emotional responses to a person or situation by starting an inner readjustment which will modify his response to the next person or situation encountered.

—Joseph S. Zaccaria,
Harold
Alton Moses, &
Jeff S. Hollowell

When the adolescent becomes aware of the fact that his present experiences and anxieties are not unique and that others have had the same impulses and conflicts, he may be better able to handle them. Frequently, literature is the only means by which he can see he is 'normal' and allay guilt and fear thereby.

—Louise Rosenblatt

BIBLIOTHERAPY CAN HELP A CHILD:

- Verbalize problems.
- Get personal insight.
- Acquire accurate information.
- Reduce sense of isolation.
- Think about and discuss problems with greater objectivity.
- Weigh values, beliefs, and reorient life goals.
- Assess personal limitations and assets.
- Enlarge interests.
- Prevent problems from occurring.

—R. Vance Peavy

Children, like adults, have problems. At times children need help learning to face problems, to see them in and perspective, and to deal with them adequately. Books alone cannot solve these problems, they can help... through bibliotherapy, children may learn to analyze their attitudes and modes of behavior. Books may assist children in comparing their beliefs with those of others. Books may offer many possible solutions to problems or even present the solution that could lessen a child's inner turmoil.

—N. Galen & J. Johns

Learning-disabled adolescents are especially aware of their own feelings of inferiority, failure, and impotence... pupils express empathy for characters, identify with situations they read, and are delighted to discover fictional and factual whose characters experience problems similar or comparable to their own. Reading such stories reinforces their feelings of 'normalcy' and helps the students to realize that they are not alone in facing adolescence's problems and the special problems created by their disabilities.

—Ronald S. Lenkowsky
& Barbara E.
Lenkowsky

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 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 quotations on signs or bulletin boards or feature a ‘thought for the day.’

—Dan L. Miller

When entering a library, I never forget to bow down!

—Avijeet Das

A well-disposed research librarian is a writer’s best friend, as essential as ink.

—Barbara Rogan

I asked the librarian if the library had any books on paranoia.
She whispered: ‘They’re right behind you....’

—Internet Meme

Having children’s books around the house and reading to preschoolers is vitally important. According to Mariah Evans, who headed a 20-year worldwide study that found ‘the presence of books in the home’ to be the top predictor of whether a child will attain a high level of education, ‘one of the things that is most striking...about it is that the book’s effect appears to be even larger and more important for children from very disadvantaged homes.’ By the way, one doesn’t have to be rich to have books around the house. Plus, there are libraries.

—Walter E. Williams

LIBRARY POSTER: Cries carry in the library. For the courtesy of those studying around you, please relocate to the hallway if you wish to sob audibly. Thank You.

—Internet Meme

I’ve taken out a library card! I have been given my citizenship in the Land of Knowledge!

—Charles Schulz

I went to the library. I looked at the magazines, at the pictures in them. One day I went to the bookshelves, and pulled out a book. It was *Winesburg, Ohio*. I sat at a long mahogany table and began to read. All at once my world turned over. The sky fell in. The book held me. The tears came. My heart beat fast. I read until my eyes burned. I took the book home. I read another Anderson. I read and I read, and I was heartsick and lonely and in love with a book, many books, until it came naturally, and I sat there with a pencil and a long tablet, and tried to write, until I felt I could not go on because the words would not come as they did in Anderson.

—John Fante

When I go into a library, I feel like I am a sleuth looking to solve a mystery. I am completely inspired by the pursuit of knowledge through various references. I read newspapers voraciously. I love what newspapers say about contemporary culture.

—Terry Tempest
Williams

The library has now become her first-aid kit, and she's going to give the children a little of the medicine that helped her recover her smile when she thought she'd lost it forever.

—Antonio Iturbe

Come, and take choice of all my library
And so beguile thy sorrow.

—William Shakespeare

The idea of reading as a healing activity is not new; apparently King Ramses II of Egypt had a special chamber for his books, and above the door were the words 'House of Healing for the Soul.' Sigmund Freud incorporated literature into his psychoanalysis at the end of the nineteenth century. Medical professionals and psychologists have been prescribing books for their patients to read for a hundred years or more. But it was more as an adjunct to other treatment rather than a treatment in itself.

—Jenni Ogden

Bibliotherapy sets out to improve troubled lives by offering advice to individuals on how books can help them. It seizes on the well-known ability of certain books to change us and turns that into a conscious effort to heal. In an informal way it expands the normally private drama of reading to include two people, therapist and client.

—Robert Fulford

Bibliotherapy is an old concept in library science. According to the Greek historian Diodorus Siculus, in his monumental work *Bibliotheca Historica*, there was a phrase above the entrance to the royal chamber where books were stored by King Ramses II of Egypt. Considered to be the oldest known library motto in the world, *ψυχῆς Ιατρεῖον*, is translated: ‘the house of healing for the soul’. Galen, the extraordinary philosopher and physician to Marcus Aurelius of Rome, maintained a medical library in the first century A.D., used not only by himself but by the staff of the Sanctuary Asclepion, a Roman spa famous for its therapeutic waters and considered to be one of the first hospital centers in the world. As far back as 1272, the Koran was prescribed reading in the Al-Mansur Hospital in Cairo as medical treatment.

In the early nineteenth century, Benjamin Rush favored the use of literature in hospitals for both the ‘amusement and instruction of patients’. By the middle of the century, Minson Galt II wrote on the uses of bibliotherapy in mental institutions, and by 1900 libraries were an important part of European psychiatric institutions. After the term bibliotherapy was coined by Samuel Crothers in an August 1916 *Atlantic Monthly* article, it eventually found its way into the medical lexicon. During World War I, the *Library War Service* stationed librarians in military hospitals, where they dispensed books to patients and developed the emerging ‘science’ of bibliotherapy with hospital physicians.

—*Wikipedia*

Bibliotherapy: The use of books selected on the basis of content in a planned reading program designed to facilitate the recovery of patients suffering from mental illness or emotional disturbance. Ideally, the process occurs in three phases: personal identification of the reader with a particular character in the recommended work, resulting in psychological catharsis, which leads to rational insight concerning the relevance of the solution suggested in the text to the reader’s own experience.

—*The Online Dictionary
for Library and
Information
Science*

Books are evergreen friends, intelligent, counsellors, faithful teachers and promise lifelong companionship. They are your most valuable assets.

—Bijal Shah

I read *The Bell Jar* after a really rough patch in my life. It comforted me more than anything else my family told me. While they mean well and I appreciate them, they have no knowledge of what it’s really like to live with anxiety or depression. Reading Plath helped me better understand myself and gain perspective.

—Leyva

Bibliotherapy means different things to many different people. Claudia E. Cornett and Charles F. Cornett define bibliotherapy as a basically simple idea: the use of books to help people. Terry Shepard and Lynn B. Iles define it as helping a pupil find a book that might help the pupil solve a personal problem, develop skills needed for living, and/or bolster self-image. Miles V. Zintz and Zelda R. Maggart write that the term literally means therapy through books. All of these definitions assume that more than just reading for pleasure takes place as one reads a book. If children who are experiencing difficulties can read about others who have solved similar problems, they may see alternatives for themselves. By presenting possible solutions, books can help prevent some difficult situations from becoming full-blown problems. Through encountering frustrations and anxieties, hopes and disappointments, successes and failures in fictional situations, youngsters may gain insights applicable to situations they meet in real life.

—Richard White

A BIBLIOTHERAPIST SHOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING SKILLS:

- Ability to determine the needs and interests of the individual.
- Ability to provide books at the appropriate interest and difficulty levels.
- Ability to evaluate books for the purpose they will serve in bibliotherapy.
- Ability to ask a variety of appropriate questions to encourage the individual to verbalize.
- Ability to use 'seconds of silence' and patience to wait for responses after questions have been raised.
- Ability to be a good listener and to communicate effectively.
- Ability to weigh carefully the balance between interaction strategies and additional materials to help individuals reach the insight stage.
- Ability find additional sources of help when appropriate.

—Claudia E. Cornett
and Charles F.
Cornett

In the literary arsenal of the Counselor, books may serve the following purposes in the lives of young people:

Locating information necessary to the solution of personal problems.

Identifying, extending, and intensifying their interest.

Giving young people an awareness of themselves and others.

Furnishing emotional release or satisfaction.

Inducing intellectual curiosity and reflective thinking.

Developing social insight through the reinforcement of challenging of attitudes.

Giving opportunity for re-examination of a sense of values.
Providing aesthetic experience.
Developing critical appreciation of books, magazines, and newspapers.
Giving a sense of belonging to the culture.
Furnishing recreation through pure enjoyment and entertainment.
Nothing the adolescent or child learns is likely to serve him so well as the love of books and the ability to use them.

—Archie L. Lejeune

Since books can provide a source of psychological relief from the various pressures and concerns that stem from things that happen to children, the Counselor may use Bibliocounseling in one of two ways:

First, he may attempt to solve an individual's actual and existing emotional problems and pressures by bringing him a similar experience vicariously through books. Recognition and understanding of a problem and its solution in literature provides the individual with insights into his own problems and presumably is then able to take steps toward solving them.

Second, he may use literature for preventing a particular problem from becoming a 'hard case.' The theory being here that a child is able to make a satisfactory adjustment when a problem eventually arises in his own life because he met one similar to that which was depicted in the literature he read in the past. (This is somewhat analogous to that of inoculation to prevent a contagious disease.)

—Archie L. Lejeune

If you have ever felt warm, weepy, excited, or renewed after reading a book, then you have experienced a form of bibliotherapy. We've all laughed and cried as our favorite characters succeeded and failed, because good literature is built on life itself—and life's not always easy! But once in awhile a particular book or passage from a book touches us, and we are never the same again. Life is fuller as a result of these moments, but such insightful occasions are rare. Happening upon a book that deals fictionally or factually with immediate emotional, intellectual, social, and even physical needs is like finding a four-leaf clover.

—Claudia E. Cornett and
Charles F. Cornett

Bibliotherapy is the process of using books to teach those receiving medical care about their conditions.

— Samuel Carothers
(1916)

Bibliotherapy is a process of dynamic interaction between the personality of the reader and literature—interaction which may be utilized for personality assessment, adjustment, and growth.

—David Russell and
Caroline Shrodes
(1950)

Bibliotherapy is psychology through literature-reading that is used to help solve or prevent problems.

—Adolph Stadel (1964)

Bibliotherapy is therapeutic reading in which children find duplications of their own problems and observe how children similar to themselves face their difficulties.

—Matilda Bailey (1964)

Bibliotherapy is defined as an interaction between the reader and certain literature which is useful in aiding personal adjustment.

—Barbara Lindeman and
Martin King (1968)

Bibliotherapy is getting the right book to the right child at the right time about the right problem.

—Sara Lundsteen (1972)

Bibliotherapy is a family of techniques for structuring interaction between a facilitator and a participant . . . based on their mutual sharing of literature.

—Mary Hynes-Berry
(1978)

Bibliotherapy is the use of literature...to help me through difficult situations, feelings and thought-processes and to allow me to appreciate the beauty of words and skilled writing.

—Lucy Horner (2013)

I would define bibliotherapy as...

A sure-fire way to get to know yourself

One of the easiest ways to relate to others when you feel isolated

Something that allows you to be inspired by others...

Yet to also learn from their mistakes

The result of reclining on a sun lounger with a trashy novel

Or, sitting in a well-supported reading chair and learning from history's finest minds
A process highly linked to that incredible feeling of reading the last paragraph of a great book
The simple way you can be changed by words next to words on paper
The consequence of challenging, beautiful or iconic lives documented in text
A perpetual legacy that authors can share long after their passing
Something that must be accompanied by a good cup of tea
Not always a relaxing or welcome process, but one that is sometimes harsh and uncomfortable
A way to get your thinking back on track when you feel anxious or upset
Often born in a good bookshop
A lifelong companion and provider of guidance to all those who welcome it
Open entirely to interpretation.

—Lucy Horner (2013)

The ancient practice of inscribing lofty statements on the entrances to libraries provides another historic example of the early recognition of how books could be used to help fulfill human needs. An epigraph on the library founded in Alexandria about 300 B.C. read, 'Medicine for the Mind.' The library at Thebes in ancient Greece was dedicated to the 'Healing of the Soul.' The medieval Abbey Library of Saint Gall in Switzerland carries the inscription, 'Medicine Chest for the Soul.'

—Claudia E. Cornett and
Charles F. Cornett

The bibliotherapeutic process has been found to have the following effects on readers:

Affective Changes (attitudes, values, emotions)

- Promotes empathy
- Creates positive attitudes
- Produces personal and social adjustment
- Develops positive self-image
- Relieves emotional pressures
- Develops new interests
- Promotes tolerance, respect, and acceptance of others
- Encourages realization that there is good in all people
- Helps reader to identify socially accepted behaviors

- Stimulates the examination of moral values, which results in character development
- Creates a desire to emulate models

Cognitive changes (intellectual, reasoning, thinking)

- Stimulates critical thinking, such as analysis, drawing conclusions and implications, making decisions, solving problems, making judgments
- Gives perspective to problems so that they can be put into proper proportion; reader sees universality of problems
- Provides vicarious experiences
- Provides insight into human behavior and motives
- Develops in the reader the ability for self-evaluation
- Challenges readers to consider higher-level reasoning
- Encourages planning before taking a course of action
- Permits discussion on an impersonal level
- Reveals that problems have many alternative solutions and individuals have choices in solving problems

In summary, through bibliotherapy cognitive and affective changes occur in the reader that enable him or her to fully or partially satisfy an unfulfilled need. Through bibliotherapy young people can be helped to cope with a multitude of problems.

—Claudia E. Cornett and
Charles F. Cornett

Educators and librarians know that for a child to learn well, and to succeed in interpersonal relationships and handle crises in an acceptable manner, he or she must feel a sense of security and well-being. When children feel their world is crumbling around them, they hardly can be expected to function on a high level of emotional response. It is then that literature can give a child insight into his or her situation as well as possible alternatives for solving a personal problem. It is both helpful and rewarding when readers can actually ‘see’ themselves in a story or poem. Therefore, recognizing a child’s need is an important first step in selecting and suggesting materials for reading or listening, if that material is to help in a particular situation.

—Linda B. Hendrickson

Too many adults wish to ‘protect’ teenagers when they should be stimulating them to read of life as it is lived.

—Margaret A. Edwards

I bet if you look at the average teenager and the average adult, the average teenager has read more books in the last year than the average adult. Now of course the adult would be all like, 'I'm busy, I got a job, I got stuff to do.' WHATEVER! READ! I mean, you're watching *CSI: Miami*. Why would you be watching *CSI: Miami*, when you could be READING *CSI: Miami*, the novelization?

—John Green

The dog always dies. Go to the library and pick out a book with an award sticker and a dog on the cover. Trust me, that dog is going down.

—Gordon Korman

In a library, you could find miracles and truth and you might find something that would make you laugh so hard that you get shushed, in the friendliest way.

—Anne Lamott

I always knew from that moment, from the time I found myself at home in that little segregated library in the South, all the way up until I walked up the steps of the New York City library, I always felt, in any town, if I can get to a library, I'll be OK. It really helped me as a child, and that never left me.

—Maya Angelou

The idea of education has been so tied to schools, universities, and professors that many assume there is no other way, but education is available to anyone within reach of a library, a post office, or even a newsstand.

—Louis L'Amour

No university in the world has ever risen to greatness without a correspondingly great library...When this is no longer true, then will our civilization have come to an end.

—Lawrence Clark Powell

The library, with its Daedalian labyrinth, mysterious hush, and faintly ominous aroma of knowledge, has been replaced by the computer's cheap glow, pesky chirp, and data spillage.

—P. J. O'Rourke

As the biggest library if it is in disorder is not as useful as a small but well-arranged one, so you may accumulate a vast amount of knowledge but it will be of far less value than a much smaller amount if you have not thought it over for yourself.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

It is easier to go to the Internet than to go to the library, undoubtedly. But the shift from no libraries to the existence of libraries was a much greater shift than what we've seen with the Internet's development.

—Noam Chomsky

I'd go to the library so I could sit in a big, quiet room and listen to pages being turned. There was a boring librarian who everyone in fifth grade hated. But I loved her because when she would read us stories in her soft voice, she'd turn my head into a snow globe.

—Andrea Seigel

I spent three days a week for 10 years educating myself in the public library, and it's better than college. People should educate themselves—you can get a complete education for no money. At the end of 10 years, I had read every book in the library and I'd written a thousand stories.

—Ray Bradbury

I love e-books. I can carry the complete works of William Shakespeare around with me all the time. Just think about that. Whether I'm on an airplane or wherever. Being able to have a library in your back pocket basically is something I support.

—Steve Earle

Is there anything so delicious as the first exploration of a great library—alone—unwatched?

—Richard Jefferies

I work every day in a building that houses: writing workshops, a music recording studio, classes in programs like Photoshop, resume help, health & fitness classes, homework help followed by RPG games to motivate students, a Pokemon club, cooking classes, a sewing lab, robotics and programming classes, musical performances, a photography and video studio, acting classes, a social worker specializing in homeless issues, and so much more. People tell us every day that we've made their life better.

—Sarah Nicolas,
Librarian

I understood right from the start that every set of library doors were the sort of magic portals that lead to other lands. My God, right within reach there were dinosaurs and planets and presidents and girl detectives!

—Deb Caletti

Your library is your paradise.

—Desiderius Erasmus

Civilized nations build libraries; lands that have lost their soul close them down.

—Toby Forward

My two favourite things in life are libraries and bicycles. They both move people forward without wasting anything. The perfect day: riding a bike to the library.

—Peter Golkin

My real education, the superstructure, the details, the true architecture, I got out of the public library. For an impoverished child whose family could not afford to buy books, the library was the open door to wonder and achievement, and I can never be sufficiently grateful that I had the wit to charge through that door and make the most of it. Now, when I read constantly about the way in which library funds are being cut and cut, I can only think that the door is closing and that American society has found one more way to destroy itself.

—Isaac Asimov

She'd absolutely adored the library—an entire building where anyone could take things they didn't own and feel no remorse about it.

—Ally Carter

Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.

—Sidney Sheldon

Twenty years ago, you checked out books, got a story from the librarian, and that was really about it. [Now] we're a portal for the kids. We're information brokers.

—Linda Miller

Concerned about achievement? Current research shows that school libraries are key to learning. In the largest study of its kind, Rutgers University professors Ross Todd and Carol Kuhlthau revealed that 99.4% of students 'indicated that the school library and its services, including roles of school librarians, have helped them...with their learning.' Data revealed that libraries are dynamic agents of learning and demonstrated the school library's role 'as an agent for individualized learning, knowledge construction, and academic achievement.

—Joyce Kasman Valenza

Some the ways I have successfully attracted teachers, singly or in groups, are:

- Give teachers first chance at discarded books....
- Notify teachers when you are ready to discard collections of old magazines....
- Make yesterday's newspaper available for clipping....
- Scan magazines for articles of interest to particular teachers....
- Keep a pile of old magazines for clipping....
- Make lists of gift book ideas for holidays.
- Send book reviews to teachers....
- Invite the principal to hold faculty meetings in the library. Be sure to display materials.
- Ask department chairmen to meet in the library and to give you some time on the agenda.
- Hold pot luck or brown bag luncheons in the library on teacher conference days. Exhibit materials....
- Ask teachers to suggest titles for purchase....
- Order freebies and make them available....
- Display student projects....
- Distribute a 'How Can I Help You' list of services.

—Helen F. Flowers

[Keith] Lance, [Marcia] Rodney, and [Christine] Hamilton-Pennell [2005] found a positive correlation between more collaborative library staffs and higher ACT scores. According to their research, when the library staff spends more time identifying materials for teachers, planning with teachers, motivating students to read, co-teaching, serving on school committees, and meeting with librarians from other schools or districts, 'ACT scores increase an average of three to four percent over the scores for schools with less collaborative library staff.'

—Rebecca Molineaux

When a teacher is willing to move a learning experience from the classroom to the library media center, good things happen: There are now two teachers inserted of one, an information-rich and technology-rich environment is available, and each learner can expect twice as much professional support.

—Connie Champlin and
David Loertscher

To be effective, today's media specialists must be familiar with the curriculum and with academic standards for all grade levels at their schools. There are several reasons for this. First, one of the media specialist's primary responsibilities is collections development. As a part of this, they must ensure that media center resources are both curriculum-relevant and comprehensive. Familiarity with the curriculum also helps the specialist develop instruction of library and information skills that can be more closely aligned with content area goals.

—Rebecca Molineaux

Collaboration is the key to getting the most out of a school library. Teacher-librarians who plan and work closely with other teachers, integrating information skills and strategies with classroom instruction through flexible scheduling and innovative teaching approaches enhance student learning.

—Ken Haycock

It is a mistake to assume that students will develop a love for recreational reading simply because they are taught reading skills in a classroom. Libraries are where young adolescents learn to enjoy reading as a pastime.

People often ask why emphasis needs to be put on the importance of libraries. They think reading is reading whether it's done in a classroom or a library. Nothing could be further from the truth. The mission of the classroom reading program is not the same as the mission of the public library program.

Classroom reading programs are designed to help students read better, to improve their reading skills. These programs are not designed to motivate students to read more, nor can they provide the breadth of material needed to cover vast ranges of subjects on many levels. Classrooms are too limited for all that.

Environment is also crucial in getting students to feel comfortable about reading. There are no tests, no grades, no competition in libraries. In school, students are part of a captive audience; coming to the library, however, is something they choose to do. Libraries are places where kids can read for fun or discover the kind of information they want to learn about. It's motivating but non-directed.

Since libraries are the great motivators of recreational reading, it's imperative that we do all we can to ensure that their book collections are current, wide-ranging and interesting. There's no point in teaching students how to read if we don't make available to them what they want to read.

—Susan Rosenzweig

I recently talked with a middle-grades librarian who told me she wasn't offering pizza parties as incentives to readers any longer. The students told her they'd much rather have books as prizes. To me, that's real progress!

—Linda Cornwell

It's hard for me to imagine what I would be doing today if I had not fallen in love, at the ripe old age of seven, with the Melinda Cox Library in my hometown of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. At our house, we just could not afford books. The books in the free library would change my life dramatically.

Who knows what your library can open up for you?

My first suggestion for making the most of your library to do what I did: read and read and read. For pleasure—and for understanding.

—James A. Michener

Some people in their reading limit themselves to current talked-about best sellers. Oh, what they miss! The library is full of yesterday's best sellers; and they still make compelling reading today.

—James A. Michener

[Libraries] demand nothing of you. It's not like you are going into a store or a coffee shop, where there is a transactional nature to the visit. This is part of what makes libraries so attractive, that they are there for us as place to go, and they demand nothing and offer everything.

—Susan Orlean

If you care about really knowing what is out there in the world, a library provides that. Isn't there a place in our culture to have a portal of knowledge that exists and is treated as such? We have public parks, even though many people have private backyards. We all have a private backyard in our computers at home, but isn't there value in having a space that the community has designated as our shared place of knowledge?

—Susan Orlean

People, not materials, are the very special things in libraries. To the extent that we thwart, frustrate, impede, obstruct, baffle, and embarrass people, to that extent we fail.

—Roy Marks

A library needs to be inviting to the minds and souls as well as to the bodies of its users. In addition to being comfortable, spacious, and barrier free, a library should be an intellectually stimulating and psychologically welcoming place....The library should provide an atmosphere within which all teachers and students feel they belong and are respected.

—Dianne Oberg

Library media specialists should actively work to help their principals see the strong connection between library program goals and school goals, that a close alignment between the principal's vision and the teacher librarian's vision is a benefit to both of them.

—Dianne Oberg

The librarian carries the burden of earning credibility, securing support, and forging the alliances that will result in a perception that the library is indispensable and the librarian is a true educational leader.

—P. P. Wilson and
J. A. Lyders

School librarians, like most professionals, write for each other and are published in the journals that describe their own field. They similarly present to each other at conferences attended almost exclusively by participants drawn from their own ranks. The result of looking inward—instead of sharing research results where they will be seen by the board members and administrators who could operationalize their findings—has been to cover the light of library contribution.

—Gary Hartzell

Higher standardized test scores in reading are correlated with school libraries that have higher staffing levels, larger and more current book collections, better funding, and more computers.

—Keith Lance, Christine
Hamilton-Pennell,
and Marcia Rodney

The research involving principals who support the school library program and the teacher-librarian indicates that principal support occurs through four key roles of the principal: that as a supervisor working directly with teachers, that as a model demonstrating personal commitment, that as a manager enabling the program, and that as a mentor providing visibility and importance.

—Dianne Oberg

As a young person growing up in Hot Springs, Ark., I have many fond memories of the time I spent in the Garland County Library. And as a student in high school and college my love for learning was fostered and enhanced by all the resources I made use of in the libraries where I studied....Today the library is not only a special place for me but for my family as well. As a father, I encourage my daughter to use and enjoy all the treasures that can be found in the library.

—Bill Clinton

As a teacher, the library media specialist collaborates with ‘members of the learning community to analyze learning and information needs, to locate and use resources that will meet those needs, and to understand and communicate the information the resources provide.’ These duties include curricular leadership in helping both staff and students develop techniques and skills in accessing, evaluating, and using ‘information from multiple sources in order to learn, to think, and to create and apply new knowledge.’

—*American Library
Association and
Association for
Educational
Communications
and Technology*

There is so much information out there that kids must know how to evaluate and use information ethically. They need to ask better questions. Not to accept information just because it is quick and easy. They need to find the search engines that give the best results. They need to understand that articles in a database are often more reliable than material on a self-published Web site. They have to know how to evaluate the expertise of an author. They need to produce work with their own voices. And just like classification of mammals in biology class, these are skills that have to be taught.

—Sara Kelly Johns

The school librarian is the perfect person to help students and teachers think about the ramifications of technology use. It’s because we teach technology differently. From email conversations, to plagiarism, to hacking, to what it means to be a responsible citizen in a wired environment, we focus teachers and students on the ethical uses of education technology. For us, it’s not just teaching ‘how’; it’s teaching ‘why’. We teach the process, the transferable skills. We help kids make intellectual connections relating to information—who it belongs to, how to share it, and how to contribute in their own voices.

—Frances Jacobson

The library media specialist is rapidly changing from being an information desert guide—helping learners locate scarce resources—to being an information jungle guide—helping learners evaluate and select resources of value. It’s not finding the hidden waterholes anymore, as much as being able to tell the good ones from the bad ones.

—Doug Johnson

As a species, librarians continue to evolve. Our continued evaluation is focused on learning in an information-rich world, on staff development, educational partnerships, constructivist strategies that move students well beyond topical research, ethics, evaluation and searching skills, and new media literacies. The Internet cannot replace libraries. In fact, new technologies make the need for new guidance all the more obvious. Those boxes and wires we put in our classrooms and labs will have little meaning unless information professionals select quality resources for them. The technology itself has little value unless teachers in partnership with librarians help students to effectively and ethically locate, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information.

—Joyce Kasman Valenza

School libraries contribute measurably to the academic achievement of students, as reflected by their test scores. At all grade levels, test scores tend to be higher:

- where access to school libraries is more flexibly scheduled,
- where school libraries are staffed more fully,
- where school librarians spend more time collaborating with classroom teachers,
- where larger collections are available,
- where educational technology is more widely available to augment the local collection and, generally, to extend access to online resources into the classroom,
- where school libraries are better funded, and
- where students use school libraries, both individually and in groups, to learn and practice the information literacy skills they will need to excel on tests and as lifelong learners.

These links between high-quality school library programs and academic achievement cannot be explained away as mere artifacts of community socio-economic factors (i.e., household income, race/ethnicity) or certain key school conditions (per pupil spending, teacher-pupil ratio). Indeed, sometimes, taking these contextual variables into account reveals a greater impact by school libraries or librarians that was previously masked by those other variables. In short...powerful libraries—and librarians—do, indeed, make powerful learners.

—Keith Lance, Christine
Hamilton-Pennell,
and Marcia Rodney

You build a thousand castles, a thousand sanctuaries, you are nothing; you build a library, you are everything!

—Mehmet Murat ildan

The potential impact of a school library program depends almost entirely on the level at which it is staffed. At every grade level, test scores are higher for schools where there are more staff, including school librarians as well as library aides. At elementary and middle school levels, indicators of such staffing demonstrate this relationship, when per pupil spending, teacher- pupil ratio, and students' race/ethnicity are controlled. At the high school level, every staffing indicator registers an independent positive impact on test scores that persists despite household income and the other control variables.

—Keith Lance, Christine
Hamilton-Pennell,
and Marcia Rodney

Students achieve academically when their visits to libraries bring them into contact with librarians as teachers and co-teachers. Clearly, visits to libraries impact academic achievement most when libraries are being used as classrooms, study spaces, training facilities, and research centers. School libraries and librarians should not merely support instruction in their schools; they should be integral to it.

—Keith Lance, Christine
Hamilton-Pennell,
and Marcia Rodney

Libraries are a pillar of any society. I believe our lack of attention to funding and caring for them properly in the United States has a direct bearing on problems of literacy, productivity, and our inability to compete in today's world. Libraries are everyman's free university.

—John Jakes

Public libraries are the sole community centers left in America. The degree to which a branch of the local library is connected to the larger culture is a reflection of the degree to which the community itself is connected to the larger culture.

—Russell Banks

At the dawn of the 21st century, where knowledge is literally power, where it unlocks the gates of opportunity and success, we all have responsibilities as parents, as librarians, as educators, as politicians, and as citizens to instill in our children a love of reading so that we can give them a chance to fulfill their dreams.

—Barack Obama

A library is infinity under a roof.

—Gail Carson Levine

Had I the power, I would scatter libraries over the whole land, as the sower sows his wheat-field.

—Horace Mann (1883)

What is the value of libraries? Through lifelong learning, libraries can and do change lives, a point that cannot be overstated.

—Michael E. Gorman

I was made for the library, not the classroom. The classroom was a jail of other people's interests. The library was open, unending, free.

—Ta-Nehisi Coates

The library is an arena of possibility, opening both a window into the soul and a door onto the world.

—Rita Dove

When in doubt, go to the library.

— J. K. Rowling

A library is like an island in the middle of a vast sea of ignorance, particularly if the library is very tall and the surrounding area has been flooded.

— Lemony Snicket

A public library is the most democratic thing in the world. What can be found there has undone dictators and tyrants: demagogues can persecute writers and tell them what to write as much as they like, but they cannot vanish what has been written in the past, though they try often enough...People who love literature have at least part of their minds immune from indoctrination. If you read, you can learn to think for yourself.

— Doris Lessing

The library is like a candy store where everything is free.

—Jamie Ford

Some say they get lost in books, but I find myself, again and again, in the pages of a good book. Humanly speaking, there is no greater teacher, no greater therapist, no greater healer of the soul, than a well-stocked library.

—L. R. Knost

Nothing is more impotent than an unread library.

—John Waters

The contents of someone's bookcase are part of his history, like an ancestral portrait.

—Anatole Broyard

A library doesn't need windows. A library is a window.

—Stewart Brand

Corliss wondered what happens to a book that sits unread on a library shelf for thirty years. Can a book rightfully be called a book if it never gets read?...

'How many books never get checked out,' Corliss asked the librarian.

'Most of them,' she said.

Corliss never once considered the fate of library books. She loved books. How could she not worry about the unread? She felt like a disorganized scholar, an abusive mother, and a cowardly soldier.

'Are you serious?' Corliss asked. 'What are we talking about here? If you were guessing, what is the percentage of books in this library that never get checked out?'

'We're talking sixty percent of them. Seriously. Maybe seventy percent. And I'm being optimistic. It's probably more like eighty or ninety percent. This isn't a library, it's an orphanage.'

—Sherman Alexi

A library after closing is a lonely place. It is heart-poundingly silent, and the rows of shelves create an almost unfathomable number of dark and creepy corners.

—Vicki Myron

The library had become her solace. Her refuge. Books did not question or judge. They made safe companions.

—Inglath Cooper

The library would've cheered me up, most days. I loved the heavy oaken tables, the high walls stacked with books to the ceiling, the musty smell of old pages and the heavy brass fixtures that had gone dark with age and wear.

—Claudia Gray

The library fueled all of my curiosities, from dinosaurs to ancient Egypt. When I graduated from high school in 1938, I began going to the library three nights a week. I did this every week for almost ten years and finally, in 1947, around the time I got married, I figured I was done. So I graduated from the library when I was twenty-seven. I discovered that the library is the real school.

—Ray Bradbury

To a historian libraries are food, shelter, and even muse. They are of two kinds: the library of published material, books, pamphlets, periodicals, and the archive of unpublished papers and documents.

--Barbara Tuchman

Librarians are generals in the war on ignorance.

—Unknown

The public library is the closest thing we have to a time machine of human wisdom.

—Maria Popova

A library is many things. It's a place to go if you want to sit and think. It is a place where books live, and where you can get in touch with other people, and other thoughts, through books. Books hold most of the secrets of the world, most of the thoughts that men and women have had. And when you are reading a book, you and the author are alone together—just the two of you. A library is a good place to go when you feel unhappy, for there, in a book, you may find encouragement and comfort. A library is a good place to go when you feel bewildered or undecided, for there, in a book, you may have your question answered. Books are good company, in sad times and happy times, for books are people—people who have managed to stay alive by hiding between the covers of a book.

—E. B. White

In the houses of the humble, a little library, in my opinion, is a most precious possession.

—John Bright

To those with ears to hear, libraries are really very noisy places. On their shelves we hear the captured voices of the centuries-old conversation that makes up our civilization.

—Timothy Healy

To quote the answer which Anatole France gave to a philistine who admired his library and then finished with the standard question, 'And you have read all these books, Monsieur France?' 'Not one-tenth of them. I don't suppose you use your Sevres china every day?'

—Walter Benjamin

Some believe that every library looks like a splendid cemetery of human thoughts and ideas.

—Lara Biyuts

The library was on the second floor of the House, not far from my room. It had two floors—the first held the majority of the books and a balcony wrapped in a wrought-iron railing held another set. It was a cavalcade of tomes, all in immaculate rows, and with study carrels and tables thrown in for good measure. It was my home away from home(away from home.

I walked inside and paused for a moment to breathe in the scent of paper and dust—the perfumes of knowledge. The library was empty of patrons as far as I could tell, but I could hear the rhythmic squeal of a library cart somewhere in the rows.

—Chloe Neill

John Armato, a Public relations executive, cherishes his growing *Library of Candidates*. When people ask him if he's actually read all those books, he asks them if they've actually eaten all the food in their kitchen. 'It is good to put up a supply of books; it increases the odds that you'll have what you want when you're hungry for it,' he says.

—Steve Levees

Every time you enter a library you might say to yourself, 'The world is quiet here,' as a sort of pledge proclaiming reading to be the greater good.

—Lemony Snicket

It's remarkable that a device, which fits in your pocket, can hold thousands of books. But a room full of books is an entirely different kind of remarkable.

—Brandt Legg

There is a somewhat time-worn joke about people taking up library work because they like to read: the joke consisting of the fact that librarians have so little time to read. But, I tell you, those who do not, and there are some, are in the wrong profession.

—Mary Virginia Provines

A library cannot be made all at once, any more than a house or a nation or a tree; they must all take time to grow, and so must a library. I wouldn't even know what books to go and ask for. I dare say, if I were to try, I couldn't at a moment's notice tell you the names of more than two score of books at the outside. Folk must make acquaintance among books as they would among living folk.

—George MacDonald

The three most important documents a free society gives are a birth certificate, a passport, and a library card.

—E. L. Doctorow

Anyone who thinks this world is without magic, hasn't been to a library.

—Amy Fellner Dominy

The library turned out to be a very pleasant place, but it was not the comfortable chairs, the huge wooden bookshelves, or the hush of people reading that made the three siblings feel so good as they walked into the room. It is useless for me to tell you all about the brass lamps in the shapes of different fish, or the bright blue curtains that rippled like water as a breeze came in from the window, because although these were wonderful things they were no what made the three children smile.

—Lemony Snicket

I am a librarian. I discovered me in the library. I went to find me in the library. Before I fell in love with libraries, I was just a six-year-old boy. The library fueled all of my curiosities, from dinosaurs to ancient Egypt. When I graduated from high school in 1938, I began going to the library three nights a week. I did this every week for almost ten years and finally, in 1947, around the time I got married, I figured I was done. So I graduated from the library when I was twenty-seven. I discovered that the library is the real school.

—Ray Bradbury

I'm completely library educated. I've never been to college. I went down to the library when I was in grade school in Waukegan, and in high school in Los Angeles, and spent long days every summer in the library. I used to steal magazines from a store on Genesee Street, in Waukegan, and read them and then steal them back on the racks again. That way I took the print off with my eyeballs and stayed honest. I didn't want to be a permanent thief, and I was very careful to wash my hands before I read them. But with the library, it's like catnip, I suppose: you begin to run in circles because there's so much to look at and read. And it's far more fun than going to school, simply because you make up your own list and you don't have to listen to anyone. When I would see some of the books my kids were forced to bring home and read by some of their teachers, and were graded on—well, what if you don't like those books?

—Ray Bradbury

Blaming the library for exposure to pornography is like blaming the lake if your child walks up to it alone, falls in and then drowns.

—David Sawyer

When I get big and have my own home, no plush chairs and lace curtains for me. And no rubber plants. I'll have a desk like this in my parlor and white walls and a clean green blotter every Sunday night and a row of shining yellow pencils always sharpened for writing and a golden-brown bowl with a flower or some leaves or berries always in it and books...books..books.

—Betty Smith

The library at home when she was child had been her refuge. She gravitated to it. When she was anxious, just taking a book off a shelf calmed her. Opening the cover, feeling the paper's smoothness, smelling the sheets, the leather, even sometimes the ink, centered her.

—M. J. Rose

I deserve a swift kick in the shorts for all the times I've stubbornly wound my way through the library stacks, my mule head leading the way, searching fruitlessly for information a librarian could put in my hands in a matter of minutes.

—Michael Perry

The visitor enters and says, 'What a lot of books! Have you read them all?' ...The best answer is the one always used by Roberto Leydi: 'And more, dear sir, many more,' which freezes the adversary and plunges him into a state of awed admiration. But I find it merciless and angst-generating. Now I have fallen back on the riposte: 'No, these are the ones I have to read by the end of the month. I keep the others in my office.'

—Umberto Eco

I stubbed my toe just as someone dropped a book into the inside drop box. As I yelped and howled in pain, a child on the other side said, 'Mommy, I think we hurt the book!'

—Gina Sheridan

A library's function is to give the public in the quickest and cheapest way: information, inspiration, and recreation. If a better way than the book can be found, we should use it.

—Melvil Dewey

The library is not just an information center. It's always been a refuge for anyone to come to, whatever status in society. For people, intellectuals, pseudo-intellectuals, for lonely people. For every walk of life.

—Wendy MacNaughton

The library is a symbol of freedom.

—Sara Sheridan

Though I loved the wired world, the new-wave librarians, the avatars and activists, I turned into a dinosaur in that library. I couldn't help it; I was an old-fashioned writer who loved the ancient books summoned via pneumatic tubes, the archives, the quiet. I had found something rare there: an inexhaustible wonder.

—Marilyn Johnson

Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container.

—Unknown

I go where I always go when I need information on something baffling, poisonous, or terrifying: the library.

—Caitlin Moran

All that is necessary for a student is access to a library.

—Thomas Jefferson

The best things in life are really free
Love, honor, a noble mind
And my local library.

—Beverly Tona

The library is a school and the librarian in the highest sense a teacher.

—Melvil Dewey

That's what I like so much about libraries, they smell the way we would like to imagine the past.

—Ruth Reichl

In the library... here thoughts were housed.

—Louise Penny

I exercised my mental muscles in the library, and lo and behold, I transformed myself from a casual reader into a focused one. So it was more than just free books, but also free space and a culture that reinforced settling down, deep reading, thinking, imagining, and exploring with my mind. I am no doubt a writer today because I had a place to go as a kid, where I knew stories were essential, and where everybody also reveled in the wonder within books.

—Sergio Troncoso

I never got into the library thing. I always liked that I could put my hand on a book when I wanted it. And to know I owned them; that was important too.

—Deborah Meyler

Each one dreams the dream of life in his own way. I have dreamed it in my library; and when the hour shall come in which I must leave this world, may it please God to take me from my ladder—from before my shelves of books!...

—Anatole France

Books are ideas. They should be able to circulate freely within society. At no price at all, or for pennies. Knowledge is universal. It belongs to all of us.

—Gioconda Belli

When I look at and study the ranks of my books—for I have put the name of each author on the binding—I feel as if I am looking at the holy graves of those who wrote them.

—Pietro Candido
Decembrio

The library, almost alone of the great monuments of civilization, stands taller now than it ever did before. The city... decays. The nation loses its grandeur... The university is not always certain what it is. But the library remains: a silent and enduring affirmation that the great Reports still speak, and not alone but somehow all together...

—Archibald MacLeish

Organizing the books was a fun afternoon. We decided to put the thick hardback books, mostly intro. to philosophy textbooks and Norton literature anthologies, on the top shelves where they looked good but stayed out of reach since there's no reason for opening them ever again. Then we went by genre: mysteries, cozies, modernists, mountains, sci-fi, beloved childhood volumes, books we bought abroad, books required in school we couldn't sell back, books bought for us we'll read soon, books bought for us we have no intention of reading, books we want to read but are too long for a commitment with our current schedules... We're not really done with this organization, and I doubt we ever will be, but that's one great part about it.

—Joshua Isard

To be a librarian was to come as close as any human being can to sitting in the peak-seat of eternity's engine.

—Stephen King

It was immediately clear that the book had been undisturbed for a very long time, perhaps even since it had been laid to rest. The librarian fetched a checked duster, and wiped away the dust, a black, thick, tenacious Victorian dust, a dust composed of smoke and fog particles accumulated before the Clean Air acts.

— A. S. Byatt

The atmosphere of the place soothed her automatically; the rich lantern lights, the sheer scent of paper and leather, and the fact that everywhere she looked, there were books, books, beautiful books.

—Genevieve Cogman

This is a place of mystery, Daniel, a sanctuary. Every book, every volume you see here, has a soul. The soul of the person who wrote it and of those who read it and lived and dreamed with it. Every time a book changes hands, every time someone runs his eyes down its pages, its spirit grows and strengthens. This place was already ancient when my father brought me here for the first time, many years ago. Perhaps as old as the city itself. Nobody knows for certain how long it has existed, or who created it. I will tell you what my father told me, though. When a library disappears, or a bookshop closes down, when a book is consigned to oblivion, those of us who know this place, its guardians, make sure that it gets here. In this place, books no longer remembered by anyone, books that are lost in time, live forever, waiting for the day when they will reach a new reader's hands. In the shop we buy and sell them, but in truth books have no owner. Every book you see here has been somebody's best friend.

—Carlos Ruiz Zafón

The boy was a model pupil, forgettable and easily forgotten, and he spent much of his spare time in the back of the English class where there were shelves of old paperbacks, and in the school library, a large room filled with books and old armchairs, where he read stories as enthusiastically as some children ate.

—Neil Gaiman

Those afternoons in the library, breathing the stale sun-warmed dust of a thousand stories (accented by the collective mildew of a hundred years of rising damp), had been enchanted.

—Kate Morton

The only way to educate oneself is by making books a life companion.

—Michael Bassey
Johnson

I love the sound of people thinking.

—Will Bly

There is a difference between information and knowledge, and the most important role of the library is not providing access to information; it is supporting, enhancing, and facilitating the transfer of knowledge—in other words, education.

—Kathleen McCook

Since the library has just opened for the day, there's no one else there and I have the elegant reading room all to myself. It's exactly like in the photo on in the magazine—roomy and comfortable, with a high ceiling. Every once in a while a gentle breeze blows through the open window, the white curtains rustling softly in the air that has a hint of the sea. And I love the comfortable sofa. An upright piano stands in the corner, and the whole place makes me feel like I'm in some friend's home. As I relax on the sofa and gaze around the room a thought hits me: This is exactly the place I've been looking for forever. A little hideaway in some sinkhole somewhere. I'd always thought of it as a secret, imaginary place, and can barely believe that it actually exists.

—Haruki Murakami

Two by two, I read library books as fast as I could go, rushing them home in the basket of my bicycle. From the minute I reached our house, I started to read. Every book I seized on stood for the devouring wish to read being instantly granted. I knew this was bliss, knew it at the time. Taste isn't nearly so important; it comes in its own time. I wanted to read immediately. The only fear was that of books coming to an end.

—Eudora Welty

In college I retreated to the library. I have always loved libraries—the quiet, the smell, the expectation of imminent discovery. In the next book I will find it—some unspeakable pleasure or startling revelation or extraordinary nuance I had never felt or thought of before.

—Siri Hustvedt

The natural pleasure of every man who has been a reader;... filling the shelves of a tolerably large library.

—Walter Scott

I've been drunk for about a week now, and I thought it might sober me up to sit in a library.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

People used to build great libraries to symbolize man's quest for knowledge, now we have the Internet which is both more powerful and wonderful. The men who used to get their information from the library were considered scholars but the men who get their information from the Internet are considered idiots, or worse, thieves.

—Mike Wehner

The books displayed prominently in every chamber had been dusted, but the spines were pristine and uncreased. They had the sad, untouched air of literature paraded for display purposes but never actually used. It was profoundly depressing.

—Genevieve Cogman

He saw my confusion and led me on a slow, stately march to the library. There were shelves all the way around the room, and every shelf was crowded with books. I had not thought so many books existed.[...] There was a desk, several big leather chairs, a wooden floor covered with faded rugs, and in front of the fireplace a sofa with soft pillows. The shelves stopped several feet short of the ceiling, leaving room for a row of busts of what I imagined must be famous gentlemen. Lamps cast little pools of light in the room.

—Gloria Whelan

The need to be vocal can't be overemphasized: 'We need to change the concept of the library as restricted, quiet space--we bustle, we rock, we engage, but so many people in the community do not know this.'

—Michael Stephens

He wandered off into the stacks, pulling a book here and there, looking at it, putting it back. Choosing books was serious business. You had to be careful. If you were a grownup you could have as many as you wanted, but kids could only take out three at a time. If you picked a dud, you were stuck with it.

—Stephen King

It was impeccably clean, and smelled like an old library might smell if someone was eating a Subway sandwich in it. Because someone was eating a Subway sandwich in it.

—Mandy Ashcraft

I shove through the double doors of the library and it's like I've just walked outside. Things are somehow lighter here, and everything moves at a more normal pace, slowing my heart down along with them as I stand in the entryway.

—Amber Smith

Sometimes I fantasize about getting my hands on my library records. . . my recurring bookworm dream is to peruse my personal library history like it's a historical document.

My bookshelves show me the books I've bought or been given. . . But my library books come into my house and go out again, leaving behind only memories and a jotted line in a journal (if I'm lucky). I long for a list that captures these ephemeral reads—all the books I've borrowed in a lifetime of reading, from last week's armful spanning back to when I was a seven-year-old kid with my first library card. I don't need many details—just the titles and dates would be fine—but oh, how I'd love to see them.

Those records preserve what my memory has not. I remember the highlights of my grade-school checkouts, but much is lost to time. How I'd love to see the complete list of what I chose to read in second grade, or sixth, or tenth.

—Anne Bogel

Most historians agree that the decline of the Great Library of Alexandria was due to what endangers libraries of the present day—general indifference and bureaucratic neglect.

—Library of Congress

The room is warm and smells like dust, and just the presence of so many books makes it easier to breathe. It's remarkable how being around books, even those you've never read, can have a calming effect, like walking into a crowded party and finding it full of people you know.

—Mackenzi Lee

It seems simple to define what a library is—namely, it is a storeroom of books. But the more time I spent at Central, the more I realized that a library is an intricate machine, a contraption of whirring gears. There were days when I came to the library and planted myself near the center of the main corridor and simply watched the whirl and throb of the place. Sometimes people ambled by, with no apparent destination. Some people marched crisply, full of purpose. Many were alone, some were in pairs; occasionally they traveled in a gaggle. People think that libraries are quiet, but they really aren't. They rumble with voices and footsteps and a whole orchestral range of book-related noises—the snap of covers clapping shut; the breathy whisk of pages fanning open; the distinctive thunk of one book being stacked on another; the grumble of book carts in the corridors.

—Susan Orlean

You can get lost in any library, no matter the size. But the more lost you are, the more things you'll find.

—Millie Florence

The library might have been the first place I was ever given autonomy.

—Susan Orlean

Alexandria's first librarian, Zenodotus, attempted to put this mass of scrolls in order. The first scrolls were inventoried and then organized alphabetically, with a tag affixed to the end of each scroll indicating the author, title, and subject. These three categories came to define the traditional card catalog and are still the cornerstone of library cataloging.

—*Library of Congress*

I know of a private library containing several thousand volumes, which are organized neither alphabetically nor chronologically, but where the owner has instead determined the juxtaposition of hierarchy of all the books according to pure personal preference—and yet so organically has the whole place been arranged and so sovereign an overview does he have of his entire collection that he can effortlessly pick out any particular tome that someone has asked him to lend them.

—Herman Hesse

All proper libraries include a trace of everlasting magic.

—Erin Forbes

Belle blinked at the vision before her and inhaled sharply. Books! Books everywhere. The enormous room was two stories tall, with a spiraling stairway on each side leading up to the upper level. Leather-bound volumes filled the shelves from floor to ceiling on both floors, and the upper level looked down upon them with an open loft area surrounded by an ornate wrought-iron railing. Several rolling ladders were in front of the bookcases to allow easy access to even the highest-placed books. And best of all were the chairs and couches around the floor, and the pillows piled high by the windows, perfect for getting comfortable with a story. The library was filled with sunlight during the day, as well as having numerous lamps available for cozy nighttime reading.

—Shoshanna Evers

It's better to read in the library. Sitting at my favorite table by the window reading and listening to the sound of other folks turning pages makes me feel like I'm in a house full of company I don't have to talk to.

—Lesia Cline-Ransome

The library is a whispering post. You don't need to take a book off a shelf to know there is a voice inside that is waiting to speak to you, and behind that was someone who truly believed that if he or she spoke, someone would listen.

—Susan Orlean

The library is the place I go, when I want to be in the know.

—Charmaine J. Forde

The library is not, as some would have it, a place for the retiring of disposition or faint of heart. It is not an ivory tower or a quiet room in a sanitarium facing away from the afternoon sun. It is, rather, a command center, a power base. A board room, a war room. An Oval Office for all who preside over their own destinies. One does not retreat from the world here; one prepares to join it at an advantage.

—Eric Burns

Every girl who aspires ultimately to outfit her own home should assemble a library on architectural styles and on furniture both traditional and modern. As few brides can buy expensively illustrated volumes and household equipment simultaneously, a girl should begin asking parents for books early in life, probably while still in the primary grades...

—Johnson O'Connor

An appetite for knowledge is apt to rush one off one's feet, like any other appetite if not curbed. I often stand in the centre of the Library here and think despairingly how impossible it is ever to become possessed of all the wealth of facts and ideas contained in the books surrounding me on every hand.

—W. N. P. Barbellion

Lord Peter's library was one of the most delightful bachelor rooms in London. Its scheme was black and primrose; its walls were lined with rare editions, and its chairs and Chesterfield sofa suggested the embraces of the houris. In one corner stood a black baby grand, a wood fire leaped on a wide old-fashioned hearth, and the Sèvres vases on the chimneypiece were filled with ruddy and gold chrysanthemums. To the eyes of the young man who was ushered in from the raw November fog it seemed not only rare and unattainable, but friendly and familiar, like a colourful and gilded paradise in a mediæval painting.

—Dorothy L. Sayers

Ben wished the world was organized by the Dewey decimal system. That way you'd be able to find whatever you were looking for, like the meaning of your dream, or your dad.

—Brian Selznick

As soon as I got into the library I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. I got a whiff of the leather on all the old books, a smell that got real strong if you picked one of them up and stuck your nose real close to it when you turned the pages. Then there was the the smell of the cloth that covered the brand-new books, books that made a splitting sound when you opened them. Then I could sniff the the paper, that soft, powdery, drowsy smell that comes off the page in little puffs when you're reading something or looking at some pictures, kind of hypnotizing smell.

—Christopher Paul
Curtis

Books beat boredom.

—Mo Willems

Libraries are a cornerstone of democracy—where information is free and equally available to everyone. People tend to take that for granted, and they don't realize what is at stake when that is put at risk.

—Carla Hayden

Since I could only take six books per visit from the library, I had to time it right, or I'd be stuck on Sundays rereading the five *Reader's Digest Condensed Books* sitting on our red lacquered living room shelf.

—Randy Susan Meyers

When rivers flooded, when fire fell from the sky, what a fine place the library was, the many rooms, the books. With luck, no one found you. How could they!—when you were off to Tanganyika in '98, Cairo in 1812, Florence in 1492!?

—Ray Bradbury

The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man.

—T. S. Eliot

Libraries are the thin red line between civilization and barbarism.

—Neil Gaiman

You want weapons? We're in a library! Books! The best weapons in the world! This room's the greatest arsenal we could have—arm yourselves!

—Russell T. Davies
(Doctor Who)

What in the world would we do without our libraries?

—Katharine Hepburn

A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life-raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind; hospitals of the soul; theme parks of the imagination. On a cold rainy island, they are the only sheltered public spaces where you are not a consumer, but a citizen instead.

—Caitlin Moran

The most important asset of any library goes home at night—the library staff.

—Timothy Healy

Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world.

—Lauren Ward

Cutting libraries during a recession is like cutting hospitals during a plague.

—Eleanor Crumblehulme

Librarians are committed to promoting lifelong learning in order to create a community of well-informed individuals. Librarians are catalysts to enlightenment for their communities.

—Louise Capizzo

When Dody flicked on the light switch, her room leapt to greet her, bright, welcoming, with its grass-green carpet and the two great book-cases full of books she had bought on her book allowance and might never read, not until she had a year of nothing to do but sit, with a locked door, and food hoisted up by pulleys, and then she might read through them.

—Sylvia Plath

Besides books, the library introduced me to something I didn't know I needed as a child—big doses of quiet. My house was filled with the frenzy of nine people, most of them under the age of five. Imagine what I felt when I discovered the Legler Public Library on Chicago's west side.

I could not believe a building existed where talking was outlawed! In my home, if you didn't shout, you didn't get heard. But here was a house of books, quiet as sunlight, a place where I could read and think and, most importantly, nurture my imagination.

—Sandra Cisneros

We were a library family. Every two weeks, we descended upon our local branch and checked out the maximum-allowable 12 books. My parents taught me to always take out the maximum, in case there was something I didn't like. I'd hold out my arms, let me father stack books into them. 'Have you read this? And this? And this?' I gloated over my stash—deciding what to read first, what to save for later.

—Janet Fitch

A lot of kids in rural areas, their only access to the internet is at the library. A lot of people who want to apply for jobs, you have to do it online; if they don't have any internet at home, there's no way for them to do it other than the library.

—Karin Slaughter

The library is not only a diary of the human race, but marks an act of faith in the continuity of humanity.

—Vartan Gregorian

A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone.

—Jo Godwin

Learned institutions ought to be favorite objects with every free people. They throw that light over the public mind, which is the best security against crafty and dangerous encroachments on the public liberty.

—James Madison

Librarian: Well-minded angels who wield unfathomable power to bring order to chaos, wisdom and culture to the masses, and to preserve knowledge and information.

—Internet Meme

Andrew Carnegie—no angel when it came to industrial relations, but dollar for dollar the greatest philanthropist in modern history—built 2,811 lending libraries, two-thirds of them in the United States, and called them Palaces for the People.

— Samuel Wells

More than 90 percent of Americans see their library as important, and 50 percent have used a library in the last year. In an era in which every major institution (government, churches, banks, corporations) has fallen in public esteem, only first responders, the military, and libraries stand apart.

—Eric Klinenberg

The library is the epitome of the social infrastructure that is crucial to the survival of Western society.

—Eric Klinenberg

15 THINGS BOOK-LOVERS DO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE

- Notice every change between book and movie
- Pull all-nighters
- Concentrate while on the train/bus/airplane
- Keep a well-loved book together by sheer force of willpower
- Daydream
- Follow two (or five) plots at once
- Balance books in weird positions
- Apply literature to life
- Find the perfect reading spot
- Walk and read
- Write
- Fall madly in love with fictional characters
- Budget for maximum book purchasing
- Find creative book storage solutions
- Read

— Charlotte Ahlin

THINGS BOOK LOVERS DO

- Read several books at one time
- ...while also having a stack of books to read next
- ...and keeping a running list of even MORE books you want
- Feel happy when you remember you get to read your book later
- Feel sad and lost when you finish a great book
- Pause to appreciate a beautifully written sentence
- See the cover of an old book and be transported back to your youth
- Find joy and comfort in rereading a favorite book
- Walk into a library or bookstore and say...I could live here!

—*CLAMS Library
Network*

The library has been a sanctuary for me for many years, from the tiny, cozy one at my elementary school to the glass palace of a public library where I spent my post-college years hanging out. (Bonus points: It also had a cafe and a pizza restaurant.)

—Gemma Correll

For the two to six weeks that I hold a library book in my hands, it's mine. I like thinking about how many other people have held the same book in their hands. Sometimes I find physical evidence — a bookmark, or a scrap of paper left behind. Libraries and books and comics remind me that there are good things left in the world.

—Gemma Correll

The crossword fad...plagued librarians [in 1924], who complained that puzzle 'fans' were swarming the reference desk, clamoring for dictionaries and encyclopedias to help find answers, and pushing aside more 'legitimate' readers and students.

—Deb Amlen

Its [Library of Congress] original mission is still part of its mission now, and that is to serve Congress. It started in 1800 with about 700 books, mainly legal books to serve the new Congress. After the British burned the library during the War of 1812, Thomas Jefferson [sold to the library] his collection. It was about 6,000 books, and that was the largest personal library in the United States. It included religious texts—the Bible, the Koran—books in different languages. He said that there is no subject that members of Congress should not have to refer to. That set the framework for future collecting.

—Carla Hayden,
Librarian of
Congress

I love books and reading and knew what they meant to me. When I found out that there was a profession that could help other people enjoy reading, I thought this is really something that speaks to me personally. It was really a match made in heaven.

—Carla Hayden,
Librarian of
Congress

Democracy depends on an informed population. And where can people get all the information they need? —At the Library.

—Elliot Shelkrot

As far back as 1815, Jesse Torrey drew upon the tradition of George Washington, Benjamin Rush, and Samuel Adams when he spoke for a 'cause consecrated by religion and enjoined by patriotism,' the 'universal dissemination of knowledge and virtue by means of free public libraries.

—Sidney Ditzion

One function of the librarian, as he saw it, was to blunt the edge of these differences and to provide a means whereby the rich and poor could live happily side by side. The public library was a great leveler, supplying a literature by which the ordinary man could experience some of the pleasures of the rich, and providing a common ground where employer and employee could meet on equal terms.

—Lewis H. Steiner

As the public storehouse of knowledge, the public library can be viewed as a free society's insurance that all ideas will be accessible to everyone who may want them. Ideas and information are certainly available elsewhere, but no other agency or organization can guarantee such a wide accessibility to ideas of all kinds that will be free of charge to all its customers. As several authors have pointed out, private media have their own agendas, which usually involve disseminating only those ideas that are popular, sensational, or can be fit neatly into a thirty-second sound bite. As a result, private media often do not provide the kind of in-depth and comprehensive access to all ideas that can be found in a public library. Without this kind of accessibility provided somewhere within society, the danger of tyranny increases. The importance of the public library, then, lies in its availability somewhere within society as that society's last defense against the possibilities of oppression.

—Kevin Mattson

Censorship is alive, well, and thriving in many of America's schools and libraries. How can we reinforce the fundamental tenet that censorship is just plain unAmerican, that it erodes the freedoms the Constitution guarantees, and that it is inimical to our democratic Republic? When censors are not convinced by either our arguments or the record of our history as a free people then how can we frustrate and deter their efforts without shutting off their right to free speech.

—Kevin Mattson

The primary goal of the public library must be to teach good citizenship. Libraries recognized that such "Americanization" could be achieved through literacy. Thus, teaching immigrants to read was not just a benefit in and of itself; literacy would also serve the interests of democracy.

—Kevin Mattson

Libraries are central to the quality of life in our society; that libraries have a direct role in preserving democratic freedoms. Free access to information and the opportunity of every individual to improve his or her mind, employment prospects, and lifestyle are fundamental rights in our society.

—Arthur Curley

The library serves democracy by providing a neutral forum in which all types of information and all points of view find equal voice.

—Patricia Wilson Berger

All libraries are civilizing agencies in society. In the continuing struggle to establish and maintain democratic values, free public libraries are essential for providing information and knowledge, enhancing individual growth, easing the transition from youth to maturity, and setting people on the road to wisdom. Our society has faith in reading as a Good Thing that leads to desirable ends, and it believes reading has the power to alter people for the better.

In a democratic society, the free public library also has a civic aim. It offers citizens the means by which they may become informed and intelligent citizens. Thomas Jefferson believed that the establishment of a small circulating library in every county would be of great value in creating a well-informed citizenry. Where the people have the responsibility for electing public officials, and in our era the additional one of voting on weighty referenda, it becomes imperative that they vote from knowledge, not ignorance.

In implementing the civic aim of the free public library, librarians have the duty to provide as many points of view as possible on current issues. It is not for the library to tell people how to vote, or what opinions to hold on current issues; rather it is up to them to provide a range of views on these issues so that people may make up their own minds about where they stand on issues.

—William Eshelman

If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are its banks.

— Senator Wendell Ford

‘In our country’s first year of war, we have seen the growing power of books as weapons. . . ‘

‘This is proper, for a war of ideas can no more be won without books than a naval war can be won without ships. Books, like ships, have the toughest armor, the longest cruising range, and mount the most powerful guns. I hope that all who write and publish and sell and administer books will. . . rededicate themselves to the single task of arming the mind and spirit of the American people with the strongest and most enduring weapons.’

‘Libraries are directly and immediately involved in the conflict which divides the world, and for two reasons; first, because they are essential to the functioning of a democratic society; second, because the contemporary conflict touches the integrity of scholarship, the freedom of the mind, and even the survival of culture, and libraries are the great symbols of the freedom of the mind.’

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

Through all the recorded history of the world, the building of permanent institutions like libraries and museums for the use of all the people flourishes. And that is especially true in our own land, because we believe that people ought to work out for themselves, and through their own study, the determination of their best interest rather than accept such so-called information as may be handed out to them by certain types of self-constituted leaders who decide what is best for them.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

‘The library is central to our free society. It is a critical element in the free exchange of information at the heart of our democracy.’

‘. . . the library’s mission statement lays out our task quite clearly: ‘the New York Public Library is one of the cornerstones of the American tradition of equal opportunity. It provides free and open access to the accumulated wisdom of the world, without distinction as to income, religion, nationality, or other human condition. . . . It guarantees freedom of information and independence of thought. . . . It helps ensure the free trade in ideas and the right of dissent. . . .’

‘One of my greatest sources of pride as president of the New York Public Library is the continuance of the library’s open, free, and democratic posture, the fact that we are here for Everyman, that we are indeed Everyman’s university, the place where the scholar who is not college-affiliated can come and work and feel at home.’

—Vartan Gregorian

Our problem is not to censor, but to teach every young generation to think critically, for every community to support free public libraries, and to join in defending their librarians who make accessible as broad a spectrum of information as they can. Because modern technology has produced overwhelming floods of variegated words and images, more than ever, we depend on librarians. Librarians do not close the gates to what is contrary to conventional wisdom. Instead, they respect contrarian desires of individuals, they help guide each citizen through the growing jungle of words and images to what that citizen seeks. But when given the opportunity, they also teach the young how to search for what the judgement of time and experience have proven to be as close to truth and beauty as human discernment can achieve.

—Ben H. Bagdikian

Established in 1800, the Library of Congress is our Nation's oldest national cultural institution and has become the largest repository of recorded knowledge in the world. It stands as a symbol of the vital connection between knowledge and democracy.

—Senator Claiborne Pell

Freedom is found through the portals of our nation's libraries.

—David McCullough

Meek young men grow up in libraries believing it their duty to accept the views which Cicero, which Locke, which Bacon have given, forgetful that Cicero, Locke and Bacon were only young men in libraries when they wrote those books.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

A library card is a powerful weapon to change lives. With it, we learn how to value what we have, to mourn what we have lost and to dream of what we might become.

—Val McDermid

There is no substitute for books in the life of a child.

—Mary Ellen Chase

Libraries are the ultimate restaurants for brain food. I sleep better knowing there are libraries.

—Simon Van Booy

A trip to the library is like coming home and going on an adventure at the same time.

—Megan Shepherd

I don't have to look far to find treasures. I discover them every time I visit the library.

—Michael Embry

Libraries aren't in the real world. They're places apart, sanctuaries of pure thought.

—Paul Auster

The school library may well be the most important room in any public school building.

—Chris Crutcher