Some Thoughts about History

• History as a mirror
• History as a source
• History as a teacher

Foreword

• For libraries to be established, we generally need three conditions
  – centralization
  – economic growth
  – political stability
• under the absence of any of them, libraries will not flourish.

Writing: papyrus

• general technology
  – outer bark was removed from the papyrus reed
  – inner soft pith was spliced into thin narrow strips
  – strips placed into two layers, one perpendicular to the other, and pressed
  – sheets could be put together and rolled
• probably used starting from 3000 BC (first dynasty in Egypt)
• seven or eight different grades were produced
• storage in wet climates is problematic.

Start of libraries and writing

• The true beginning of libraries are not known.
• Libraries originated after the pre-historic area.
• As soon as writing appeared there were presumable collections of writings.
• Thus it is important to look at the development of writing technologies.
• Origin of libraries
  – Religion – preservation of sacred writings
  – Taxes – who owed, who paid

Why Examine Libraries in Historical Context?

• Understanding missions of libraries
• Understanding values of libraries
• Awareness of historical literature in LIS field
• Attitudes shape the future of libraries

Historical Mission and Value of Libraries

LIS510

Why Examine Libraries in Historical Context?
Writing: clay tablet

- general technology
  - piece of clay
  - impress on it with a stylus
  - leave to dry
  - bake it if it is to be kept
- It was mainly used in the cuneiform writing in Mesopotamia from 3000 BC onwards.
- It became a lingua franca across the ancient orient.

Sample cuneiform text

Works on clay tablets

- The average tablet could not hold more than 2-3 modern pages.
- For longer works tablets were kept together by a running “title” made up of the first words of the work and the tablet number.
- Tablets were kept together in baskets.

Writing: parchment

- general technology
  - starts with cured hide of a young sheep or goat
  - which is cleaned
  - cured or tanned until thin white
- more durable than papyrus
- writable on both sides
- starts being used in the second century BC.

Origins of libraries

- A library is more than just a pile of writings.
- One can debate the exact nature of libraries.
- A library, the collection has to be
  - organized with ease of use at mind
  - cared to by some people
  - admit readers

Early types: temple libraries

- A temple presupposes formal worship with some sort of code
  - formal worship and priesthood codes
  - set a deities worshiped
  - mythical stories
- A theological collection would most likely be kept by a high priest.
### Early types: government records

- primarily of archival quality
  - records related to tax collection, property ownership, deeds and transactions
  - laws, agreements, treaties
- but some library features
  - codification of laws
  - accounts of rulers’ genealogies
  - accounts of military campaigns

### Early types: business record

- As soon as commerce moves beyond barter, business records are required.
- Again some archival character
  - records of property
  - transactions
  - purchases
  - sales
- but in some ways the precursor of the modern “special library”.

### Early type: family manuscripts

- Private records are among the most widely found.
  - marriages, genealogical accounts
  - business records
  - cooking recipes
  - household advice on tool making
  - kings’ list
  - works of poets or story tellers
- by Roman or Greek times, they are quite frequent.

### Final type: official copies

- There was no copyright, so works could be freely copied.
- In Egypt, as well as in Greece, official copies of certain texts were kept so that copies could be checked against official versions.

### Mesopotamia

- This is an area what is now Iraq.
- It’s a Greek word meaning “between the rivers”.
- It is considered the birthplace of western civilization.
- It was inhabited by three cultures
  - Sumerians
  - Babylonians
  - Assyrians

### Start of writing there

- It is certain that in the 4000 B.C. onwards, there was sufficient writing there and there were libraries.
- By 3600 cuneiform writing appears, around 400 characters.
- Over 200,000 clay tables have been unearthed.
  - They can be read.
  - Something can be said about their organization.
Sumerian collections

- Here are some example early collections
  - At the red temple of Erech (lower Euphrates), tablets with a pictographic script were found dating to 3300 BC.
  - At Jemdet Nasr tablets were found from 2700 BC with cuneiform script.
  - At Tello, over 30000 tablets were found dated 2350 BC.

- Trouble to recognize an organization in the collections that would make them worthy to be called libraries.

Babylonian government archives

- In Babylon, there was archive of a few thousand tablets dealing with city business.
- There has been a government archive unearthed in Lagash.
- In Ur a “great house of tablets” existed, dated about 2100BC.

Babylonian temple libraries

- Temple libraries contain religious materials.
- They also contained pseudoscience, since this was closely connected with religion.
- The temple also trained scribes. Thus they also had school libraries
  - textbook tablets
  - dictionaries
  - grammars

Likely characteristics

- The tablets were properly arranged and kept by specialized personnel.
- Sometimes tablets belonging to the library have been found outside, giving evidence to lending.
- Physical arrangement of collections varies.

First librarian known by name

- Apparently this honor falls to Amit Anu.
- He was the “keeper of the tablets” in the royal library in Ur, about 2000BC.
- Note that a librarian had to be a well trained person
  - had to be literate
  - had to know several languages

Assyrian libraries

- At the time of the Assyrians we can really talk about libraries.
- Sargon II (died ~750BC) had a palace library at Khorsabad.
- This library contains a list of kings dating form 2000BC to Sargon II.
Assurbanipal (668-627) library

- He moved the capital to Nineveh and established a library there.
- On his official seal he noted “I have collected these tablets, I have them copied, I have marked them with my name and deposited them in my palace”.
- He sent agents out to collect written records.

Assurbanipal library contents

- 30k tablets
- Multilingual collection in Babylonian and Sumerian as well as Assyrian.
- Emphasizes
  - religious texts
  - incantations
  - verbal charms
- For example it has the best copy of the Epic of Gilgamesh (Sumerian king in Uruk, about 2700 BC) by Shin-eqi-unninni, presumably first named author in history.

Assurbanipal library rooms

- One government documents room with
  - agreements with subordinate rulers
  - bios of important officials
  - copies of letters to ambassadors
- Geography room
  - descriptions of towns and countries
- Legal division
- Commercial record division
- Legends and mythology division
- Sciences and pseudoscience division

Assurbanipal library physical

- Clay tablets were kept in earthen jars.
- Jars were kept on shelves.
- A list of works was kept on the wall of each room
- Each tablet has an ID tag giving its jar, shelf and room.

Assurbanipal library subject data

- Special tablets—apparently kept close to the doors—contained subject information.
- These contained
  - titles of works
  - number of tablets of each work
  - number of lines in the work
  - opening words of the work
  - important subdivisions
  - location or classification code.
- These tablets are more worn than normal ones

Assurbanipal library closure

- In 612BC the Chaldeans and Medes destroyed the palace of Nineveh with battering rams.
- Walls collapsed and buried the tablets.
- Rediscovered by archeologists in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Order of tablets was reasonably well preserved, contrary to other sites.
Egyptian writing

- The Egyptians used hieroglyphs.
- “hieroglyphs” is Greek and means “sacred stone writing”. Indeed hieroglyph were mainly cast in stone.
- On papyrus, leather and other material, hieratic script was used.
- In 700BC a shorthand known an demotic script appeared.

Egyptian libraries

- Preservation would have been a favorite
  - Since the climate is dry, things store well.
  - The cult of after-life should have included reading material.
- But writing support creates problems
  - Stone is problematic for large volumes.
  - Papyrus is perishable.
- Therefore as such evidence of libraries is mostly indirect. Writings refer to them, but they have not actually been found.
- One, in Akhetaton, a capital built by Amenhotep IV (1350BC), contained cuneiform tablets with diplomatic correspondence.

Egyptian palace libraries

- Cheops (khufu) had a house of writing in 2600 BC.
- In Akhetaton, a capital built by Amenhotep IV (1350BC), a library contained cuneiform tablets with diplomatic correspondence.
- Ramses II supposedly had a library of 20k rolls in his palace in 1300BC.

Egyptian temple libraries

- They usually started around the Book of Thoth, the Egyptian god of learning.
- Other books for other gods would be added, with some guidelines of interpretation.
- Hymns and prayer books would come next.
- Finally more secular literature would be found.
- As in Mesopotamia, the temple served for training scribes.

Egyptian private libraries

- An excavation site in El-Lahun dated 1800BC had many homes of better classes.
- At nearly every house some remains of papyrus have been found, indicating a high degree of literacy.
  - business files, correspondence, legal papers
  - literature, history, theology
  - medical and veterinary works

Early Greek libraries

- The classic Greek era starts about 600BC.
- From the Minoan-Mycenaean civilization clay tablets have been found in Crete dating to 1400BC.
- There are two scripts call linear A and linear B. Only the latter has been deciphered.
- Linear B material contains virtually no fine literature or historical writings, exclusively business and “ready-reference” materials
Pisistratus

• Pisistratus (650-527) was a ruler of Athens.
• According to the Roman writer Aulus Gellius (2nd century AD) he collected a library, gave to the city of Athens, where it was opened to the public.
• It is supposed to have been captured by the Persian emperor Xerxes when he conquered Greece in 480BC.

The philosophers

• The existence of famous scholars supports the idea that they must have had access to libraries.
• Aristotles (384-321BC) is supposed to have had one of the largest private libraries of the ancient world, composed of several hundred volumes of books.
• There are conflicting account on what happened to the collection later.

Story of Aristotle’s library

• At his death, it was given to his favorite disciple Theophrastus. He continued the school for 35 years.
• His nephew Neleus hid them in the cellar to prevent them from being taken to the library at Pergamum. Books stayed there 150 years.
• In 100 BC they were sold to a collector Appelicus of Teos, who oversaw restoration.
• Shortly after his death, Athens was overthrown by Sulla and the books taken to the imperial palace in Rome.

Public libraries

• There is reference to public libraries at that time in the Greece.
• These included a public library in Athens were official copies of popular plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides were kept for all to copy.

Origin of the library of Alexandria

• When Alexander conquered the main countries of the western world in 336-323, he exported Greek culture.
• After 305, a series of rulers known as the Ptolmies ruled Egypt.
• Demetrius of Phalerum suggested to Ptolemy I the establishment of an Athens-like philosophy school with library.

Starts as a “museum”

• It is a place of the muses.
• Within the palace area, it was a separate space with
  – lecture halls
  – study rooms
  – astrological observatory
• Demetrius was first director.
• Opened around 300BC.
Major efforts

• Most interest seemed to be revising, collating and editing earlier works
  – They divided Homer’s work into book, each to fit one roll.
  – Egyptologists worked on translated Egyptian texts.
  – The Septuagint was a translation of the Old Testament by 70 (?) Hebrew scholars.
• Modern commentators have deplored the “stultifying effect” of the institution.

Collection development

• Under Ptolemy II collection development became particularly aggressive.
• Copies of all known books in the city were added.
• Arriving ships had to surrender any books that they held for copying. Sometimes originals were not returned.
• Ptolemy II is also supposed to have acquired a part of Aristotele’s library from Neleus.

Callimachus of Cyrene

• Appears to be head of the library 260-240.
• He organized rolls into books.
• He started to compile a catalog entitled “Tables of those who were outstanding in every phase of culture, and their writings”, aka knows an the Pinakes.
• He was also involved in other projects so deserves the title of “father of bibliography”.
• First cataloger

The Pinakes

• It is thought to be 120 rolls long. Few segments survive. It contains
  – author bios
  – list of works
  – number of lines in the work
• It was divided into had 8 major subjects
  – Oratory     – Medicine
  – History     – Lyric poetry
  – Laws        – Tragedy
  – Philosophy  – Miscellany

Importance

• For the first 200 years the library of Alexandria was the most important center of learning in the western world.
• After that, its importance declined but it is not sure how the library ended

Other important Greek libraries

• Antigonus Gonatus, king of Macedonia, founded a library in Pella 250BC.
• Antiochus the Great, the Seleucid King established a library in Antcho on Orones about 200BC.
• Attalus I, king of Pergamum, and his son Eumenses II worked a competitor library to Alexandria in Pergamum in 200BC. They tried to headhunt a librarian from Alexandria.
### Library competition

- The story goes that the Ptolmies stopped the shipment of papyrus to Pergamum to prevent the library there from growing.
- They then invented parchment as a replacement.
- The truth is that parchment was used before, but a better sort was developed then.
- In 133 BC Pergamum fell to the Romans, contributing to the decline of the library.

### Pergamum library organization

- The library was located off the North colonnade of the temple of Athena (the goddess of wisdom, patroness of Athens).
- The largest room was 180 square meters, with a platform about 1 meter high on three sides.
- But assuming pigeonhole for the rolls, it could only have house 17k rolls.
- A bench was there for the reader.
- A statue of Athena was in the middle.

### Libraries and learning centers

- After Alexander, quiet times settled in Greece.
- Athens’ importance as a center of power declined, it became a center of learning. A university type institution operated there 300BC to 500AD. The town had archives.
- There was a medical school near Epidavros operating 500BC to 100AD. Other medical schools existed.

### Libraries and literature

- All major towns in Greece had public libraries.
- There is not much of physical evidence of libraries.
- There is not much mentioning in the literature.
- It is estimated that about 10% of the writings of classical Greece have survived to this day. This could not have been done without libraries.

### Roman libraries

- From 200BC the Roman empire gradually spread around the Mediterranean.
- While the Romans militarily defeated the Greek, the Greeks “culturally defeated” the Romans.
- As a consequence Roman libraries are direct successors to Greek libraries.

### Earliest Roman collections

- Collection of historical records and laws.
- Example:
  - Legend goes that 12 tablets of law were engraved and exhibited around 450BC.
  - The “Annales Pontificum” are 80 volumes collected about 120BC in the office of the “Pontifex Maximus”.
  - Libri Magistratum collects lists of officials.
First Roman library

- Was owned by Paulus Aemilius, a Roman general who defeated King Perseus of Macedonia in 168BC. His soldiers ransacked the palace, he stole the books.
- This became fashionable after him.
  – Cornelius Sulla seized the library of Apelicon of Teos in 88BC. This probably contained a part of Aristotle’s collection.
  – Lucilius Lucullus carried books from Armenia to Rome.
  – Scipio Aemilianus in 46BC destroyed most of the books of Cartage because he could not read Phoenician.

First known public library in Rome

- Julius Cesar planned it by appointing Terentius Varro, a renowned book collector to the head the project. But Cesar was murdered in 44BC before it was completed.
- G. Asinius Pollio used wealth from the conquest of Dalmatia, used collections including those of Sulla and Varro to build a public library in the temple of liberty on the Aventine hill, which was already a site of archives. The library opened its doors in 37BC.

Other public libraries

- The Ulpian library by emperor Trajan in 114 AD, assumed to be the finest Roman library.
- In the fourth century, there were 28 public libraries in the city, but virtually nothing is known about their contents.
- Emperor Hadrian is credited with creating a library in Athens and reviving libraries in Ephesus and Pergamum.

Visitors from Greece

- Crates of Mallos
  – He was a grammarian of note.
  – He was the chief librarian at Pergamum around at the time of Eumenes II. He built a catalog for the library.
  – Was invited to Rome in 160BC.
  – His plans formed basis for Roman libraries.
- Athenodorus of Tarsus
  – also a head librarian in Pergamum
  – invited by Cato the elder to Rome to advise on libraries there.

Temple of Apollo library

- It was founded by Augustus in 36BC, opened in 28BC
- It had a Latin and Greek section.
- Later enlarged by Tiberius and Caligula.
- Damaged by two fires but operated into the fifth century.

Private libraries

- Cicero (1st century BC) noted that the library was the soul of his house.
- Seneca (d 65 AD) deplored people having too many books. Petronius has a satire about a collector of books who has no clue what is written in them.
- Q. Sammonicus Serenius, a writer in 2nd century AD, claimed a library of 60k rolls
Middle Ages

- Libraries and scriptoria in monasteries in the Middle Ages
- Collected and copied classical Greek and Roman texts as well as Christian writings
- Crusades brought 12th-century Europe into contact with highly-developed civilizations of the East and exposed Europeans to new ideas and knowledge

15th-17th centuries

- Gave rise to universities and their libraries
- Gutenberg invented printing from moveable type in 1450
- Possible to produce books quickly and inexpensively
- Led to popularity of books, widespread literacy, standardization of languages and nationalism
- Nationalism led to rise of national libraries
  - Bibliotheque nationale, Paris (1622)
  - British Museum became de facto national library (1759)
  - Jefferson founded the Library of Congress (1800)

Effects of the Printing Press

- Production of an authoritative version
- Production of more titles and copies
- Coverage of more subjects
- Creation of new techniques for material organization
- Stimulation of literacy
- Education for the general population

American library history

- This does not start in the USA, but Latin America.
- Jesuits and Franciscans brought books to the area as early as the 15th century.
- But here we will look exclusively at US library history and leave out Canadian and Latin American developments.

The settlers

- The “settlers” had to bring books with them because printing did not exist at first.
- Since no new books were produced, the books brought in were considered quite valuable.
- Since much of the workforce labored the land literacy rates were low.

Private libraries of Pilgrims

- Small libraries existed in the Pilgrim community of Plymouth, Massachusetts.
  - Rev William Brewster (d. 1643) left four hundred volumes.
  - Governor William Bradford owned 80 volumes.
- Most of the books are religious, with some history, travel, political science.
- Of 70 wills of Plymouth citizens between 1620 and 1690, 58 mention books.
Private libraries of Puritans

- Small libraries existed in the Puritan community of Massachusetts Bay.
  - Rev Benjamin Bunker left 80 religious volumes when he died in 1669.
  - Jonathan Mitchell had 108 volumes of religion, 74 classics, 11 science.
- The fewer books people had, the more of them were religious. Folks who had only one book had the Bible.

Private libraries of Virginia

- Before 1700, about half the population was illiterate.
- Government officials, lawyers, planters were most likely to have books.
  - Ralph Womeley, secretary to the colony, left 375 books when he died in 1701.
  - The Presbyterian minister left 992 titles.

Governor Winthrop’s library

- Governor John Winthrop of CT had probably the largest private library in 17th century New England
- In 1640 it was larger than 1000 volumes
- After his death it was enlarged by his son and grandson.

Early booksellers

- We know that a book store was operating in 1670 in Boston.
- But many New Englanders ordered books from England.
- There also were itinerant booksellers who traveled from place to place selling books and taking orders for books.

Earliest college library

- In Richmond, VA, in 1620 a library for “Henrico Indian College” was established.
- But in 1622 there was an Indian uprising and the plans for the college were shelved.
- Only in 1693 William and Mary was founded with a collection of a few hundred books, destroyed in 1705 by fire.

New England college libraries

- A college was founded in 1636 so that young men could train as ministers without returning to England.
- It got its name when the Rev. John Harvard gave it a collection of 280 books and a small endowment.
- Governor Winthrop sent 40 volumes.
- Others were sent but the collection grew only slowly.
Earliest public library?
- In 1656 captain Robert Keayne willed his books to the town of Boston if they build a library for it.
- Boston gave a room to house books in the Town House.
- There is little evidence of use.
- A catalog was made in 1702.
- The collection was destroyed by fire in 1742.

Earliest public library?
- In 1656 governor Theophilus Eaton gave 95 books to New Haven town for a proposed college that never took off.
- They kept them in a schoolhouse, but no evidence of public use.
- Town sold them to a minister in 1689.

Early parish libraries
- While there is no firm evidence on public libraries before 1700, there is evidence of parish libraries.
- The King’s Chapel Library in Boston was founded in 1698 with books given by the bishop of London.
- Wills mention ministerial collections willed to parishes.

More help from the Brits
- In 1701 Thomas Bray obtained the charter from King William III which founded the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. It is still in business.
- It established parish libraries in the USA
  - 5 provincial libraries (Annapolis, Charleston etc)
  - 39 parochial libraries
  - 35 laymen's libraries administered by ministers

Annapolis collection
- It was a public library in all but its name
  - It contained over 1100 books.
  - It was open to the general public.
  - Maintained by the provincial government in the state house between 1697 to 1704, when it was damaged by a fire.

Charleston collection
- The Bray collection sent there led to a passage of a legislative act that a minister would be put in charge of the collection.
- The act also contains detailed provisions about the use of the library.
- There are no provisions about adding new books.
Other Bray collections
• There were collections by Bray and his disciples in New York, Pennsylvania, and North and South Carolina.
• But almost all fell into disuse after Bray’s death in 1730.

18th c. private libraries South
• At that time, many of the plantation owners had private libraries.
• William Byrd of Westover, VA had 4000 books, with history and classic literature accounting for half of the collection. He employed a librarian and lent books to friends.
• Ministers, doctors and lawyers typically had books too.

18th century private libraries NE
• Thomas Prince, a Boston minister, collected New England historic material.
• At his death in 1738 these books went to Old South Church in Boston.
• They later became property of the Boston public library.

NY 18th century private libraries
• John Sharp built a collection of theological books, gave it to NY City in 1718. It became part of the NY Society Library an 1754.
• Rev. Alexander Innes left a sizable collection to churches when he died in 1713.
• Samuel Johnson, president of King’s College collected English literature.

18th century private libraries
• James Logan, a Quaker, of Philadelphia collected 3000 books until his death in 1751.
• He had a special building for it, where serious readers could borrow.
• Collection in Greek, Hebrew, French, Latin.
• In 1792 the collection was joined with the Philadelphia Library Company.

Benjamin Franklin
• Benjamin Franklin is known to have had a private library that at his death was about 4000 volumes strong. He left them to his grandson, and in 1801 they were sold by a bookseller in Philadelphia.
• He is mainly known for contributions that supported libraries.
The JUNTO

- In his words, in 1727: “had formed most of my ingenious acquaintance into a club of mutual improvement, which we called the JUNTO; we met on Friday evenings. The rules that I drew up required that every member, in his turn, should produce one or more queries on any point of Morals, Politics, or Natural Philosophy, to be discussed by the company; and once in three months produce and read an essay of his own writing, on any subject he pleased.”
- based on the idea of men’s self-improvement.
- 12 members originally, lasted for 40 years.

Junto Library

- In 1730 BF suggested that Junto members combined their libraries.
- But many felt that their books were not properly cared for, and the common library collapsed.
- As a reaction, BF started the first subscription library, the Library Company of Philadelphia in 1731.

Library Company of Philadelphia

- This was the mother of Social Libraries, according to BF himself.
- It had 50 members who contributed 40 Shillings initially and 10 Shillings annually. The company would own the books it bought from member contributions.
- Borrowing was free for members.
- Collection development was reader-lead, though donation were accepted.
- The library was a joint stock company.

Other subscription libraries

- The PLC was the mother of the subscription libraries but others followed.
- The movement was popular until the mid 19th century
- Groups created
  - General reading libraries (often established by women)
  - Mercantile libraries
  - Mechanics Institutes libraries
- All shared a generic mission self-improvement.

Circulating libraries

- Since about 1760 circulating libraries were established.
- Most of them were associated with printing and publishing companies.
- Materials held mainly served an entertainment purpose.
- They either charged by rental or by membership.

Early circulating libraries

- The first one was by William Reid in Annapolis, MD, in 1762, closed 1764.
- Members could borrow 2 books at a time for an annual fee of 27 shilling.
- In 1765 similar collections were in Philly, NY, Charleston and Boston.
- The Boston company made 1200 titles available, one volume at time, 28 shillings annual subscription fee.
Circulating vs. social libraries

- While there were numerous circulating libraries, they were probably not as culturally important as the social libraries
  - offerings were restricted to the booksellers’ holdings
  - usually quite small
  - appealed to the occasional rather than the serious reader.

Emergence of special libraries

- The library of the American Philosophical Society in 1743 was the first special library if one excludes Bray’s libraries as not belonging to this genre.
- In 1763 the Pennsylvania Hospital library was the first medical library in the US. Five others ran before 1800. Holdings were small because medical literature was quite small.
- The oldest strictly theological collection was the one of St. Mary’s college created 1791.

Private libraries after the revolution

- Many colonial private libraries were destroyed in the revolutions.
- Not surprisingly many of the new collections contained Americana.
- An example is John Carter Brown (1797–1874)
  - collected item of early Americana and books on explorations
  - now part of Brown University libraries.

19th c. private libraries

- The US has been populated by folks who love to collect books.
- The US census in 1870 reported 107,673 private libraries. The average size was only 253 books.
- Time and place matter.
  - 305 books in 1805 in St. Louis is remarkable.
  - Same number in Boston would not be.

The Presidents

- The early presidents all had private libraries.
- Thomas Jefferson is supposed to have been the biggest bibliophile in the White House. In 1770 he lost his collection to a fire. In 1783, he had built up a new collection to 2640 volumes.
- In 1815 Thomas Jefferson sells his 6,487k item collection to Congress for $23,490. LoC (to be) adopted his classification system.

Library of Congress (LC)

- Started in 1800 with budget of $5,000.
- Destroyed in 1812 by the Brits.
- In 1864 Rand Spofford was appointed librarian of Congress by Lincoln. At time there were 5 staff in the LoC handling 60k volumes.
- It is only since that time that the library started its ascent to become the largest in the world by many measures.
LC at the turn of the century
- Spofford suggested that the library needs its own building as early as 1871.
- The building was completed in 1897.
- It can house up to 3M volumes.
- By 1990 it had 185 staff + 45 staff in copyright office.
- The classification system of Jefferson was overhauled and the holdings reclassified.

National Library of Medicine
- Started by Congress in 1836 as the "Army Medical Library".
- In 1865 it had 1800 volumes only.
- Then John Shaw Billings took over and developed it to 50k books and 60k pamphlets in 1880.
- By 1910 it had 100k volumes.
- In 1962 1.3 M volumes, staff of 300.

National Library of Agriculture
- Founded in 1862 as the Department of Agriculture Library.
- Held 7k volumes in 1875
- Held 200k volumes in 1929
- NLA and NLM have played pioneering role in the building, maintenance and distribution of catalogs through digital media.

Military libraries
- Started in 1861 with Military Post Library Association with little official support.
- By 1875 almost every military post has a 50-2500 volume library.
- After WWI the American Red Cross, the YMCA, the ALA helped.
- After 1920 every station bigger than 2500 men has a library with a staffed librarian.
- In 1943 over 2k post libraries with 900+ librarians working there.

Presidential libraries
- Usually located in the home town of a president.
- The oldest is for FDR in Hyde Park, NY.
- The 1955 presidential libraries administration act provides for the national archives and records administration to run such libraries.
- Funds for construction have to come from private sources.

State libraries
- Many state libraries go back to the 19th century.
- But all experienced serious growth only in the 20th century.
- The Federal Libraries Act of 1956 and later acts provide for federal monies to states to aid library development. Such monies are usually channeled through the state library.
Later in the college

- Until the mid 19th century, education was predominantly focused on theology, philosophy, history, grammar, rhetoric, and logic.
- Rise in sciences put that model under pressure.
  - seminars
  - labs
  - independent studies
- German model starts to put an emphasis on research.

College libraries

- By the middle of the 19th century, hundreds of colleges had been established. Their library facilities varied greatly.
- In 1851, Charles Coffin Jewett (college librarian at Brown) noted
  
  Our libraries are mostly eleemosynary institutions. Their libraries are frequently the change aggregations of the gift of charity; too many of them discarded, as well nigh worthless, from the shelves of donors.

The poor college library

- The typical college library before the civil war was smaller than 25k volumes.
- It was made up almost entirely of gifts.
  - old books
  - reference works
  - standard editions
- It has next to no financial support from the college.
- Open to students only a few hours per day or week.

The poor college librarian

- Generally it was a faculty member who was given the “honor” to run the library.
- They were not given any extra pay or training.
- The service they provided to both stock and patrons was poor.

Harvard library

- Harvard saved its library through the revolution and added it with confiscated books from fleeing loyalists.
- In 1780 it had 12k volumes.
- In 1790 it became the nation’s leading academic library.
  - 1827: 25k
  - 1840: 40k volumes
  - 1870: 70k books, 30k pamphlets

Growth through gifts

- Between 1780 and 1840 the library received over 1000 gifts in kind
  - In 1818 the library was gave the American history collection of the German historian C.D. Eberling, with 3k books and 10k rare charts.
  - John Adams and John Quincy Adams libraries came in part to Harvard.
  - Senator Charles Sumner gave 1,3 volumes, many very rare.
- In 1877 they hired an administrator from the Boston public library as the librarian.
  - He brought more customer orientation
  - extended hours
  - interlibrary loan
  - reserve collection
Columbia
• Columbia University had a small central collection augmented by departmental collections.
• The central library had 16k volumes in 1860.
• The budget remained small
  – $175 per annum in 1825
  – $500 per annum in 1862
  – In 1870 they bought 325 books a year.

Expansion period in college libraries
• Change came from broad society trends
  – Economic growth encouraged philanthropy.
  – Industrialization required more training of technical experts.
• The 1862 Morrill land grant act encouraged the creation of more universities.
• There are educational trends.

Special libraries
• They started to appear at the beginning of the 20th century to support corporations to handle an ever growing amount of external information.
• They have a narrow focus to serve the company.
• Within that narrow aim, they may hold a wide variety of items.

School system
• A modern school system only came about in the mid 19th century.
• In 1852 Massachusetts passed the first compulsory schooling law.
• But there was still a lot of memorization and teaching from a single text
  – not bad by itself

19th social library: athenaeum
• This was a form of social library geared towards the provision of periodicals.
• Cost to join initially and annual dues were much higher than in other social libraries.
• First one was opened in Boston in 1807.
• The ones in Boston and Philadelphia exist to this day.
• The one in Chicago seems more into cultural artifacts.

School libraries
• In 1835 NY state passed a law saying that school districts could use taxes to fund school libraries.
• Other states followed.
• But there was not much in the way of school libraries until the end of the 19th century.
The Certain report

- ALA and NEA commissioned a report on the state of school libraries from a committee lead by Charles Certain.
- Reports came out in 1920 and 1925
  - school libraries were deficient
  - need to centralize all book holdings in one library
  - need to be more integrated with the school
- This fitted in well with child-centered pedagogical theories developed at the time.

Public libraries

- In 1803 Caleb Bingham (first teacher and text book writer then bookseller) established a library for local youths in Salisbury, CT. He gave a pile of books and the municipality voted to provide funds for expansion.
- 1830 Peterborough NH establishes first free tax-supported public library.
- They contributed to the decline of circulating and subscription libraries.

Characteristics of public libraries

- The principle characteristics of public libraries are
  - supported by taxes
  - governed by a board
  - open to all
  - non-compulsory
  - established by state law

Melvil Dewey: 1851--1931

- 1876 was his big year. In that year
  - Published the Dewey Decimal classification system.
  - Founded Library Bureau, a furniture supply company, still in business.
  - Organized the first conference for librarians in Philadelphia which gave birth to the ALA.
  - Was an original founders of the American Library Journal and served as the managing editor until 1881.
- 1886: Founded the Spelling Reform Association.
- 1890: Elected President of ALA.
- At all times: notorious womanizer, questionable wheeler and dealer.

Andrew Carnegie: 1835--1919

- Son of a poor Scottish weaver
- 1843: comes to the US
- accumulated a vast fortune is the Steel industry
- 1881: started spent over $56 million to build 2,509 libraries
- Carnegie funded buildings, not contents.
- He made sure the taxpayers would maintain.

Prison libraries

- In Philly the prison library started in 1829 with a gift.
- Sing Sing was given books by governor Seward in 1840. In 1867 it had 4k books
- In Alton, IL, books were donated to by inmates in Charlestown MA, in 1846.
- By 1875 some institutions such as prisons, reformatories, and insane asylums had libraries.
- Most of them catered for by inmates.
### Newspaper libraries

- The NY Tribune (est. 1841) had a library before 1850. By 1874 it contained 5k books.
- In 1860 the NY Tribune began a “morgue”, i.e. a collection of past newspaper articles.
- After the civil war the Boston Herald and the New York times had libraries.

### LS Education

- First US professional library school was opened at Columbia under Melvil Dewey (1887)
- Previously, education was apprentice training in libraries or training schools in public libraries
- Dewey’s school later transferred to Albany when Dewey and Columbia trustees disagreed on admission of women

### Rise of independent research libraries

- To address the needs of a clientele not addressed by public and academic libraries
- Newberry and Crear Libraries in Chicago (1890s)
- Lenox and John J. Astor Libraries merged to form New York Public
- Huntington rare book library in San Marino, Calif. (1919)
- Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC (1932)

### 20th century

- American Library Association established Board of Education for Librarianship (1923)
- Concerns about prejudice against library school graduates in hiring, promotion
- Library schools urged to develop rigorous standards
- Concern about salaries, benefits, working conditions
- American Library Association creates Salaries Committee (1922) and Committee on Classification of Library Personnel (1925)
- Massive national survey of libraries begun with grant from Carnegie Corporation (1924)
- Fewer than half the full-time public library employees had as much as six months training of any kind
- Concerns about criteria for appointment and promotion
- Extensive Carnegie Corporation grants to improve library schools from 1926 to 1950

### 20th century

- Founding of Graduate Library School at University of Chicago under Louis Round Wilson (1932) – research approach to library education
- Concern for African-American librarians
  - 1936 Richmond ALA convention led ALA to adopt a policy of not meeting in segregated cities
- ALA adopts code of ethics (1938)
- GI Bill following World War II led to expansion of higher education and rapid growth of libraries
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<tr>
<th><strong>1940s and 1950s</strong></th>
<th><strong>1960s</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>• Advent of microform storage</td>
<td>• Citation indexing and rise of databases like ERIC</td>
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<td>• Very early computers</td>
<td>• Rise of user studies and attempts to understand user needs</td>
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<td>• Early attempts at artificial intelligence, machine translation</td>
<td>• Attempts to incorporate thesauri in information retrieval systems</td>
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<td>• Development of xerography</td>
<td>• “Great Society” programs fund outreach, rural libraries, adult education</td>
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<td>• Rise of National Library of Medicine</td>
<td>• Higher Education Act of 1965</td>
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<td>• Federal funds to libraries began to be channeled through state libraries (1956)</td>
<td>• Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965</td>
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<td>• Library of Congress begins MARC project (1966)</td>
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<td>• OCLC founded (1967)</td>
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<td>• US Dept. of Defense established ARPANET, a packet-switching network and precursor to the Internet (1969)</td>
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<th><strong>1970s</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>• Minicomputers make computing power affordable to most libraries</td>
<td>• Rise of personal computers with entry of IBM</td>
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<td>• Rise of online databases like DIALOG</td>
<td>• Use of personal computers in libraries</td>
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<td>• Fee-based services</td>
<td>• Rise of “user-friendly” interfaces with the Macintosh and Windows</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Introduction of personal computers: Apple</td>
<td>• Increased use of videos; advent of VCRs</td>
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<th><strong>2000-</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>• Growth of the Internet and World Wide Web</td>
<td>• ?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Rise of Internet Service Providers</td>
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Attitudes That Shape Our Future

- Attitude toward government agencies
- Attitude toward education
- Attitude toward serving the whole society
- Attitude toward importance of reading
- Attitude toward literature
- Attitude toward technology

Values That Shape Our Future

- Value of service
- Value of importance of reading and the book
- Value of respect for truth and its search
- Value of tolerance
- Value of the public good
- Value of justice
- Value of aesthetics

Discussion

- From the standpoint of communication, in what ways is it accurate to compare the impact of the Internet to Gutenberg’s 15th century printing press?
- Much of library history, like history in general, is in some quarters decried as the history of European males, to the neglect of other cultures and women. Do you agree or disagree?