Libraries

It takes all kinds!

Textbook – chapters 2 & 3
What is a library?

“the basic purpose of libraries is to organize and disseminate information”

(Fourie, 39.)
Main Types of Libraries

- Public
- Academic
- School Libraries/Media Centers
- Special
### U.S. Libraries

- **Public** 9,221 (number of buildings 16,671)
- **Academic** 3,827
  - 2-year colleges 1,434
  - Colleges & universities 2,393
- **School Libraries/Media Centers** 99,180
  - Public schools 81,920
  - Private schools 17,100
  - BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) 160
- **Special** 8,476 (e.g. law, music, corporate, museum)
- **Armed Forces Libraries** 284
- **Government Libraries** 1,113

Total 122,101

Source: ALA Fact sheet 1: Number of Libraries in the USA
[www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/library/libraryfactsheet/alalibraryfactsheet1.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/library/libraryfactsheet/alalibraryfactsheet1.cfm)
## Number Employed in U.S. Libraries

**ALA Library Fact Sheet 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Librarians</th>
<th>Other Paid Staff</th>
<th>Total Paid Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Libraries</td>
<td>27,030</td>
<td>66,409</td>
<td>93,439</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Libraries</td>
<td>47,926</td>
<td>97,318</td>
<td>145,244</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public School Libraries</td>
<td>59,760</td>
<td>22,160</td>
<td>81,920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private School Libraries</td>
<td>15,490</td>
<td>6,080</td>
<td>21,570</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIA School Libraries</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150,296</td>
<td>192,047</td>
<td>342,343</td>
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</table>

**Special Libraries**

15,307 (2001 estimate) Figures for employment in special libraries (e.g. libraries serving businesses, scientific agencies, hospitals, law firms, and nonprofit organizations) are not available. At this time, it is not possible to estimate the number of the other paid staff in special libraries.
Public Libraries

- Serve every citizen at every stage of life
  - Leisure reading
  - Informational needs

- Broad Mission: Meet the needs of the community served

- Is the Library a place or a function?
  - “The biggest challenge for public libraries will be developing and delivering web-based services while continuing to maintain current in-building services to those who are better served in that mode.” (p. 44)
Public Library Collections and Services

- Popular and educational materials for adults and children
  - Collection may include variety of formats: print, large print, periodicals, pamphlets, digital, and audiovisual materials
- Age specific services (preschool, seniors, teens)
- Reference materials
- Specialized subject collections
  (e.g. genealogy, community information, art, local history)
- Online, on-site, phone assistance
- Outreach/Referral Agents
  - Literacy
  - Bookmobiles
  - Information Centers
  - Career and job search
Public Library Staffing

- Depends on the size of the library
- Librarians
  - Larger libraries may have librarians with specialized jobs, such as children’s, cataloging, research, programming, collection development
- Paraprofessionals
  - Library Assistants or library technicians
  - May have specialized jobs in larger libraries or may be generalists
- Pages or Clerical staff
- Administrator or managers
- Volunteers
Academic Libraries

“The mission of an academic library is to support the faculty, students, and staff of the college or university and in so doing to help achieve the mission of the parent institution within which the library is located.” (p. 64)

- May also be open to the community

- Larger colleges and universities may have departmental libraries.

- Major universities might have separate graduate and undergraduate libraries.

- example: UCLA Libraries
Academic Library Staffing

- **Librarians**
  - Larger libraries have librarians with specialized subject expertise (examples: UCLA Library subject specialists; USC LibGuides)
  - Most have areas of responsibility such as: technical services, circulation (access services), collection development, Reference, Library instruction, Systems (databases)

- **Paraprofessionals**
  - Library Assistants or library technicians
  - Specialized jobs in public or technical services

- **Pages and Circulation Staff**
  - usually Student workers

- **Administrator, managers, clerical staff**
- (volunteers)
School Libraries and Media Centers

- Kindergarten through grade 12
- Support the curriculum at that school
- Promote information literacy
- School libraries and librarians are being recognized as essential components of the learning process.
- BUT libraries, music and art programs are always the first to be cut in a funding crisis.
School Library Staffing

- Librarian or Library Media Specialists
  - May require teaching credential
  - May require library masters degree
  - Some School Districts have only a District Librarian

- Library Coordinators
  – paraprofessional “librarians”

- Library Aides/Technicians
  - Textbooks!

- Clerical Staff

- Parent and student volunteers
Special Libraries

- Often defined as any library NOT a public, school, or academic library.
  - Examples: corporate, medical, legal, religious, governmental, prison, museums, special collections within other libraries
- Many are private, not open to the public
- “Librarians” might not have library degree;
  - often specialists in field.
  - OR might have two masters degrees
Special Libraries

Collections are narrowly focused to support the activities of the parent organization.

- Collect information only if useful to clientele.
- Collect information only related to subject specialty.
- Collect information that directly supports and furthers objectives of the parent organization.

- Librarian may act as researcher for patrons
In the ancient world, “libraries” were record rooms (or archives) for business, government and religious records.

Major repository libraries existed in ancient times in China, Egypt, Islamic countries, Greece and the Roman Empire. Private (personal) libraries also existed.

Many collections and records were destroyed in wars or purposely as rulers were replaced or when governments fell.

In the ‘Dark Ages’, European monasteries were ‘protectors’ of books housed in repository libraries and Scriptoria where manuscripts (mostly scriptures) were copied by hand.
Early Libraries - continued

- The establishment of universities during the Renaissance created academic libraries. Literacy was still limited.

- Gutenberg's 15\textsuperscript{th} Century invention of a printing press using movable type helped expand "lay literacy",
  - enabled increase in the supply and demand of books and private libraries.

- In the 17th and 18th centuries book collecting, literacy and subscription (membership) libraries became more widespread.

- Government funding and donations from private libraries formed national libraries (e.g. the Library of Congress was enhanced with Thomas Jefferson's collection).
History of Public Libraries in the U.S.

- Community (public) libraries begin in the mid-1800s with laws allowing communities to spend public money on libraries.

- In the late 1800’s Andrew Carnegie paid for the construction of over 1,600 public libraries in the U.S.

- Public and Government funded special libraries 19th/20th century

- The number of school libraries increased with the change in educational philosophy after the 1950’s