



Establishing Branch Libraries

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THE DEVELOPMENT of the American public library dates from 1852. The development of branch libraries in America dates from 1872. The background of the decision to establish the first formal branch library is certainly interesting. At its opening, the origin of the East Boston branch of the Boston Public Library was described thus: "Encouraged by the marked success of the branch libraries in Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, and other English cities, the Trustees of this [Boston Public] Library, as a first step to ascertain the relative uses of the main Library in the city proper and its remoter districts, caused an analysis to be made of the names registered as applicants, in order to learn the proportions resident in these different sections of the town. From this investigation it appeared, that, while in Boston proper one in eight of the population was registered, one in fourteen in Roxbury, one in sixteen in South Boston, only one in twenty-six was enrolled from East Boston. As there was no reason to suppose that the taste or desire for books was in reality any less in this portion of the inhabitants of the city, than in those residing elsewhere, it was apparent that inconvenience of access to the Central Library deprived the people of East Boston of their natural use of that great collection. Upon these grounds, the Trustees decided, the City Council consenting, to make the first essay of the hitherto untried experiment in this country of a Branch Library at East Boston." Rooms on the second floor of a building formerly used as a public school were secured as quarters. A collection of 5,700 books "useful to the largest number of readers" was placed on the shelves and it was hoped that this would prove "the nucleus of a larger collection of books of a permanent and substantial though less popular value."¹ The branch opened in November, 1872, as an "increment" of the Central Library and was a success straight-away.

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Since then, services offered within the walls of a branch library and the community relationships established beyond its walls have not followed a simple, uniform, straight-line evolution. In turn, ideas about branch buildings have changed, along with concepts of the needs of the college, the reference, and the special library building. Jesse Cunningham expressed the opinion in 1931 in an article in the *A.L.A. Bulletin* that each generation would need a different type of library building.² He argued against trying to build a building that would last forever. W. N. Randall, in an article written in 1946, remarked that "the more carefully and efficiently [the library building] was planned to fulfil the needs of yesteryear, the less well suited it is to fulfil the newer needs of today and tomorrow."³ However, certain basic norms and standards do seem to have persisted.

When the first branch library was founded, its parent city, Boston, had a population of 380,000. Today, a branch building may be planned to serve as large a population as the total 1872 population of the city of Boston. Can a contemporary metropolitan city or a regional system of two or three or four million people offer one "central" library plus branches in the pattern of 1870? Since the 1940's, especially since the appearance of *A National Plan for Public Library Service*, recognition of the need for a level of service between the main library and the neighborhood or community library has been part of the thinking and of the development of many urban and regional library programs. A library system may on the one hand find itself providing inviting, quickly accessible, informal library service to meet the needs of those who are at the threshold of learning how to use books, libraries, and public service institutions. Simultaneously the library may be called on to provide "branch" service comparable to the level formerly met only by a "central library" due to exploding populations and new educational methods.

Preliminary Planning

The determination of the building needs for a particular branch can only be arrived at judiciously and efficiently when the branch program is related to a plan of service for the city or town or region as a whole. A program of service should be explored for each branch, before a branch is established; as in the case of the master plan, the branch program should be flexible and responsive to local changes and needs. With such a service program, service levels can be projected and service accomplishment checked; personnel, budget needs, community ac-

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tivities can be spelled out and additional support, if needed, can be stated more effectively.

The decision to open a branch or to build a branch library building can have long-range, expensive implications. Once committed to a branch, a library administration may find it faces a succession of major public relations situations, sometimes with severe political implications, from the time it begins to look for a site to the time when it may wish to close out the unit. If it later becomes a matter of upgrading the service by moving to improved quarters or to a new location that is generally popular, the library administration is indeed fortunate. If, through change in the community or by development of other necessary service outlets, a branch becomes obsolete or under-used, efforts to correct the situation may be a time-consuming, unhappy, frustrating undertaking. The library administration should be prepared to use time, staff, and money to become as fully informed as possible about the commitment it is to make before going forward with a building project, in order to minimize the possibilities of such future problems.

The library administration should see to it that it has the benefit of any information which its local planning board, urban renewal administration, or any other city or town department can give on trends, projected population changes, plans for land use, road construction, etc. The library should look to its Chamber of Commerce, its School Department, and any other agency with particular knowledge about the community at large, or the particular neighborhood in question, for information that might be pertinent. The state library extension agency should be consulted, especially for information about regional plans that might have a direct bearing on the level of service for which to build. Alternates to building should be considered, such as contracting for service with a neighboring community or of developing a joint community service, if the law so permits. The state agency would also be able to advise the library administration as to what federal or state building assistance might be available.

In assembling information about the neighborhood for which it plans to build a branch, the library staff should not be surprised if the trail often leads back to its own files and collections. In certain areas, the library staff may have to devise its own techniques of measuring or analyzing information that would be helpful in arriving at the decision to build or not to build. But the staff should initially be sure to use all existing reservoirs of information in the community.

By a judicious use of census tract information, the library staff can

determine such factors, within the boundaries of the area to be served, as the distribution of the population by age, language background, educational achievement, occupation and income. The library staff may have to assemble other types of information by observation, questionnaires, interviews with community leaders, etc. What groups meet in the region? Could they use library guidance in programming? Would they "support" library activities? What firms or industries are located in the neighborhood? Could the firms or their employees fit into a service pattern of the projected branch? Are school libraries well established, weak, or non-existent? What is the reading level of the students in school? What are the available recreational and educational resources of the area? The report on *Demand for Public Library Service in Oakland County, Michigan*,⁴ or such books as those by Mial,⁵ Warren,⁶ or Young⁷ on community surveys suggest how and what elements of the community life should be surveyed—before, not after, setting up a branch.

The level of response or need that justifies the outlay for staff, building and book collections will have to be finally determined by the philosophy, financial support, and manpower available in the particular institution facing the problem. Among the measurable factors generally considered are such items as areas in city or town regions not reached by library service, number of residents unreached by library service, and potential use of the projected unit. Once these questions are thoughtfully explored, a library administrator can proceed to the practical steps of seeking a site, planning a building, committing the financing, etc.

The experience of other libraries and the existence of certain norms or standards can be helpful. Such information can be a source of strength in resisting pressure from groups or individuals who may be campaigning for a branch in a particular area solely because of local pride or for unjustified convenience. Publications of the Library Buildings and Equipment Institutes of the American Library Association and the annual architectural issue of the *Library Journal* are valuable sources of information on actual building solutions and provide case studies on buildings large and small.

Wheeler and Githens, in their classic 1941 study *The American Public Library Building*, quoted this conclusion which was already forty years old: "In general it may be said that the city which provides branch libraries not more than a mile apart is not in danger of overdoing its library facilities; while in the densely populated parts of large

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cities two or three times as many branches may be needed.”⁸ In 1940, Lowell Martin concluded that his investigations of branch systems supported the acceptance of one mile as the range of effectiveness for urban branches.⁹ The American Library Association’s 1956 publication on standards for public libraries carried the statement, “Community libraries and bookmobile stops should be provided at intervals so that every school-age child is able to reach a library outlet alone.” In *Practical Administration of Public Libraries* by Joseph L. Wheeler and Herbert Goldhor,¹⁰ it is suggested that a branch should be three or four miles away from any other library service agency. In selecting this larger distance, the authors point out that such a unit may have to be supplemented by additional service points within the district (deposits or bookmobile visits) for reader convenience. The travel-distance determination of accessibility can be established only by knowledge of the area being surveyed. Factors such as traffic arteries, geographical features, and intervening land use such as cemeteries or freight yards, may effectively bar easy access to a library, although in miles the distance may be slight as the crow flies. Psychological factors or use patterns must be recognized. If the area is well defined but contains people whose travel habits take them away from the branch, use of the building could only be disappointing.

The determination whether the area to be served by a contemplated branch building justifies the outlay would be answered in large part by the overall plan of service. If it is intended to offer only circulation service, for children or adults, within a half mile of each resident, the evaluation of factors would be quite different than if the library system wanted to strengthen service by strong, supporting “branches” offering a range and depth of service comparable to a main library in a city or town with the same population or area as the projected branch. This latter type of branch building receives increasing justification from two considerations. First, by their growth in size and complexity, central libraries increasingly fulfil the research function more effectively and serve the general reader or student less easily. Secondly, increased demands on library facilities through population growth and through changes in the type of use may justify efficient duplication of materials and services at several more readily-accessible points rather than duplication within an expanded Central Library building only. The role assigned the branch library will help define the area. And reciprocally, the area demanding service or being measured for service will suggest the level and type of service justified. But such factors

as the area to be served and population involved are generally continuing factors. Overlapping service areas or a dubious need can be identified fairly objectively. Increased mobility of library users, however, cancels the precision once associated with use of a local library by local residents only.

The *Survey of Libraries in the United States* established that, in half of the cities reporting, in the 1920's, a second outlet was developed in communities when population and book collection was less than 50,000.¹¹ Wheeler and Githens, in *The American Public Library Building*, cite a 1911 "working estimate" of "one branch to every 25,000 to 40,000 of the population."¹² In the 1962 study *Practical Administration of Public Libraries* by Wheeler and Goldhor, a population base of 30,000 is suggested for each branch.¹³ It is pointed out that in a community of 100,000 the main library may need to be supplemented by one, or even two "service" branches, plus minor distribution agencies. The tendency, based upon experience, to minimize deposit stations and reading rooms, and to consolidate into a more inclusive service level of branch coverage, has been established over the years.

While rising costs and limited trained personnel encourage consolidation into stronger, better used library units, it is recognized that smaller population groups should not be left without library service. UNESCO offers guidance on establishing branch libraries for groups of 1,000 or 2,000 population.¹⁴ In England, there is recognition of the need of support of library branch service for groups under 10,000.¹⁵ In 1960 in the United States, out of a total of 8,190 public libraries, there were 4,712 libraries serving fewer than 5,000 people.¹⁶ There are sharp limitations on what may be accomplished through such sized units, and the need of supplementing such small units by centralized or regional services in larger buildings is obvious.

Choice of site

Once such factors as travel distance, population density, community resources, have been explored academically, a library may wish to assay the situation more pragmatically. It is possible to measure potential reception of a projected branch by first establishing bookmobile stops within an area over a period of time. The type of reading, the age level of the patrons, and the increase, decline, or sustained use of the bookmobile service through a long period can be relevant to the decision to be made as to whether any further coverage is needed. A more thorough evaluation of the potentials of use can be arrived at

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by an investment in rented quarters. Such preliminary exploration can be of substantial value in guidance on a lasting decision. Rented quarters may provide the long-range solution too.

After the initial costs of alterations and renovations in rented quarters have been met, the landlord-tenant relationship for a branch library has some advantages. If the landlord maintains the property, and a satisfactory lease is signed, the rented quarters may prove adequate and create the fewest problems if a later move is desired. Rent increases and the likelihood of limited maintenance are two drawbacks to consider. An alternative, that of entering into an arrangement of a long-term lease on a building built with private funds according to the needs of the branch library, has been used where capital funds for a library building program were not available.

The architect can be helpful in advising on a site, and of course he cannot proceed to design the building before the site is designated. Selection of an architect for a branch library building by invitation is generally recommended. The type of architect desired might not find it worth while to participate in a competition. Use of juries in selecting an individual firm will not only be time-consuming but also may result in a decision not fully responsive to library needs. The library administration should familiarize itself with actual work done by a number of architects, and select accordingly.

Financing must include site costs, so again site selection is a basic step. If the budget is fixed, the relation between outlay on site and building may be a difficult one to resolve. In general, a site should be selected with good exposure (north or east) and with no obvious, expensive land features to overcome (ledges, dampness, grade). Zoning regulations should be checked. From the point of view of accessibility, the site should be on a main street, in the middle of business activity. Studies suggest that in relation to a service area as a whole, the branch unit can afford to be closer to the inner boundary than to the outer boundary of its area. In a study entitled *The Effective Location of Public Library Buildings* by Joseph L. Wheeler, the author found that "ninety per cent of the librarians polled believe (and a multitude of cases indicate) that every new public library, central or branch, should be strategically located in the center of the major pedestrian shopping and office area, where busy stores would flourish."¹⁷

The rapid transition of the typical American family from a no-car family of the 1920's to the two or three car family of the 1970's requires that the effect of such increased mobility be examined, and that the

relation of a site to motor flow as well as pedestrian traffic be considered. This leads to the question of parking facilities. Wheeler's study indicates "Several conclusions seem clearly warranted. For one thing, the parking problem is not peculiarly a library problem, as it is of supermarkets, but is a community problem and the library will suffer if it is not solved satisfactorily and will gain if it is. . . ."

"In short, the main lesson to be learned appears to be that for every block a main or branch library is removed from the downtown or neighborhood pedestrian crowd center, the less it is used."¹⁸

In selecting a site for serving a dispersed population, location in or near a commuting shoppers' center could be well defended and might be the proper selection. In *The Medium-sized Public Library: Its Status and Future*, Ralph Ulveling comments on this problem: "I am not saying that the library must be located remote from the downtown area. I am merely decrying acceptance of the slick, easily mouthed formula of earlier years that the main intersection downtown is the ideal site for a main library. Each city must be analyzed as a separate problem. The close proximity of large municipal parking lots may be far more important in choosing a library site than other factors."¹⁹

Locations in civic centers, parks, or school buildings are generally not recommended on the basis of librarians' opinions, experience, and logic.

Galvin and Van Buren state in *The Small Public Library Building*, "Selection of a site purely on a basis of economy is a mistake. To secure a successful site, it is often necessary to pay a third to a half as much for the land as for the construction of the library building. But, getting a good site should be the first thought since it will cost almost as much to operate a rarely used library as one used by most of the local population."²⁰ They also summarize much discussion and thinking on the subject in their comment, "The site location should . . . be accessible by means of public and private transportation and conveniently near transfer points or intersections."²¹

Working with the architect: the problem of size.

Essential to determining the size of the site needed, the financing needed, and the detail of the architect's plan, is a projection of the services to be offered within the contemplated building. While the architect will work up final specifications, consulting local building codes, the library administration will need guidelines for its own thinking and for preliminary discussion of whether \$200,000 or \$400,000 will

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more closely approximate the bond issue or revenue raising involved.

The role and burdens of the new unit can be varied and still belong within a branch building program. A system may be building "an auxiliary library, complete in itself, having its own permanent collection of books . . . and administered as an integral part of the library system, i.e., by a paid staff. To rank as a branch the hours of opening should approximate those of the central library"; so said the *Survey of Libraries in the United States*.²² Thirty-six years later, Wheeler and Goldhor, in their *Practical Administration of Public Libraries* offer essentially the same definition, i.e.: "A branch public library is usually defined as an agency in its own building or rooms, with a substantial and permanent book stock, with paid staff members, and open to the public on a regular schedule of hours." This source offers the following minimum standards for a branch: ²³ (a) in its own building, (b) 8,000 sq. ft., (c) seating for 75 adults and young adults and for 50 children, (d) 25,000 book stock, with an annual accession of 1,500, (e) open eight hours a day, five days a week, and (f) five or six full-time employees, including two or three professionals. Such a branch would expect to circulate 75,000-100,000 books a year and answer 10,000 adult information questions a year. Perhaps 33% of existing branches achieve these goals.

A system may face a building program such as that in Los Angeles with its seven regionals housing 60,000 to 90,000 volumes each and fifty-four community, satellite branches. Or a system may be contemplating a building program such as Philadelphia's, with its concept of four regional libraries serving from 300,000 to 600,000 people each with collections of 200,000 to 300,000 books, supplemented by thirty-eight community libraries with typical book collections in the 200,000's. In any case, the branch is not an attempt to duplicate the main library inadequately. The particular branch library building has a definite, unique role in the educational, recreational, and cultural program of the library system.

The library staff may find it will have not only to educate the architect in the programs and spirit of the 20th century dynamic branch, but also to provide certain factual data to guide him and to serve as a double check on the adequacy of the architectural solutions.

Galvin and Van Buren in their *The Small Public Library Building* offer the following figures: ²⁴

Book stock: 1½ to 3 books per capita with provision for 20 years' growth
Area per reader in a reading room: 25-30 square feet

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- Area per reader in an auditorium: 7 square feet
- Area per employee: 100 square feet
- Volumes per feet on wall shelving: 50 books per linear foot of stackwall
- Volumes per square foot in a stack: 15 books per square foot
- Volumes per cubic foot in a stack: 2 books per cubic foot
- Staff quarters, corridors and other: 40% of building.

Such figures would be adapted according to the extent to which a branch could depend on the main library or the rest of a system to relieve it of the need of collections in depth or of growth.

In *The American Public Library Building*, Wheeler and Githens developed a "V.S.C. formula" for estimating desirable size of a library building for population projected for twenty years. It was based upon analyses of buildings of the 1920 to 1940 period and its application may result in areas more generous than needed today. For instance, longer loan periods and more liberal lending quotas mean more books will be off the shelf at one time, requiring less live shelving normally. Conversion of heating systems to gas or oil lessens need for space in the custodian's domain.

The V.S.C. formula reads:

$(\text{Volumes} \div 10) + (\text{Seats} \times 40) + (\text{Circulation} \div 40) = \text{Combined area in square feet.}$

The authors felt that these three elements (volumes, seats, circulation) gauge the size of a library, whether central or branch, and "its requisite area is in direct relation to them."²⁵

In general, these authors came up with the following tabulations of seat and area requirements:²⁶

<i>Population size</i>	<i>Number of seats per thousand of population</i>	<i>Square feet per capita</i>
Under 10,000	10	.7 -.8
10-35,000	5	.6 -.65
35-100,000	3	.5 -.6
100-200,000	2	.4 -.5
200-500,000	1.25	.35-.4
500,000 +	1	.3

Wheeler and Goldhor make the observation that there are few units of measurement that are sufficiently accurate for early preliminary plans, but they do mention these:²⁷

Area per reader in a reading room	25 sq. ft.
Area per employee (in a catalog room)	100 sq. ft.
Area per employee in all other workrooms	75 sq. ft.

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Volumes per foot on open shelf	7 vol/ft.
Volumes per foot of shelf in a stack	6 vol/ft.
Volumes per sq. ft. in each stack tier	15/sq. ft.
Reading room area in a branch (24% adult, 12% intermediate, and 24% children)	60%
Circulation area	12%
Offices, workroom	10%
Stack	8%
Other (stairs, vestibule, etc.)	10%

In general, space should be provided for one staff worker per 20,000 anticipated circulation plus staff and work space for part-time help for additional assistance in peak hours for shelving, book charging, etc. With an idea of book stock, seating capacity, and work quarters to be provided for, preliminary planning and estimating should be safely undertaken.

In working up the final statement of need for the architect, attention should then be given to making sure that the architect is advised of all elements of the branch library's program and sustaining services. Some library systems such as Baltimore and Los Angeles have faced heavy branch library building programs and have drawn up generalized building standards for new library branches. These are valuable in reminding other library systems of elements to be included, and offer solutions to such problems as heights of book shelving, width of aisles, workroom areas, etc., that may or may not be compatible with the needs of a local situation. The Los Angeles statement, "Building Standards for New Branches", gives specifications for branches providing 4,000, 5,000, and 6,000 square feet of space. In the preface to this publication, the City Librarian, Harold L. Hamill, points out, "This January 1960 edition of the Standards represents our current thinking on how we can build the best branch libraries possible for the money available. . . . A question to be decided by each library is how much seating capacity can be planned to serve the increasing number of students of all ages. Local philosophy of service and level of support are determining factors everywhere."²⁸

Special architectural problems of libraries: interior and exterior planning.

The architect should be provided with information as to the service program to adults, young adults, and children, e.g., the need for a meeting area, provision for audio-visual equipment and programs, and

the extent of behind-the-scenes supporting services to be carried on within the projected building. Any additional activity assigned to the building should have been agreed upon at this point, so the architect can be prepared in his planning and estimating. Is there need for a bookmobile bay or book stack? Will this building provide book stock for any activity beyond its own service area? Should there be provision for future expansion horizontally or vertically?

It is generally agreed that the building should have character and individuality, but that functionalism and economy need not be sacrificed for appearance's sake alone. The building should be clearly identified, with markings visible to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The use of exterior glass should be considered carefully. While a view into a building may be its best advertisement on one hand, the effect of glass exterior walls on book storage capacity and on heating and air conditioning arrangements cannot be overlooked. Landscaping should be kept at a minimum, to reduce long term maintenance and to increase the flexibility of land use. Parking for library vehicles and library staff must be considered, especially if otherwise there would be a loss of efficiency or convenience in delivering library materials, parking cars of guests, etc. A standard of 200 square feet for each car parked is suggested by Galvin and Van Buren, although commercial lots provide 400 square feet per car.²¹

The building should be as close to the sidewalk as practical, with an avoidance of exterior or interior steps in public areas especially. Attention should be given to the need, type, and location of such items as flagpole, bicycle rack, book return bin or drop, exterior lighting (especially if parking is involved), gates and fences, incinerator, and exhibit or bulletin board facilities. Some of these items may not fit into a particular program. Other local needs may define themselves later in the program. Conscientious advance canvassing of certain possibilities can minimize omissions that may cost extra later in the program.

Within the building, the architect should be advised as to areas to plan for: vestibule, checkroom, public telephone facilities, charging-registration area, adult, young adult, children's rooms or areas, staff room, librarian's office, custodian's quarters, storage areas, meeting area or areas, work area, record listening area, public lavatories, and exits. Specifics should be worked out on the book allocation for each area and the equipment to be housed in each room: tables, chairs, informal furniture, catalog cases, shelf lists, atlas stands, dictionary

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stands, periodical and newspaper display and storage, vertical files, display facilities, staff desks and chairs, typewriter stands, film readers, copying equipment, staff lockers, storage cupboards, staff lounge equipment, and book trucks. Areas should be flexible, using book shelving as defining lines when possible.

Reading rooms and public service areas should be planned on one floor level, with the charging desk so located as to permit easy visual supervision of the reading areas during quiet periods of the day. If workroom and librarian's office can be related to the charging area efficiently, this will allow quick interchange of staff and quick response to emergency situations requiring supplemental assistance or the intervention of the branch librarian in a situation arising unexpectedly. The charging desk should be near the entrance but protected from drafts. Traffic through reading areas should be minimized.

The decision on lighting (30 to 100 foot candle power for readers) should be made with technical advice. Fluorescent installations may represent a heavier financial outlay compared with incandescent lights, but they are superior for coolness, lower cost for electricity, and general diffusion of light. Floor covering should be determined early, with attention to comfort, maintenance, and noiselessness as well as initial outlay. The increasing use of carpeting in tax-supported institutions (schools and libraries) as well as in theatres, stores, hotels, etc., suggests that carpeting should be considered along with vinyl, rubber, or asphalt tile or linoleum.²⁹ The wiring of the building should be carefully studied so that outlets for clocks, polishing machines, audio-visual equipment, and intercom system are properly and adequately supplied.

The library staff should be ready to indicate shelving heights (6'7" in adult wall and stack area, 5' in certain reading room areas, 42" in islands), depths (8", 10", or 12" according to type of books), aisle widths, and table and chair heights needed in each room according to age group. It should be noted that a minimum of 15" juvenile chairs and 25" tables seems to be justified.

The heating system should be simple to operate, with the maximum dependence on automatic controls. The same should be true of an air-conditioning installation, which is becoming more and more common in public libraries and schools. If air-conditioning is not provided for initially, space and venting for future installation should be considered.

Ample attention should be given to such seemingly minor points as the location and type of public drinking fountain, if any. In many instances it is felt that this should be omitted. Where policy demands its

installation, future aggravation can sometimes be minimized by careful placement and by seeing a proposed installation in actual operation elsewhere. Public lavatories, with their problems of policing and maintenance, likewise require careful placement, if local usage or ordinances require their installation. Security provision, either through building design or through provision of burglar alarm systems, should be given increased attention, as the type of equipment housed in the typical branch library building becomes more expensive to replace, if stolen or damaged.

Such rooms as the meeting area (with space dividers, hospitality facilities, stage, chair storage, wall storage for books, discussion equipment, separate exterior exit, adequate wiring for projector, slide projector, table for projector, coat hangers, stage furnishings, and flag) and the custodial quarters (with space for floor cleaner, snow removal equipment, cleaning supplies, locker, handbowl, and slop sink) may seem lesser concerns than planning for good reading room service, but omissions or skimpy provisions in these areas may be especially difficult to remedy later.

In determining colors, style of furniture, drapes, and placement of furniture, the services of a consultant in interior decoration should be considered, if within the budget. Sometimes, the architect is in a position to offer such advice, either within the original contract or on a supplemental basis. The library administrator should not abdicate in this area but he can afford to lean heavily on expert advice in a field where both practical knowledge of fabrics, coverings, color values, furniture company lines and a cultivated knowledge of aesthetics are of inestimable value.

In all of the excitement and burdens of executing a building program, the library administration should involve as many of the staff, and of the community too for that matter, as it can in pooling information and experience on the ongoing project.

In the *State of the Library Arts. Volume III* appears the statement, "Since men seem to develop their ideas of what libraries should be and do out of their judgment, experience and imagination, they seldom bother to state the nature of the evidence they use in making up their minds."³⁰ While this statement may be largely true as far as written and published data are concerned, any librarian facing a building problem or program will find he will be welcome as he visits new buildings and will find his written inquiries to other institutions quickly answered. He will later find himself a constant host and letter answerer,

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after his splendid new building opens its doors, thus adding his bit to the judgment, experience, and imagination from which so many branch library buildings have been built successfully.

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23. Wheeler and Goldhor, *op. cit.*, pp. 411-413.

24. Galvin and Van Buren, *op. cit.*, pp. 44-46.

25. Wheeler and Githens, *op. cit.*, p. 41.

26. Wheeler and Goldhor, *op. cit.*, p. 554.

27. Wheeler and Githens, *op. cit.*, pp. 80-81.

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