



Gratia A. Countryman and Family Papers.

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Library School - April 10 '53

Miss MacFayor has asked me
to talk to you on
Making plans for a Children's
Room.

This is of course an Administrative
problem, which few of you
may have to solve.

It may be a problem for the Head
Librarian or the Library Board,
But if you either of these, or if
you are only head of children's work
in a school library or library board
you won't doubtless be consulted.
You especially if you have accumulated
experience in work with children.

The Physical Plant.

A. Planning for a Public Library

B. School library plan

③

I'm been thinking about our own
System ever since Miss McGregor
asked me to come over.

I am impressed through my experience
of two things

- 1 - A system should be planned out
if it is going to be most
effective.
- 2 - A system cannot be planned
out - it has to grow.
1st If it could be done in the first place -
 - a - One must locate branches and
School libraries with reference
to each other
 - (b) - One would require size of
building according to density of
population
 - c. One must fit style of building
to surroundings - whether in
business district or residence
 - d. One must fit both children
& adult rooms to type of people
as to space given to each.

(3)

If anyone ever has a chance to try out this idea, it surely is yours especially for I have been with the library since the day it was opened, and have planned its whole development from the first to the present over a period of 40 years. No one could have a stronger desire to do so. But I must declare that it can't be done. Work at City planning, it is mostly done after the city is built. Look at abandoned and torn down schools in large cities.

2. A Librarian must necessarily grow

- a - A librarian watches directions of growth
- b - A librarian watches centers of growth in ^{coastal} cities.
- c - watches racial growth + colonies.
- d - watches types of people - workingmen, honest or well-to-do - or wealthy.
- e - watches street car lines or bus lines which stimulate growth.
- f - keeps in touch with local improvement associations or business men's clubs.
- g - Establishes library centers probably in a small station or school

(4)

building before risking the expense
for building.

g. Watch growth or decline of these
centers.

h. Watch changes taking place
around library branch & change
its type of work to suit need.

With the most careful watchfulness
of the City's growth, in all their
ways - I have made mistakes in location
of rather population centers than
so changed as will change
that if one could tell foreseen
~~now~~ the changes, the plan would
have been quite different.

But this is the Next Librarian
problem - which you may encounter -
or may not

1st

The Public Library Children's Room.

2nd

The School Library room.

In a public library:

1. Where shall it be located

a. Shall be distinguishable from grade 1-6.
Junior High.

b. Where shall it be located
2nd floor, main floor, basement

c. A one room building
divided by book cases.

d. A duet, junior & children Dept.

e. Basement preferred for little
outdoor entrance

seclusion from noise
separation from adults &
older children

f. Can be closed
without interfering with other
book Dept.

A second story might
be so arranged. ~~as~~

2. Light
very important.

a. If basement: shallow basement, high
enough windows to front room.

b. On side of building where west
& south sun, children come
in afternoon.

c. No landscaping, shrubs or trees
shaded exterior light.

⑥
d. If sun too strong, light ^{thin} curtains
will ^{thin} temp.

Ventilation

a. Cross windows necessary.

b. Fireplace

c. Fans.

Story Your room.

If in basement - a separate story
Your room in Auditorium.

Furnishings

a. desk - a regular office desk?
or long narrow low desk?

b. tables - low, flat or sloping
tables.

c. display racks - perfume racks
& glass cupboard.

d. linoleum on floor for noise
cleanliness & beauty.

Administration

a. Closing hours - 6 ^{1/2} o'clock -

b. Books taken upstairs for
parent evenings

c. Separate Card Catalog

d. Teaching Catalog & Classification

⑦

B School Library

(a) Contract with Schools.

b. Where to collect with reference to
branches

c. Opening hours of Schools - a

d. Overlapping work with
branches

e. Adult service - Delivery
Only children's books on shelves

f. Work in harmony with Curriculum
but keep in main recreational reading
A public library not simply a school
library

g. Benefits of combination

① Delivery from Central

② Same classification as put up by

③ Same system of charging & borrowing

④ Late due fine to public library.

Problems in both

Overdue

Nonutilization

Scrap books. &c



MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN, - - - LIBRARIAN
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Resolved that in every school building hereafter to be built, upon the request of the Library Board, to whom notice shall be given in advance of the proposed erection of such building and plans submitted, there be provided on the ground floor in the corner, with separate entrance and separate lighting, heating, and toilet facilities, a space for a branch public library to serve the children and adults of the community. In case such a room is built, the Board of Education is to provide for the space, heat, light, and janitor service; and the Library Board will provide the equipment and service.

Adopted by Library Board, January 14, 1926
Adopted by Board of Education, January 26, 1926.

Close

Buiding only Sheel
Librarium with Soul
Books are tools.

The value to any child, is
the spirit - melting, understanding,
sympathetic, simple, of the
Presiding Fairy - who is
firm when necessary, requires
honesty & fairness, altho forgiving

No one has any right to be a
teacher or a children's librarium,
to handle the delicate growing
Soul of a child, who is not
prepared to sacrifice, to spend
themselves to study each child's
needs as they present themselves.
It is one of the most rewarding jobs
for real child loves can understand