



Libraries Contribute to Lives...

Libraries are many things to many people. Some believe libraries are a vital public institution that America cannot exist without, while others think they are simply a fun place to visit. The myriad of opinions are as varied as the people that hold them. One common theme expressed in all stories about libraries is that they make a positive impact on individuals and on our society -- in many ways.

The library means much more than checking out a novel...

How have you served us? Let me count the ways. We borrowed your pictures to hang on the drab walls of our first apartment.

When our children were small, your shelves had the books that their little hands could hold, with stories that their eager minds could learn.

Your walls provided the space for my first "one-man" art show.

Your rooms were the meeting place for storyhour, Junior Great Books, Spanish class, and lectures.

We read your periodicals for tips on buying a car, taking a vacation, and training a dog.

When our son was job-hunting, he spent hours searching the classifieds in your newspapers and writing letters on your typewriter.

We borrowed audio tapes to make long drives seem shorter, and videos to fill the quiet evenings.

The word "library" implies books. We found them — and so much more.

*Joanne Swanson and the
Swanson Family*

"The word 'library' implies books. We found them -- and so much more."

Joanne Swanson & the Swanson Family

We both feel the time we spend helping out at the library is contributing to our longevity as well as expanding our field of acquaintances.

*Bill and Doris Heimann
Library Volunteers*

I drive more than 30 miles each way to work every day. The time used to be wasted, but now I "read" books on tape from the library during my commute. I can finally read many books I've always wanted to read. I've noticed how it changes my mood, both driving and when I arrive at my office or home.

Jan Nowicki

Using the library's audio cassette books helped me through the last ice storm. I simply put batteries in the cassette player and listened to old time radio shows. I lit the oil lamps, listened to tapes, and crocheted Easter baskets. I love the library and all it opens up to everyone. You can take armchair trips to anywhere and learn everything... and it's all free.

Betty McKinzie

I have recently been confronted by several legal matters, and I am in a financial situation which prohibits the use of an attorney. To back myself legally, I've become familiar with Indiana's laws and legal system through the use of the law reference books. I've been successfully able to represent and protect myself and others. I honestly do not know what would have become of me and my family had I not known what my rights were. The library means much more than simply checking out a romance or a science fiction novel for entertainment; it means reassurance in an uncertain world.

Chris R.

The library is an old, old friend of mine. It was good news to me to learn that the work of the institution had expanded beyond books. In the library, I found a good home for the many, many slides I have accumulated in my travels. The library sends the slides out to the schools for their use. It was a happy solution for me to know they might still be useful through the services of the library.

Catherine McCord, 94 years old

"I love the library and all it opens up to everyone."

Betty McKinzie

I took up genealogy and contacted an uncle in California who was my oldest living family member. He became very excited and interested in the information I was finding in the Clay, Vigo, and Jefferson County libraries and the Indiana State Library. I think my research in Indiana libraries had the effect of adding great richness to an old man's final years of life. Thanks to Indiana libraries, his final years were full and productive. He even became so inspired that he wrote an historical article about Madison, Indiana.

Tamie Dehler

My strongest memory of the library was the time I opened a book to discover woodblock prints of German Expressionists. I felt such excitement. The images were tragic, yet so wonderfully expressive. That began my intense interest in the artists and their history.

A Putnam County Art Teacher

Reading is always a pleasure. I can escape from everyday life and just relax. The only thing I have to worry about is my mom finding me in bed, still awake, telling myself, "I can only read until the next chapter." The library is always providing me with wonderful books about explorers of the past, heroes of the present, and leaders of tomorrow. Without the library, I'd be lost in a boring world — a world without books.

Darcy Flanagan

The residents here look forward every week to the library cart. They enjoy the large print books that the library provides for them. They are able to keep in touch with the authors they have enjoyed all their lives. They are able to keep up with current events though the *Reader's Digest*. The library has made the lives of the residents happier.

*Pat Bailey
Activities Director
Lowell Healthcare Center*

"Without the library, I'd be lost in a boring world -- a world without books."

Darcy Flanagan

My exposure to women in leadership roles came through books. As a young girl I had the chance to visit my local library frequently. I read about Madame Curie, the scientist; Harriet Tubman, who created the Underground Railroad for slaves to escape to freedom; and Eleanor Roosevelt, a teacher and humanist. These profiles of women provided examples of how one could make a difference in the world as well as live the principles of integrity, courage, and honesty. I learned about leadership and my potential to contribute to society from the women role models described in books.

Dr. Peggy Ondrovich

Research! Research! Research! Not for a PhD but for my quilt shows. I began digging for ideas, and while helping at a Friends of the Library book sale I stumbled onto a subject! I have been researching ever since. Each year I look for something new, and the search always begins at the library.

Charlotte Bass

The library has enriched my life by providing the countless books, periodicals, magazines, and newspapers that are always available. I have also borrowed many of the classical LPs.

Frederick A. Lisarelli

“It is as comfortable for me to be in the library as it is for me to be in my own home.”

Jerry Miller

I have used the library to indulge my curiosity on many subjects, from art to psycho-analytic books, but especially poetry. Without access to the library, I am certain I would not be editing a poetry column for a local paper, nor leading a workshop on poetry.

Geraldine Walden

I can't remember a time when the library wasn't central to my life. Mary Lou Fitton, librarian at Hanover College, made the greatest impact on me as a mentor and friend. A bright, witty, delightful person, I fell completely under her spell as a freshman. Later, working as a student in her library, I knew I had found my role model. So I became a librarian — what else?

Anonymous

I've learned that libraries not only change the lives of youngsters, but also oldsters like myself. The library gives me a second chance to educate myself. The library is a place to get the newest or oldest information on subjects from A to Z. If what you need isn't locally available, they'll help you even if they have to go through the State Library. The best part is you don't have to leave town or spend a lot of money.

Isabel Leisure

The library means opportunity...

By the time I reached the seventh grade, I was heavily absorbed in biographies of people in many callings: political, military, educational, and scientific leadership. I lived their lives through wonderful biographies and shared their experiences through these extraordinarily helpful books. I have no doubt that the lessons of those lives, made possible through a wonderful neighborhood library staffed by librarians who took almost a parental relationship in my education, made a remarkable difference in my life.

Richard G. Lugar
U.S. Senator

I was raised on a farm during World War II. A minor physical problem kept me out of strenuous activity, and I had no one to play with. But we had a house full of books. I read everything in my age bracket during the summer and thumbed the school library in winter. Soaking up grammar and spelling by literary osmosis made schoolwork simple. With pleasure reading I got acquainted with history, travel, adventure, romance (Nancy Drew), sailing, flight, how to build things, etc. I can now converse with almost anybody.

John O. Watson

When I was a small child, my mother died, leaving a tiny baby, myself, and two other children. We lived within walking distance of the library, a loved place in my life. The books borrowed were treasures to me. I've shared my love of reading by participating in the Right to Read program and by tutoring.

Marjorie Rover

If I had to choose just one word to sum up what our library means to us it would be "opportunity." With a library within reach, we feel fortunate indeed — the opportunity to learn, explore, examine, entertain is all there. I grew up in Gary in a house packed with eight people. "Running away" to the library was ever so much better than the other alternatives; a positive secure memory, presenting limitless opportunities to a skinny little kid with not much else.

Nancy Fay-Lesley



Richard G. Taylor, U.S. Senator

Books are the only things that can be passed on to the next generation. I was born in a small town in Pennsylvania. My father was a school teacher and my mother was a school principal. I was born in a small town in Pennsylvania. My father was a school teacher and my mother was a school principal. I was born in a small town in Pennsylvania. My father was a school teacher and my mother was a school principal.

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Richard G. Taylor, U.S. Senator

I was raised on a farm during World War II. A school principal from my town came to my house and said, "I have a job for you. I want you to be a school principal." I was born in a small town in Pennsylvania. My father was a school teacher and my mother was a school principal. I was born in a small town in Pennsylvania. My father was a school teacher and my mother was a school principal.

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