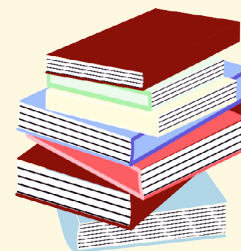




Library Lovin'

A "Love the Library" Newsletter



Volume 1-Issue 1

Articles:

-Why YOU Should Care about the Library. (And Librarians!)

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Why YOU Should Care about the Library. (And Librarians!)

In recent years many libraries have been shut down, and people have stated that there is no use for the libraries in their respective towns or cities. Most of the arguments for this are that people don't think that their taxes should go to keeping libraries open and staffed. I'm here to tell you why libraries are important to our society and why we should care about them, and those that work at the library.



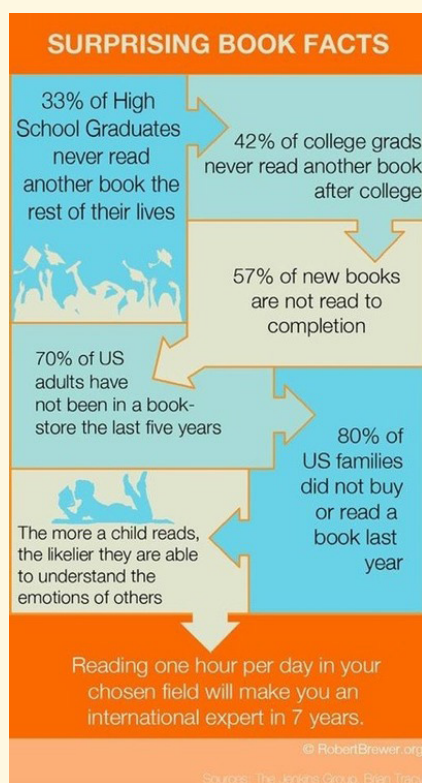
(Image source: <http://encinitaslibfriends.org>)

We should care about libraries because they are our ticket to different worlds. Libraries build us up, and give us vast amounts of knowledge. Libraries are what allow us to do research, and compile it all in one place. Bethany Adamson, a library lover, states that libraries are, "rooms full of knowledge. They help us dream and in doing so they help us live." Those that have grown up in libraries know the full power that they possess, and those that don't sometimes are confused by the devotion shown by library lovers. But the library also possesses the most important and helpful tool to help beginners get started.

This tool is called a librarian. Librarians are the superheroes of our world. They are there when you need answers to questions, help on research, or just a friendly face to talk to. Librarians are your guides to everything in the library (and a lot of things outside of it). When you first walk into a library, the best thing to know is what exactly you are looking for. When you know that, you can walk up to any librarian or library technician and ask them for help. This is one of the most amazing things about our society. This is one very important reason for caring about the library.

"Librarians are the superheroes of our world."

Another reason we should care about libraries is that we can use them as a type of safe haven. Students can go to their public library and study; families who don't have access to Internet or their own books can use the library as a resource for these things. This is great because the library gives those that don't have opportunities, the chance to be able to get work done or just come and have a good time. Some libraries even feature a reading hour, in which an employee from the library reads children's books for any child in the community to attend.



(Image source: <http://the-digital-reader.com>)

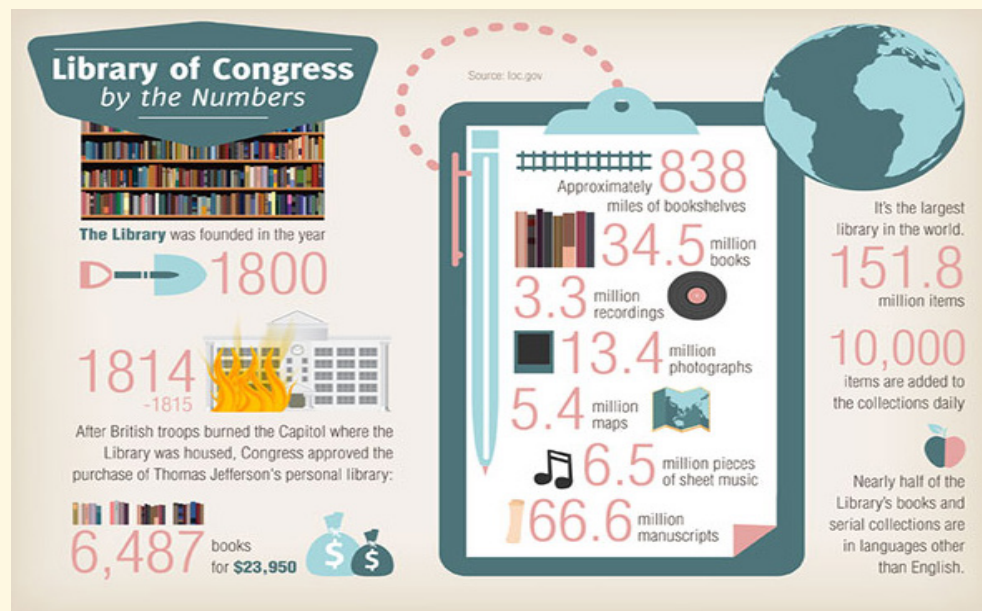
Another reason, and perhaps the most important reason, we should care for the library is that it gives us access to thousands-upon-thousands of free tales to help us escape from the world. In a world where some people may not have access to books, it is extremely important for us to care and fight for our libraries. Libraries guide us to research, knowledge, and fun stories we can read throughout our lives. Reading is the most important thing we can teach children, and libraries are the building blocks to opening up that connection with them. This is why libraries are important.

Historical and Fun Facts about the Library

Many who visit the library don't know some of the amazing historical and awesome facts there are out there about it! Libraries have been around for centuries. Now these old school libraries were not the same as the library we all know of today, they originally started as the collection of knowledge. This was useful in about 1200 B.C. because the world, and knowledge of it, was shaping up and the people needed a place to keep this knowledge. While this may seem somewhat the same as libraries today, libraries have grown into so much more than that. Throughout the many different centuries, the library has grown into a place to store,

share, and present knowledge, but also a place in which even the most wild of stories can have a home.

Today, we have many different types of libraries. We have public libraries, which is the library we all see in our cities, towns, and areas in which we live. These libraries are open to all in the area to come and check out books. We have academic libraries. This can vary from an elementary school library to a university library. These libraries usually feature a wide variety of fiction books as well as books that enhance a person's knowledge on specific subjects. We also have private libraries. These libraries are owned by people in their homes, or in a separate structure for the purpose of them using is as a library, and are a private collection of that person's books. Another type of library we have is a national library. The main purpose for these libraries is to collect anything to do with their country and world around them. For example, there is the British Library, and the American Library of Congress. These libraries have a focus on historical, and political facts but again aim to collect a wide variety of things.



(Image source: <https://historytech.files.wordpress.com>)

American Library Facts

Of the 300 million people in America, 68% of US Citizens have a library card. This means that for every 10 people, 6 (almost 7) have a library card. For these 68% of Americans on average we check out 7 books a year. While Americans check out about 7 books a year, through taxes they spend about the average cost of 1 hardcover book for the services the library offers. Meaning, that Americans spend more money on candy a year, than they do for taxes for the library. 30% of even those with library cards in America don't know all that the library offers. In order to work, as a professional librarian in an American public or academic library, librarians must earn an ALA accredited Masters Degree in Library and Information Science. This means that librarians go to school for years, in order to gain the skills needed to assist you in your research!

The library has such a long and colorful history, and we get to live in that part of history when we step into our local library, sit down and READ!

(Article sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_libraries
<http://www.librariesforreallife.org/facts.html>)

Censorship and the Library

A big cause of contention that has been found throughout the history of libraries is the topic of censorship. Censorship is the suppression of speech, public communication or other information. Libraries in the United States of America report the amount challenges books in their libraries face each year. This information is then compiled in multiple lists to present to the public.

The idea of censorship is incredibly frightening for me. The thought that groups or individual people can control what they think we (as people) should read is preposterous. I believe in the freedom to be able to read what we want, and when we want it.

"68% of Americans have a library card."

The idea of book challenges and book banning has long been a controversial one. Many of the reasons for censorship range from sexual content to religious viewpoints. The most prominent reason between the years 1990 and 2010 was sexually explicit content having 3196 challenges in that time period. Surprisingly, one of the most challenged books is Harry Potter. This is because some people and organizations believe that it promotes witchcraft, satanism, and kids to attempt to cast spells on their classmates. Most of these attempts have not been successful or are still in a consideration process.

THE WORST THING ABOUT CENSORSHIP IS [REDACTED].

But who has the right to make censorship decisions? Many principles, teachers and courts make those decisions for us. I believe that it should be a personal choice. We should be able to censor ourselves, but others should not be able to make the decision for us unless we ask or want them too. Some of the explanations behind certain groups choosing to challenge a novel are that they don't think it's appropriate for the age

group, or that it contains offensive material. I find it really offensive that someone would think that I could not handle a topic because of my age. I believe that everyone is smart enough to not only make their own choices on what they read but also smart enough to find the theme of a story or learn from the mistakes of a characters. A lot of book lovers know how to handle certain situations because they have read about them in a book. I know for me this is true. I have been able to handle certain things in my life better than if I hadn't loved reading. Those that try to take away certain literary works don't realize this. They don't believe that people can take away good things from the bad. They don't realize, or choose to ignore, the fact that many of these books aren't promoting the things in which they want to censor. That in fact by censoring this material, they might be preventing someone from seeing how wrong something is, or coming to their own conclusion about their opinion on the topic. Overall, I think censorship is more harmful than helpful. People may think they have other's best interests at heart when challenging a book, but they should worry about their own thoughts and what they are reading themselves. As for me, I will continue to read what I want, and take away from it the best message possible.

(Article source: <http://education-portal.com/academy/lesson/book-censorship-history-statistics-quiz.html#lesson>)

(Image source: <http://thelukewarmersway.files.wordpress.com>)