Parthenon:
Built between 447 and 432 BCE
In use for over a thousand years

"The public library of to-day is an active, potential force, serving the present, and silently helping to develop the civilization of the future."

The Future is now

Ncccla Conference 2020

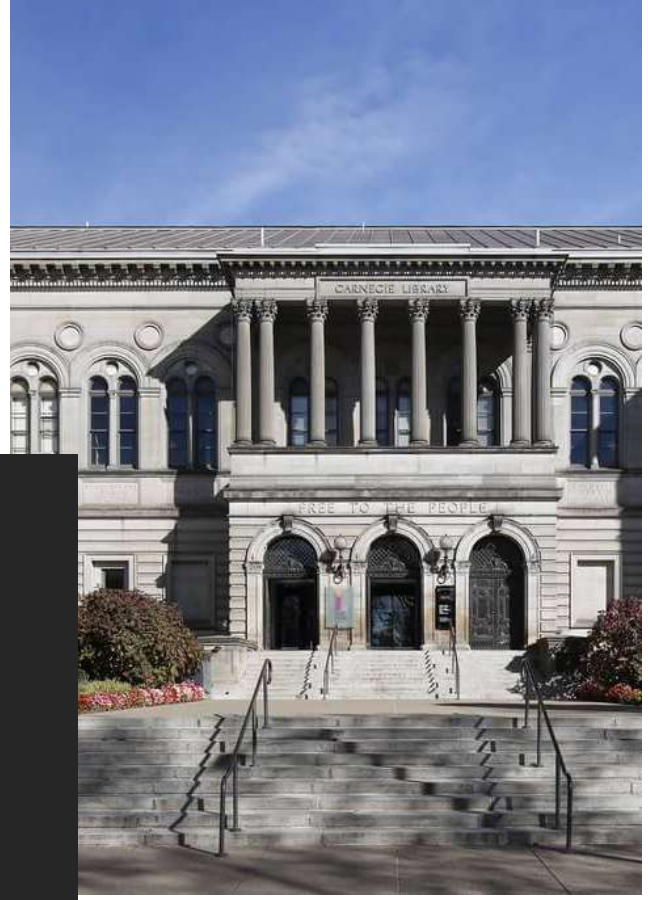
1902 American Library Association publication ”Why Do We Need a Public Library?”

Carnegie Library : Classical Design.

Golden Age of the American public library system.

Carnegie paid to build 1,795 libraries in the U.S. between 1883 and 1929.

His designs were the DNA for nearly every American library built before the end of World War II.



Architecture is the connection we feel with the places we occupy

Close your eyes.

I want to tell you a story.

“The book goes to the man, not waiting for the man to come to the book.” ~Mary Titcomb

- Architecture evokes feeling and mirrors the society in which it grew.
- Does it have to be bricks and pillars?

Bookmobiles

Athens Regional Library bookmobile (funded in part by the WPA, as noted on the car door), 1944.

Digital Library of Georgia.

The Great Depression and WWII slowed the growth of bookmobiles.

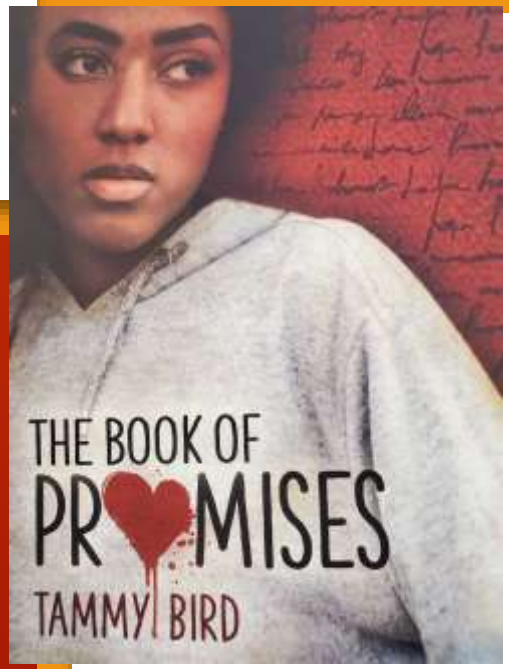
Library Services Act of 1956 – Focus on rural library development

Resurgence of bookmobiles

My own childhood

Branch Libraries

When Childhood seeps into our Writing life



How do the memories of Spencer compare to the spaces of today?

The future is now!

James B. Hunt Jr.

What about me?

- The speed at which we consume information
- Disembodied buildings
- Digitized collections
- Apps such as Libby
- Free WiFi
- Busy lives

Adam Rowe of Forbes reports that public library loans of digital materials hit record breaking levels in 2019 – to 326 million. This is a full 20% increase over 2018.

Technology creates both efficiency and isolation

The future is about renewed social importance

The future is about real-time, at my fingertips learning

Ideas I have heard

- Create interactive learning opportunities
  - Camtasia tours
  - Virtual Reality headsets
  - Virtual Reality librarian
- Create online and face-to-face mini-info bites
  - Mini courses that matter (how to access email; how to access essential government services; coding for kids; skype with an author
  - Resources online for teen patrons (online bullying, control of privacy)

The future is now

The future is you

Thank you for allowing me into your world today.

Tammy Bird

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