Private Libraries and Their Collections

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What sorts of books are on the shelves of your home library? History, science, poetry, fiction – a private library, at least in the era before e-readers, offered visitors a glimpse into the intellectual life of its owner. The same still holds true of some private institutional libraries, which can be dazzling, inspirational, unusual, and quirky – adjectives that often reflect the personalities of those who created them. I am defining a library as "private" if it does not receive public funds for its support, but is instead endowed or funded by some other entity. That entity may be, for example, a church, a monastery, a university, a corporation, or a private individual. Collectively, they contain some of the greatest intellectual treasures of the world.

Libraries play important cultural roles in our society. They educate. They inspire. They civilize.[1] But major differences exist in the philosophies of public and private libraries. Both uphold the ideals of education and preservation, but public libraries go further and also embrace freedom of access and patron confidentiality. Andrew Carnegie is famous for calling the free public library "a cradle of democracy … where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration."[2] Private libraries, by contrast, are in no way bound by those tenets. To the contrary, rank and office are often keys that determine whether one gets in to use their collections.

Public access to these collections varies greatly, depending on the institution and the type of material it houses. Some welcome the public without any pre-condition. If you visit the Family History Library, a private genealogical collection owned by the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City, you can research literally millions of rolls of microfilmed records from around the world. No one will question you, and no one will attempt to convert you.

The next access level is somewhat more restrictive: a library designed for use by a certain group but which welcomes the public under certain restricted conditions. An example might be a university library, whose collections are intended for its faculty and student body but which may grant limited access to the public, to alumni, or to other scholars under certain situations.

The third level is more restrictive still. At these libraries, the general public is decidedly not welcome, except for tours and exhibitions. In order to access the collection, you will need to provide letters of introduction and possess academic credentials. The librarian, who serves as gatekeeper, conducts an extensive reference interview about specific collections the user wishes to view and makes a decision about granting access. Some libraries set that bar very high, making judgments about the research project, the rarity of the material requested, and the strength of the user's credentials. Independent scholars without doctoral degrees and university affiliations and without a record of published works may not get in or may be relegated to viewing facsimiles, not original works.

The final and most restricted level is the personal library of an individual collector. Because such libraries exist only for the pleasure of their owners, they remain off-limits even to scholars, unless they know the owner personally. Books and manuscripts in such collections may only be glimpsed from auction catalogs, and once purchased, they disappear from public view. We have no real sense of just how many books and manuscripts of cultural significance are hidden in private vaults, but that number is likely substantial.

Throughout history, most libraries have been private. The public library system that we enjoy in America today is a relatively recent invention and uncommon in other countries. In the ancient world, Babylon, Athens, and Alexandria all boasted impressive collections of clay tablets and scrolls, but much of what we know about them is shrouded in legend. Library historian Stuart Murray writes that libraries were "revered as sources of knowledge and wisdom – spiritual, magical, and earthly – and whoever controlled books and libraries possessed unique power."[3]

Thus, when the Roman general, Aemelius, defeated the Macedonian king, Perseus, in 168 B.C.E., the plunder he desired most was not gold or silver, but the king's private library.[4] Ancient Rome had both public and private libraries. Patrician families regarded their personal libraries as prized possessions and their stored scrolls in special rooms near their baths, separating the Latin texts from the Greek.[5]

After the fall of Rome in 476 and the descent of the Dark Ages across Europe, most libraries disappeared, and those of Rome were lost to history. They remained important in the East, however, especially at Constantinople, where Byzantine emperors preserved many classical texts from antiquity. They also flourished across Asia. In China, craftsmen perfected the art of papermaking and printing using print block lettering. Large libraries existed both in China and Korea between the sixth and ninth centuries. The Islamic world also had renowned collections, where scribes in Mesopotamia produced exquisite illuminated manuscripts and preserved many Greek and Latin texts that would otherwise have been lost in the West. A library in Baghdad known as the House of Wisdom contained many copies of Greek and Roman manuscripts.[6]

Libraries did not appear again in Western Europe until the growth of the monastic system in the sixth and seventh centuries. Eventually, small collections could be found as far south as Italy and as far north as Scotland. Collections of 300 volumes were considered large, and monks copied all texts painstakingly by hand for the private use of their religious communities. The emperor Charlemagne amassed a great personal library around the year 800, encouraging the copying of texts on a large scale and collecting works on law, medicine, rhetoric, and poetry.[7] By the High Middle Ages, large monasteries turned out hand-copied texts on demand and created more substantial libraries. Books still served as tokens of power, but in a different way than they had in the Ancient World.[8] The pursuit of knowledge was seen as powerful, but not necessarily magical.

One of the greatest private libraries today, the Vatican Library, can trace its roots to this Western monastic tradition and two extraordinary bibliophile popes. Established in 1475, the Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana houses one of the oldest collections in the world. It contains 1.1 million printed books, 75,000 codices, more than 100,000 archived documents, 8,500 incunabula or printed broadsides, 150,000 pieces of art, and more than 300,000 coins and medals. Some of its most precious documents date from the earliest days of the Church, including pieces of papyrus dating from about 200 AD containing parts of the Gospels of Luke and John and letters of St. Peter. The bulk of the holdings date from the 14th century onward. Some works are hand-painted on parchment and of exquisite quality. The Urbino Bible, created in 1476 for the Duke of Urbino, contains some of the finest calligraphy and illuminations of any Renaissance work and resulted from the collaboration of several artists in Florence.[9]

The library owes its genesis to Pope Nicholas V, who had a great fondness for books, a passion for knowledge, and a vision for making Rome the preeminent center for western scholarship. He began his papacy in 1447 with a collection of about 350 texts in Latin, Hebrew, and Greek inherited from his predecessors, and he combined them with his own collection. He added more books from the imperial Byzantine Library of Constantinople that had been smuggled out after the fall of that city to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. More books were borrowed and copied from monastic libraries. In just two years the library had 1,200 volumes.[10]

Nicholas's successor, Pope Sixtus IV, moved the library into a suite of rooms in the Vatican palace and formally created the Vatican Library. An enlightened intellectual, he collected works on all subjects, sacred and profane, and the library of today still bears his vision.

Sometimes described as "the attic of western civilization,"[11] the Vatican Library's collection is surprisingly diversified. It houses maps of the world drawn fifty years before Christopher

Columbus, as well as a travel account written by Columbus himself in 1493 after returning from the New World. There are scientific drawings, such as Galileo's 1612 diagram of sunspots, as well as texts on warfare, mathematics, music, science, philosophy, and the human spirit. Hundreds of manuscript letters from various saints and monarchs are housed here. Perhaps the most unusual is a collection of love letters written by King Henry VIII to his then-mistress, Anne Boleyn, many of them erotic, which were gathered and stored as evidence for a trial if Henry ever sought to reinstate himself with Rome. The Vatican also houses a secret library and archives, the contents of which are unknown but consist perhaps of official Vatican state papers and papal account books.[12]

Access to the Vatican Library remains highly restricted. At one time it only admitted Catholic scholars, but papal officials relaxed the rules in the late nineteenth century while keeping the secret archives off limits. Only 200 scholars are allowed into the collection on any given day, and the library sees a total of between 4,000 and 5,000 researchers a year, most either with doctoral degrees or students pursuing them.

Many other great private libraries in Europe also originated with the Catholic Church, and several have associations with religious orders. Melk Abbey, founded in Austria in 1089, houses a library of some 2,000 rare books and manuscripts, many of them dating before the 15th century.[13] Even older is the Abbey of St. Gall, Switzerland, founded in 719. When the abbey burned in 973, the library was miraculously spared. Today it contains 2,100 manuscripts, including some of the oldest in Europe. Its most treasured possession is a 13th century copy of a pre-Christian Germanic poem, "Nibelungenlied (Song of the Niebelungs)," the story of Siegfried, which was later adapted and set to music in the famous opera by Wagner.[14]

Another group of the world's greatest private libraries have associations with universities. One of the oldest and grandest is the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford in England. Founded in 1602 by Thomas Bodley, the Bodleian is one of 40 different libraries on the university campus and today consists of five separate buildings. It incorporates collections spanning from a medieval collection of books donated in 1435 by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, to the New Bodleian Library, completed in the 1930s. The buildings, especially the 18th century neo-classical Radcliffe Camera, are well-known from serving as sets in numerous films. The Bodleian houses more than 11 million items, with many of its books stored deep underground in a series of sprawling warehouses under the campus and in a salt mine in Cheshire. Most regard its oldest buildings above ground to be the university's historic core, and collectively, they house some of England's greatest treasures. The Bodleian's holdings include four copies of the Magna Carta; a Shakespeare First Folio from 1623; and the Song of Roland, an epic poem composed about 1100. Also here is the Vernon Manuscript, the longest extant text written in Middle English; a Gutenberg Bible from 1455, one of only 21 complete editions; and a copy of the Bay Psalm Book of 1640, the first book published in America, one of only 14 copies in existence and the only one located outside the United States.[15] The library is open to users outside the university by applying for a reader's card, paying a fee, and submitting to an interview. If the officials deem your research quest to be of an academic nature, they will administer an oath and grant you access.[16]

Many other universities around the world have massive collections, but none has the charm and ambiance of the Bodleian Library. In the United States, the top ten largest academic libraries include Harvard with 16.8 million volumes; the University of Illinois at Urbana, 13.1 million; Yale, 12.7 million; the University of California at Berkeley, 11.5 million; Columbia, 11.1 million; the University of Michigan, 10.7 million; the University of Texas, 9.9 million; Indiana University, 9.9 million; the University of Chicago, 9.8 million; and UCLA, 9.1 million.[17] All of these are extraordinary institutions, and all of them also have substantial rare book and manuscript collections under restricted access.

A third type of private library has its roots with private collectors, who founded collections that were molded by their distinctive and often eccentric personalities. Many of these are located in the United States. Book collecting played a part in America's story almost from the beginning. Pilgrim William Brewster brought 400 volumes on the Mayflower in 1620, while John Winthrop Jr. transported more than 1,000 volumes to Boston in 1631. By the eighteenth century, personal collections grew larger. William Byrd of Westover in Virginia owned the largest library in the South with 2,600 volumes in the 1740s. Benjamin Franklin owned more than 4,000 books at the time of his death in 1790. To appreciate these collections, one needs to understand the scarcity and expense of books and how precious a commodity information was at that time.

The best known bibliophiles among our Founding Fathers were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, both of whom amassed large, impressive personal libraries. Adams, an inveterate reader and record keeper, collected works on philosophy, politics, religion, medicine, law, science, linguistics, agriculture, economics, and of course, the classics in original Greek and Latin. He and his son John Quincy amassed so many volumes at their home in Braintree, Massachusetts, that Quincy's grandsons had to build a separate free-standing stone building to store the 12,000-volume collection. Another 3,000 of Adams's books are now in the Boston Public Library.[18]

Thomas Jefferson, for his part, read and collected even more widely than Adams. His first library consisted mostly of law books inherited from his father, valued at £200. When the collection burned in 1770, a devastated Jefferson confided to a friend, "Would to God it had been the money!"[19] To rebuild his loss, he spent the rest of his life collecting books. In the 1780s, when he was a diplomat in Paris, he spent many afternoons visiting bookstores, indulging his interest in art and architecture as well as geography, medicine, moral philosophy, popular literature, landscape design, and the classics. He also collected the more unusual, including works on cooking, gardening, and bee-keeping.[20] Not fully satisfied with Parisian booksellers, he also established standing orders with those in Amsterdam, Frankfort, Madrid, and London. By 1800, he owned volumes in more than fifteen languages and devised his own catalog by subject, rather than by title. He often wrote notes in the margins of his books, as did Adams.

When he became president, Jefferson's book buying habits abated, but he resumed collecting after leaving office in 1809. He was deeply interested in the history of Virginia, amassed impressive collections of American local history and even rescued many official Virginia record books of the early colonial era. After the British burned Washington during the War of 1812, Jefferson offered his entire collection of some 6,500 volumes to the Library of Congress for just under $24,000, doubling the library's collection from what it had been before the fire. He set to work building a second collection immediately afterward, since it was impossible, he said, to live without books. He planned to leave his second library to the University of Virginia at his death in 1826, but the debts of his estate were so large that his heirs had no choice but to auction it off. The sale catalog survives, so we know precisely what the library contained. Some of the original volumes have since been restored to Monticello, but most of them, sadly, remain lost.

Many other great collections came into being in the second half of the nineteenth century, mostly through the efforts of wealthy private collectors. They collected not for the sake of accumulating knowledge as had Adams and Jefferson, but because certain books and manuscripts were intrinsically rare and collectible for their artistic or historical value. J. Pierpont Morgan, banker, financier, and industrialist, is perhaps best known as a ruthless venture capitalist from America's Gilded Age. Yet he also loved books and had refined tastes, amassing an impressive personal library between 1880 and 1913. At first he collected only rare first editions, but in 1896, he acquired a Gutenberg Bible and developed an interest in rare and obscure volumes. Flush with money from various business ventures, he began buying out entire libraries of some of the great collectors in Europe and America, and by the early 1900s, his library had grown to include hundreds of illuminated manuscripts, ancient papyrus, and other rare works spanning from the Renaissance to the 19th century Romantics.

Morgan's collection had no particular theme other than that he wanted to own the finest editions and manuscripts that his money could buy. He purchased a complete Bible from the 10th century, as well as another medieval manuscript bound in hammered brass covers and set in relief with 130 jewels. He collected drawings by Rembrandt and original manuscripts of books from such authors as Robert Burns, Robert Louis Stevenson and Charles Dickens, among many others. He bought manuscript music written by Mozart and Beethoven and poems in the hand of Keats and Shelley. Morgan died in 1913 with a collection of more than 19,000 volumes, 1,300 manuscripts, and 1,100 prints valued at more than $7.5 million. He housed them all in a sumptuous building on Madison Avenue in New York City. His son opened the collection to scholars in 1924, and today the library, in an expanded facility, serves essentially as a museum, offering exhibits, colloquia, and tours to the public but restricting access to the books and manuscripts only to credentialed scholars.[21]

The Folger Shakespeare Library, located on the national mall in Washington, D.C., stands as another outstanding example of a private collection and a visionary collector, Henry Clay Folger. Today it boasts of having the premier collection of works by and about William Shakespeare, including 73 sets of his rare original First Folio. That such a collection exists in America, not in England, is a tribute to its founder's tenacity. Born in 1857, Folger worked for the Standard Oil Company and rose to become its president. His interest in books had germinated as a student at

Amherst College in the 1870s, when he heard Ralph Waldo Emerson give a lecture about Shakespeare.[22] Afterward he decided to collect everything that was connected in any way to the Bard or the times in which he lived. His first purchase was a facsimile of the first folio for $1.25. Soon he began a quest to acquire more valuable works, corresponding with auction houses and competing with other collectors to assemble a formidable collection.

Folger's biographer has said that he had only two passions in life: running Standard Oil and collecting Shakespeare. Though he was wealthy, he lived modestly. He had no children and spent most of his time with his wife Emily in their home library, where they kept their most prized volumes while sending others to a rented warehouse. Like Morgan, Folger purchased whole private libraries in England, acquiring several rare first folios of Shakespeare's plays, as well as broadsides, playbills, ballads, proclamations, and even Elizabethan artwork. He was especially interested in rare first printings of plays. One of his greatest discoveries was a 1599 edition of the poem *Venus and Adonis* that a dealer in England had found in an outbuilding. Folger paid $40,000 for it in 1919 after failing earlier in an auction to buy another for $75,000. Over time, he expanded his interests to collecting any work connected to Shakespeare's times, including works about the French and Italian Renaissance as well as witchcraft, demonology, herbals, music, poetry, and religion. At one auction he purchased a corset that had actually been worn by Queen Elizabeth.[23]

Folger had an eye for the legacy of his collection and began acquiring parcels of land near the Library of Congress in the 1920s for his own library. In 1932, two years after his death, it opened under the administration of trustees from Amherst College. Today, the Folger has more than 160,000 books, 60,000 manuscripts, 90,000 prints and a variety of other works of art, films, recordings, playbills, and stage costumes. It hosts performances of Shakespeare's plays, offers readings and exhibitions, and sponsors a renowned colloquium.[24] Research access to the collection remains highly restricted, however.

When Morgan and Folger were each building their collections in the early twentieth century, they faced competition from a third collector, Henry E. Huntington, who would become the founder of the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Huntington made a fortune in railroads and real estate, becoming a collector of books comparatively late in life. Unlike Morgan and Folger, he was not a scholar and was not widely read. His first collecting efforts were undistinguished and focused on books with fine bindings and illustrations. By 1911, however, he began to make his mark by purchasing entire libraries of more established collectors. He bought one library for $1.3 million that was rich in both English and American literature. He purchased a Gutenberg Bible for $50,000. In 1912, he acquired through a private agent a large collection of English books and manuscripts belonging to the Dukes of Devonshire. The agent deemed the collection to be of such cultural significance to England that he withheld news of the sale until he had shipped the volumes out of the country.

Huntington followed these purchases with more spectacular acquisitions as his tastes became more sophisticated. He developed an interest in American historical manuscripts and purchased a variety of papers from the French and Indian and Revolutionary war eras. Among these were the papers of financier Robert Morris, the journals of Aaron Burr, and some 170 letters written by George Washington. He collected original literary manuscripts of such authors as Dickens, Twain, Thackeray, Lord Nelson, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Hawthorne, Emerson, and Thoreau, among others. In 1917, he bought the *Ellesmere Chaucer,* an illuminated manuscript of Chaucer’s works written in the fifteenth century and considered a medieval cultural treasure. To house his collection, he built a large Mediterranean-style building in 1920, and by the time of his death seven years later, he had spent, by some estimates, more than $20 million on his collection.[25]

Today, the Huntington has over seven million items, including 400,000 rare books. Like the Morgan Library, it is available for tours, but if you wish to do research there, you should either have a Ph.D., or be a doctoral candidate at a university and must have at least two letters of reference from recognized scholars.[26] About 1,700 scholars use the collection yearly. Independent scholars are seldom allowed in, with access policies even more restrictive than the Morgan.

Two other renowned private libraries are worth mentioning briefly: The William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and the Walter L. Newberry Library in Chicago. Clements, an industrialist, collected early Americana, both books and manuscripts. When Henry Huntington began selling off duplicate volumes from his collection, Clements bought many of them at auction. In 1923, he presented Michigan with the funds for a building on the Ann Arbor campus along with some 17,000 volumes, 25,000 pamphlets, 3,000 maps, and an endowment. In the 1920s, the Clements Library acquired many additional manuscripts relating to the Revolutionary War, including the papers of Sir Henry Clinton, commander of British forces during the Revolution. Today the Clements rivals the Huntington for its print, map, and manuscript holdings of early America.[27] Access is a bit less restrictive than the Huntington.

Walter Loomis Newberry, by contrast, did not collect books, but was instead a philanthropist and real estate speculator. He dreamed of having a library in Chicago that would be the “pride and boast of the city.” When he died at sea in 1868, his fortune became the seed for establishing the Newberry Library. Over time the Newberry has amassed a collection of more than 1.5 million books, five million manuscripts, and 500,000 maps, with major collections in American history, genealogy, Indians, cartography, railroads, the history of printing, and manuscripts of Midwestern authors.[28]

Morgan, Folger, Huntington, and Clements all shaped and molded their collections with their personalities and tastes. That their libraries still exist, even if mainly as museums, is a tribute to their vision of having their collections outlive them as endowed institutions.

Many great private collections exist throughout the world today, but their contents are unknown except from brief glimpses in the occasional magazine article. They remain accessible only to the friends of their owners. One such collection is the so-called “Walker Library of the History of Human Imagination.” Its owner, Jay Walker of Ridgefield, Connecticut, is the founder of Priceline.com. His 3,600 square foot library, built in 2002, is a tribute to books and artwork about major achievements in human invention. The library contains 30,000 volumes as well as artifacts. Its holdings include a 1699 atlas showing the sun, rather than the earth, as the center of the universe; an original 1776 copy of the Declaration of Independence; an original Sputnik satellite; and a 1941 White House cocktail napkin on which Franklin Roosevelt outlined, in his own handwriting, his strategy for winning World War II. Walker has not disclosed his plans for the collection in the long-term.[29]

It is easy to understand why many private libraries put up barriers to the general public. Many of their treasures are so rare and the risk of theft or mutilation so great that they have to make restrictions. Do we really want just anyone and handling Henry David Thoreau’s original draft of *Walden* or Charles Dickens’s handwritten manuscript of *A Christmas Carol*? Some library users do not perceive books as precious objects in the same way they regard objects of art. They are not aware of the impact that oil from hands has on paper or that fragile bindings can break under careless use. Tensions exist even between credentialed academics and the librarians in charge of these collections, and some faculty have become angry when denied access or directed elsewhere for their research.[30]

The problem with these restrictions is that they do not allow for the serendipity that can happen in research or even for discoveries being made by those least expected to make them. Consider the story of a book once owned by Roger Williams, the seventeenth-century Puritan founder of the colony of Rhode Island. In the book’s margins, Williams wrote a lengthy essay using a strange, shorthand code that had defied translation by generations of experts. Since the nineteenth century the volume has resided in the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University, where scholars had deemed it mystifying and inscrutable. That changed when a group of undergraduate students, hearing the story, took up the challenge and were given digital access to the volume. Through a complex series of mathematical calculations, the students managed to crack the code. Williams had written a rather mundane defense of believer’s baptism.[31] The Providence newspapers carried the headline that their founder was speaking to them for the first time in 350 years. The point here is that when libraries expand access to their collections, unexpected outcomes and collaborations can happen.

The digitization of books and manuscripts offers the greatest potential for expanding access and collaboration, and it is happening at a phenomenal pace in both private and public libraries throughout the world. Millions of out-of-print volumes with expired copyrights have been photographed and their contents made available online, thereby liberating them from closed stacks. Companies such as Internet Archive and Google Books are digitizing books from libraries around the world and putting them online, either free or for a fee. Google announced in 2004 its intention of scanning every known book and partnering with libraries with equipment for photographing up to 1,000 pages an hour. Internet Archive, a non-profit company, has digitized more than six million books and shows no sign of slowing down.

For all kinds of reasons, digitizing offers benefits. It raises the profiles of libraries, which, in the case of universities, pleases alumni and can serve as a catalyst for fund raising and endowment building. It preserves originals in case they should ever be damaged or destroyed. It increases readership by spreading and democratizing access to information and bringing down former barriers. For many scholars whose goal is simply to read and access a text, a high-quality digital copy of a book or manuscript in color is almost as good as seeing the original, even if it loses some its aura in the process.

The elite private libraries described in this paper have run the gamut of the digitizing movement. The Vatican Library has embraced it with gusto, commencing an effort in 2014 to digitize all of its manuscripts and make them available online.[32] Their website invites financial contributions. The Morgan Library has digitized its collection of Rembrandt etchings, much of its music library, and its collection of illuminated manuscripts. Some of its other priceless texts, such as the original Dickens *Christmas Carol*, have been digitized for special exhibitions. Buckingham Palace has announced this year a plan to digitize some 250,000 documents from the private royal archive pertaining to King George III - records never seen before even by scholars.[33] The Bodleian Library is also actively scanning its collection.

Other libraries have moved more cautiously or not at all. Many dislike the notion of sharing their holdings online in the belief that, if we share it, they won’t come, “they” being the rarified group of scholars with the right credentials. The notion that sharing will curtail research visits is certainly debatable when one considers the positive attention some libraries have had in showcasing their collections. Digitizing is not without cost, however, and it does require considerable staff time to scan, link, and create metadata to accompany digital images online.[34] Some libraries have concerns about the potential damage done by digitizing or that scanning will remove items from their original order and context.[35] Some are doing limited in-house scanning but keeping the images from being viewed online. The Folger Shakespeare Library and the Clements Library have fine online catalogs with digital finding aids, but their books and manuscripts are not available online at this time.[36] Most of the contents of the Huntington Library are also not viewable, though its website offers customers the opportunity to purchase digital copies of holdings on a page-by-page basis for a fee.[37]

What will happen in the next fifty years is anyone's guess. The best prediction is one that treats us all to a vast trove of digitized rare books and manuscripts viewable freely on the Internet. That may or may not happen. Of one thing we can be certain: private libraries will continue to do things *their* way, and many treasures will remain out of view, accessible only by a privileged few, while the rest of us may only catch glimpses of them from afar, if at all. If that seems unfair or undemocratic, J. P. Morgan and Henry Huntington would have loved it.

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[1] Jeffrey K. Smith, *The Museum Effect: How Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Educations Educate and Civilize Society* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014), xi.
[2] Andrew Carnegie quoted in (http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/94980-there-is-not-such-a-cradle-of-democracy-upon-the: accessed 17 October 2015).
[3] Stuart A. P. Murray, *The Library: An Illustrated History* (Chicago: Skyhorse Publishing, 2012), 10.
[4] "Private Library," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_library: accessed 27 July 2015).
[5] Murray, *The Library: An Illustrated History*, 20-21.
[6] Ibid, 43-57.
[7] Murray, *The Library, an Illustrated History*, 31.
[8] Ibid, 60.
[9] "60 Minutes Presents: The Vatican Library," website (http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/60-minutes-presents-inside-the-vatican/: accessed 27 July 2015).
[10] Murray, *The Library: An Illustrated History*, 300-301; see also "Rome Reborn: The Vatican Library and Renaissance Culture," website (http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/vatican/intro.html: accessed 27 July 2015); see also "60 Minutes Presents: The Vatican Library," website (http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/60-minutes-presents-inside-the-vatican/: accessed 27 July 2015).
[11] "60 Minutes Presents: The Vatican Library," website (http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/60-minutes-presents-inside-the-vatican/: accessed 27 July 2015).
[12] "Vatican Library," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican_Library: accessed 27 July 2015).
[13] "Melk Abbey," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melk_Abbey: accessed 27 July 2015)
[14] Murray, *The Library: an Illustrated History*, 286-287.

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[15] Ibid, 299-300; see also “Bodleian Library & Radcliffe Camera,” website (http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/about-us/history: accessed 27 July 2015).

[16] Ibid.

[17] American Library Association, “The Nation’s Largest Libraries: A Listing by Volumes Held,” website (http://www.ala.org/tools/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet22: accessed 27 July 2015).

[18] John Adams quoted in (http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/33545.html: accessed 17 October 2015).

[19] Carl L. Cannon, *American Book Collectors and Collecting from Colonial Times to the Present* (New York: H. H. Wilson Co., 1941), 39.

[20] Ibid.

[21] “Morgan Library & Museum,” website (http://www.themorgan.org/: accessed 27 July 2015); see also “Morgan Library & Museum,” *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morgan_Library_%26_Museum: accessed 27 July 2015).

[22] Cannon, 335.

[23] “Folger Shakespeare Library,” *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folger_Shakespeare_Library: accessed 27 July 2015); see also “Folger Shakespeare Library,” website (http://www.folger.edu/: accessed 27 July 2015).

[24] Ibid.

[25] Cannon, 316.

[26] Huntington Library website (http://www.huntington.org/WebAssets/Templates/general.aspx?id=17334: accessed 27 July 2015).

[27] Cannon, 292-301.

[28] Newberry Library website (http://www.newberry.org/: accessed 27 July 2015).

[29] Ibid.

[30] Georgia C. Haugh, “Reader Policies in Rare Book Libraries,” *Library Trends* (1957): 467-475.

[31] Linford Fisher et al., *Decoding Roger Williams: The Lost Essay of Rhode Island’s Founding Father* (Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2014), xi-xiii.

[32] “Vatican Library Digitization Project,” (http://digital.vatlib.it/: accessed 27 July 2015).

[33] “The Queen Launches Project to Place King George III’s Private Archive Online,” Kings College London News, website (http://www.kcl.ac.uk/newsevents/news/newsrecords.2015/March?...: accessed 25 June 2015.

[34] Stuart D. Lee, “Is Digitizing Worth It?” *Computers and Libraries*, volume 21, no. 5 (May 2001); digital copy (http://www.infotoday.com/cilmag/may01/lee.htm: accessed 27 July 2015).

[35] According to Emi Hastings, Curator of Books, Clements Library, in an email dated 24 June 2015, the Clements plans to expand its digitizing program. Multi-level manuscript collections, with differing sizes of documents in bound format, pose digitizing challenges of how to main them in their original context and order.

[36] Folger Shakespeare Library website (http://www.folger.edu/: accessed 27 July 2015); William L. Clements Library website (http://clements.umich.edu/: accessed 27 July 2015).

[37] Huntington Library website (http://www.huntington.org/WebAssets/Templates/general.aspx?id=17334: accessed 27 July 2015).