

From the Director's Desk:

What is a library? If you ask people within this community, I hope that the answer will include everything from books to all forms of electronic media and access, as well as a place to find a sense of community and self. At the core of our library's mission is our responsibility to serve the needs of people seeking knowledge, entertainment, and enrichment.

Throughout history, libraries have been valued and described in a variety of ways. Two of my favorite quotes are thousands of years removed from one another, but convey a similar belief.

Cicero — 'If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.'

Albert Einstein -- "The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."

U.S. First Ladies and a modern author describe the library's impact on children and lifelong learning.

Laura Bush — "Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open."

Lady Bird Johnson — "Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest."

Libba Bray (Award winning children's and YA author)

"The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this passport that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy, and ignorance."

Some comments come from the least expected sources, like a comedian and a rock star.

Groucho Marx -- "I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book."

Keith Richards -- "When you are growing up there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully: the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you."

And finally,

Archibald MacLeish -- "What is more important in a library than anything else — than everything else — is the fact that it exists."

Love your library...explore and enjoy all that it offers,

Barbara S. Ellis  
Director of Library Services