



i n s t i t u t e o f m u s e u m
a n d l i b r a r y s e r v i c e s

NATIONAL

ENRICH COMMUNITY LIFE, FORGING PARTNERSHIPS, SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY, CENTERS
OF LEARNING, SAFE HAVENS FOR FAMILIES, LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY,
MOUCHSTONES TO THE FUTURE, FREE AND EQUAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION,

AWARD

for

CORNERSTONES OF COMMUNITY LIFE, CARING SERVICES FOR ALL, BUILDING
FRIENDSHIPS, REFLECTION OF COMMUNITY VALUES, MODEL OF PUBLIC SERVICE,
CONNECTING PEOPLE AND IDEAS, INVESTING IN FAMILIES, CONTINUUM OF

LIBRARY

RESOURCES, GROWTH THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, SPACE FOR SEEDING DISCOVERY,
TEACHING OUT TO UNDERSERVED, GATHERING PLACES FOR COMMUNITIES,
INFORMATION WITHOUT BOUNDARIES, UNITING DIVERSE PEOPLE, ENCOURAGING

2000

SERVICE

CRITICAL THOUGHT, BRIDGES TO UNDERSTANDING, REPOSITORY FOR RESEARCH,
STIMULATING A LOVE OF READING, CONNECTING TO THE WORLD, EMPOWERING
PEOPLE, ENRICH COMMUNITY LIFE, FORGING PARTNERSHIPS, SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY,

“This national honor
is a *tribute* to the power
of libraries to *nurture*
learning, build livable
communities, and engage
our imaginations.”

The Institute of Museum and Library Services proudly salutes the winners of the first annual National Award for Library Service. These institutions demonstrate the power of libraries as the cornerstones of community life. ■ Libraries are centers of learning. They are safe havens where families share a spirit of discovery. They are touchstones to the future, training all ages to find and process vital information. They are links to well-being, leading visitors to caring services. Libraries are the great connectors in a complex era. They use expertise and imagination to ensure that access to information remains free and equitable for all they serve. ■ As community leaders, libraries are exemplary public citizens. They build friendships and sustain partnerships to extend their reach as broadly as possible. Through collaboration with schools and religious institutions, youth organizations and nursing homes, health care centers, businesses, human rights organizations and countless others, these libraries address the core needs of diverse communities across America. We honor each as a unique model of extraordinary public service.



Beverly Sheppard
Acting Director
Institute of Museum and Library Services



Martha Gould
Chairperson
National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

B.B. COMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

B.B. Comer Memorial Library



Shirley K. Spears
Director
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314 North Broadway Avenue
Sylacauga, Alabama 35150

Website:
<http://www.sylacauga.net>

The B. B. Comer Memorial Library in Sylacauga, Alabama arose out of the ashes of the Great Depression in 1936 when twenty-three organizations met to discuss "the time being ripe for the creation of a library." The evolution from 250 donated books placed in the back room of a local bank to today's free public library serving parts of four counties demonstrates the importance of combining public and private support. Partnering with over thirty organizations ranging from local businesses to area community groups, this small library serves a large urban and rural constituency



from "cradle to grave" with a series of outstanding programs.

The B.B. Comer Library's mission statement, "To provide materials and services for the education, enrichment, and entertainment of the people of the greater

Sylacauga area," is an ambitious one. A caring staff offers service to the mentally challenged, seniors in care, and home-schooled children.

Community partnerships address social and economic issues: *Bonding through Books* is designed for children at risk and their parents; the *Teen Advisory Council* solicits input from local teens; and the *Summer Reading Program* helps children retain reading skills. Other successful endeavors include the Brown Bag cultural arts program, service to students from over sixty schools, and free Internet access for all patrons.



Gary E. Strong
Library Director
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Website:
<http://www.queenslibrary.org>



The Queens Borough Public Library serves two million people in one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse counties in the U.S.

Through aggressive outreach and relevant collections and programs,

the library supports the real, everyday needs of the population.

Staff at all 63 library locations keep a close watch on neighborhood changes, suggesting ways the library's resources can fill emerging needs. Strong partnerships with schools and community groups facilitate outreach. *New Americans* are introduced to the library through popular collections in their native languages and "coping skills" programs that help them acclimate. Groups of unattended children spending afternoons in the library sparked a *Latchkey Program* to provide a free, safe, academically-directed haven. Puzzled-looking customers around the catalog computers prompted hiring young adult "mentors" to assist one-on-one in using new technology, and classes on basic computer skills and Internet search techniques. A library branch in an economically-depressed community houses the *Small Business Resource Center* with programs and collections to encourage entrepreneurship.

Queens Borough Public Library empowers the community to use information and knowledge available through the public library to take charge of their lives, governments, and futures.

Queens Borough Public Library **QUEENS
BOROUGH PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

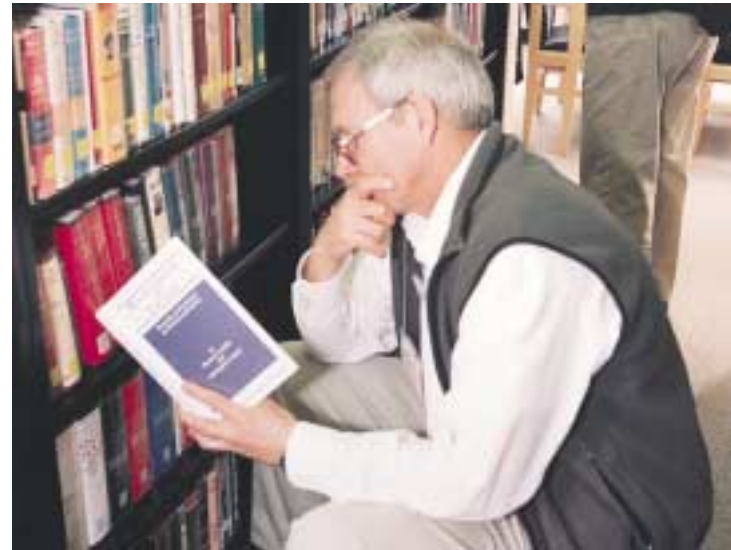
The Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives opened in 1978 with 50 books and a part-time librarian. Today, the Library holds over 40,000 volumes and materials and is an internationally renowned resource center educating the world about the Holocaust and human rights issues. The Archives is a research repository that preserves, digitizes, and disseminates its primary source collection. The collection includes photographs, diaries, letters, artifacts, artwork, and rare books. Librarians typically respond to 500 information requests per week, 300 of which are received electronically from around the world.

The Library and Archives carries out its mission through programs like *Contact a Survivor*, an occasion for Holocaust survivors to share their experiences through email with students worldwide, and *Once Upon A World Children's Book Award*, an annual award recognizing the best children's book about tolerance and diversity. The Library and Archives also supports the outreach programs of the Museum of Tolerance and Simon Wiesenthal Center offices worldwide such as *Teaching Steps to Tolerance* which trains educators and librarians about cultural diversity.

In reaching out to patrons around the world with its message of tolerance, the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives brings people from diverse backgrounds together to meet the challenges of our complex world.

The Simon Wiesenthal
Center Library and Archives

SIMON WIESENTHAL
CENTER LIBRARY
AND ARCHIVES



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URIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

Urie Elementary School Library

Literacy, community, and a love of reading are the goals of the Urie Elementary School Library. This rural primary school library in Wyoming hosts book fairs for the community and technology nights for parents. It welcomes families of home-schoolers and sponsors artist residencies. The library is also taking the lead on the road to the Internet. Library staff not only maintain Urie Elementary School's website, they also designed the county public library's webpage and connected it to the Internet. The staff's proficiency with technology even assisted the search for a new County Library Director through designing and hosting a webpage to attract candidates.

However, the Urie Elementary School Library offers much more than a connection to the Internet. It enriches the community with storytelling programs and an extensive collection of books. Children will find a hands-on table of stimulating activities, storybuddies to read with, and a friendly smile upon entering the library. Students learn about authors and illustrators, recycling and homelessness, and the history of books. They write poetry and donate canned goods to the local food pantry. Urie Elementary School Library is not a quiet library—it is “the place to be” in Lyman, Wyoming.



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Website:
<http://www.uinta6.k12.wy.us/WWW/Urie/Uriehome.html>

Website: www.imls.gov

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a n d l i b r a r y s e r v i c e s

The *Institute of Museum and Library*

Services fosters leadership, innovation,
and a lifetime of learning through support of the
nation's museums and libraries. Created by
Congress in 1996, IMLS is a primary source of
federal grants for museums and libraries.
There are 122,000 libraries and 15,000 museums
in the United States.

**National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science**

The Commission is a permanent, independent agency
of the federal government charged with advising the
legislative and executive branches on national and
international library and information policy and plans.

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