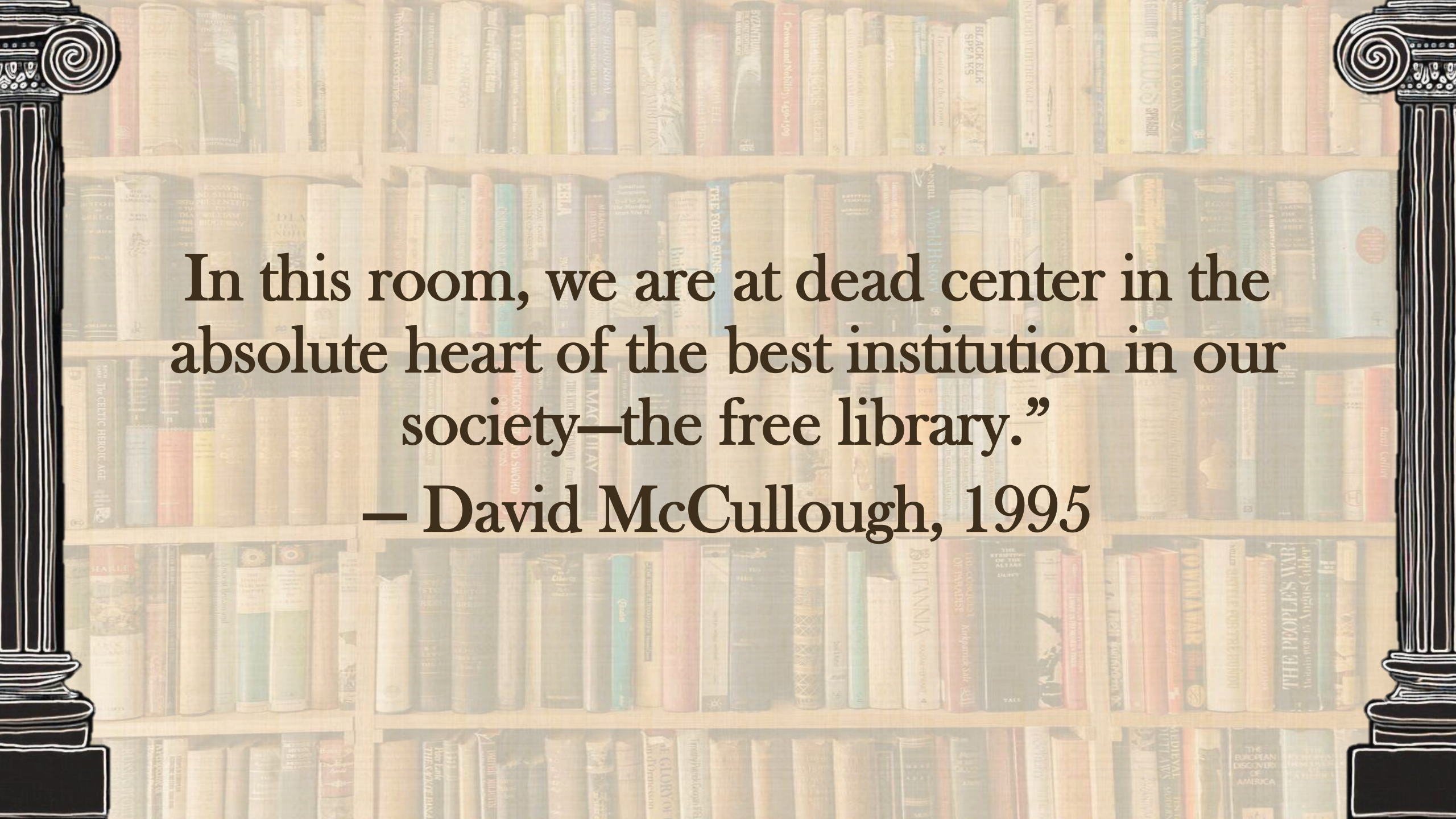




Information Landscapes: History of Library and Information Services (LIS)



In this room, we are at dead center in the
absolute heart of the best institution in our
society—the free library.”

— David McCullough, 1995

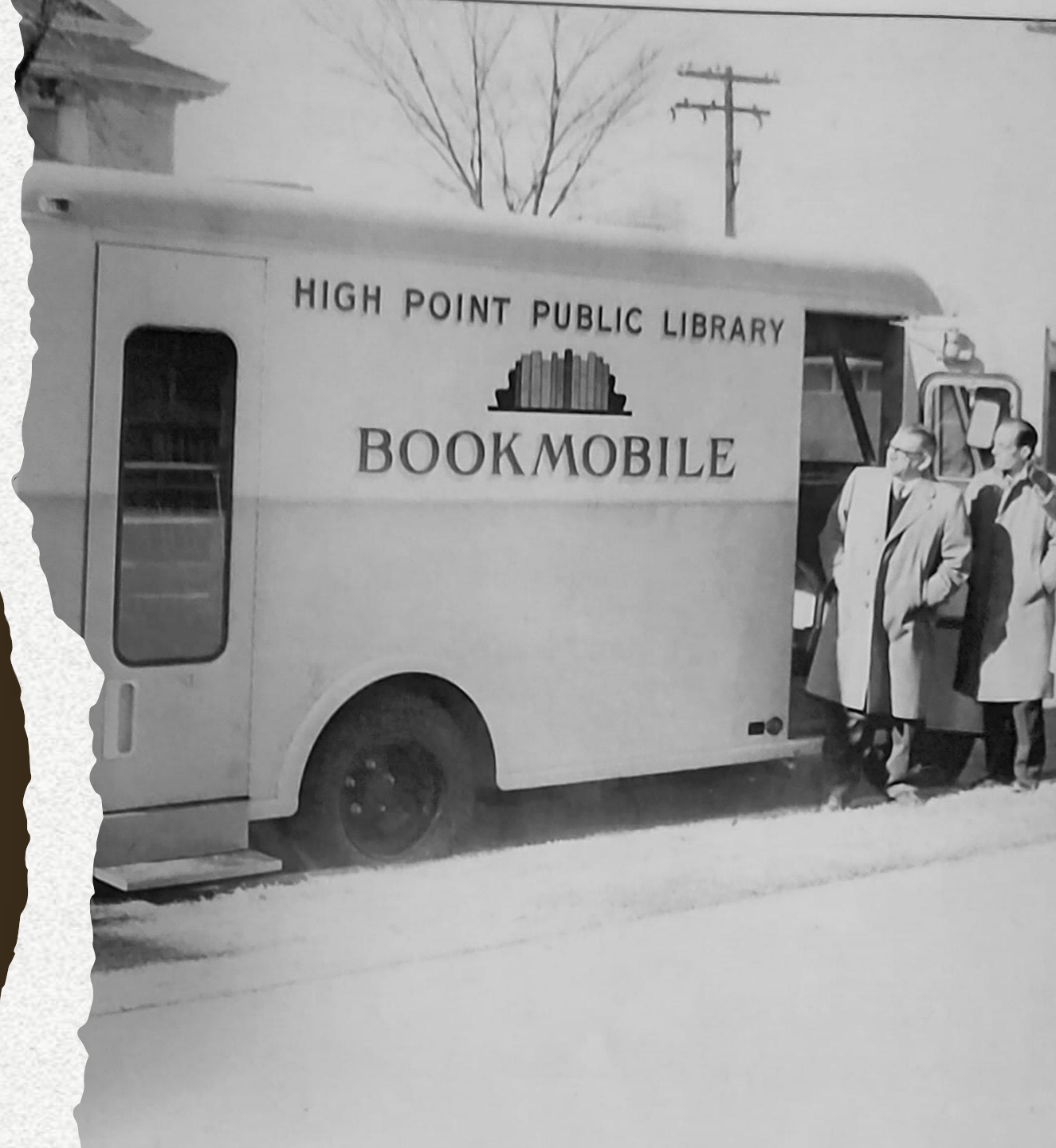
What makes a library, well... a library?



"A library is a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is (1) organized by information professionals or other experts who (2) provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and (3) offer targeted services and programs (4) with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audiences (5) and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole." (p.1)

Americans Love Their Libraries

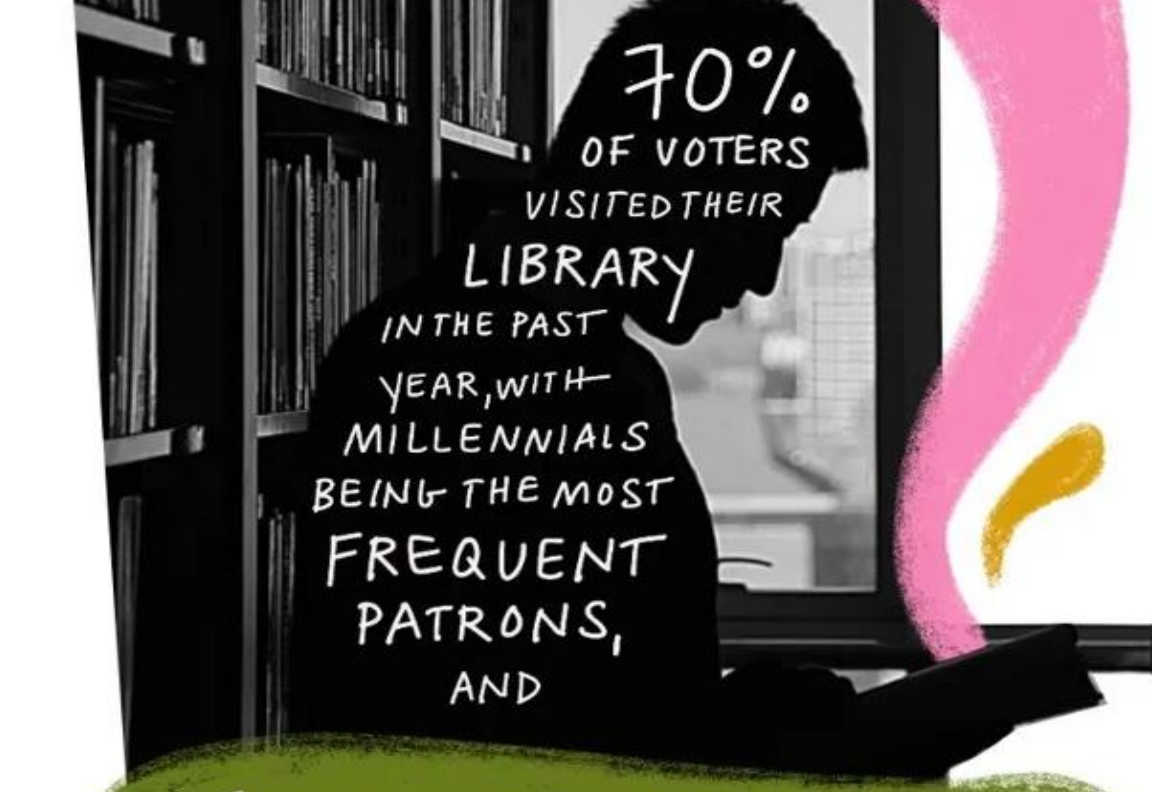
- 91% of Americans over age 16 view libraries as “very” or “somewhat” important to their lives and 98% identified their public library experience as “very” or “mostly” positive.
- In 2012, the U.S. had 17,219 public libraries. According to the ALA, there are 17,278 today – including over 600 bookmobiles!





What do Americans value in their libraries?

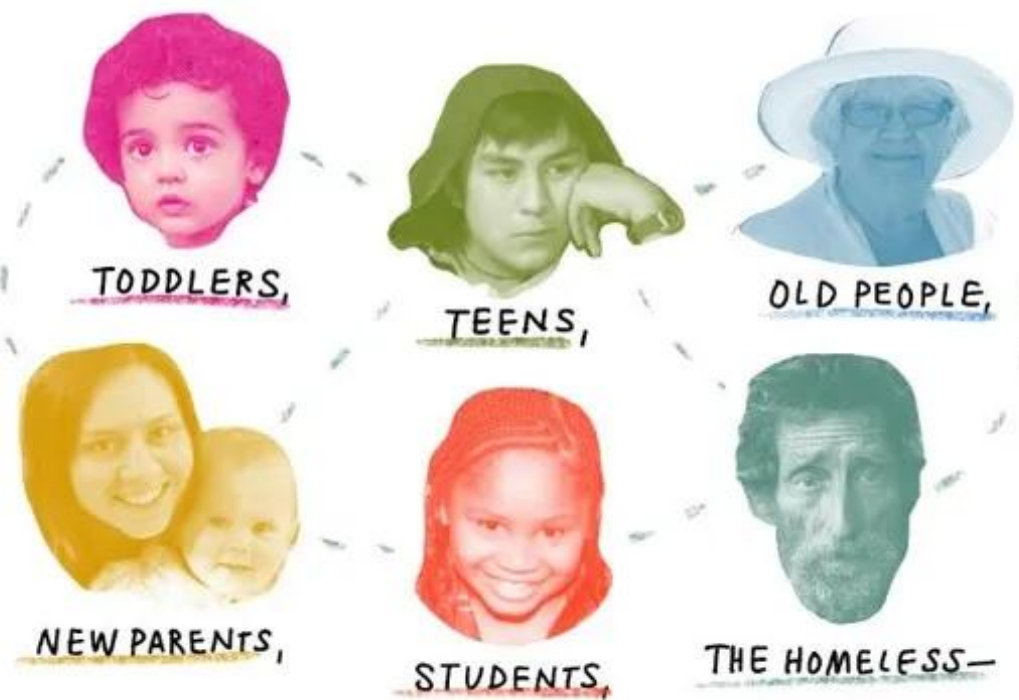
- **Information:** making knowledge accessible to all
- **Reading:** the transformative power of stories
- **Place:** community spaces for belonging



70%
OF VOTERS
VISITED THEIR
LIBRARY
IN THE PAST
YEAR, WITH
MILLENNIALS
BEING THE MOST
FREQUENT
PATRONS,
AND

8 IN 10 AMERICANS BELIEVE
PUBLIC LIBRARIES CAN HELP THEM
FIND "RELIABLE" AND "TRUSTWORTHY"
INFORMATION.

THE DRAW GOES
FAR BEYOND THE INFORMATION ITSELF.
PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE ONE OF THE
LAST FREE PLACES
IN OUR COUNTRY THAT OPENLY
CATER TO THE NEEDS OF



PROVIDING THEM WITH A SAFE SPACE
TO BE IN A COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORS
AND OFFERING SERVICES FROM
RÉSUMÉ WRITING TO FAMILY STORYTIME.

INDEED, 65% OF AMERICANS
SAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
"HELP THEM GROW AS PEOPLE."

The Anchor: Preservation to Professionalization

1830-1900

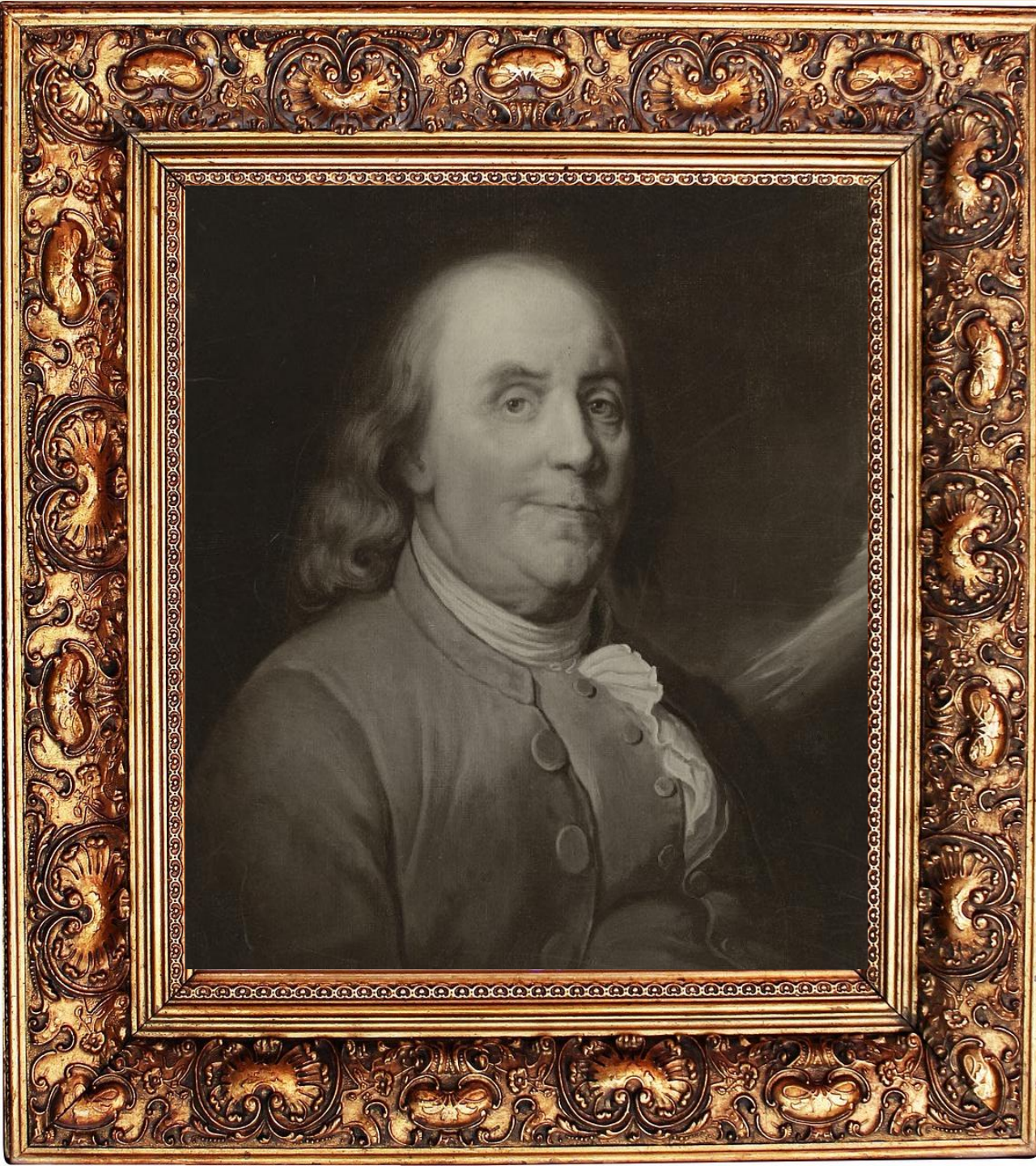


Origins: Information as a Luxury

- Early America relied on informed citizens, yet information (books/newspapers) was expensive and thinly distributed.
- Social Clubs & Subscription Models
 - Before tax-supported libraries were built, libraries were often private clubs exclusively meant for the elite – namely, wealthy white men.
- Black Literary Societies:
 - African-American communities founded their own reading rooms to share texts for the good of the community.
- Literary Salons
 - Popular in France and Italy, these were popular (and highly important to) women, who were traditionally barred from areas of learning and education.



CORNEILLE READING "POLYEUCTE" AT THE HÔTEL RAMBOUILLET.



“The Library Company”

I. **T**HE Librarian is to give Attendance on *Saturdays*, from *Four* o’Clock till *Eight* in the Afternoon, at the Library, in order to lend out and receive in the Books; and shall keep a Book *Column-wise*, in which shall be noted the Title of the Book, the Name of the Borrower, the Time for which the Book is lent, the Sum for which the Note was given, the Day when the Book should be returned, and the Forfeitures weekly arising for all Defaults.

II. EACH Borrower, being a Member of the Company, shall give a Promissory Note to the Librarian, for the Sum set in the written Catalogue against the Book he borrows, conditioned for returning the same Book within the Time mentioned in the said Catalogue; at the Expiration of which Time, if the Borrower inclines to keep the Book longer, he must renew his Note.

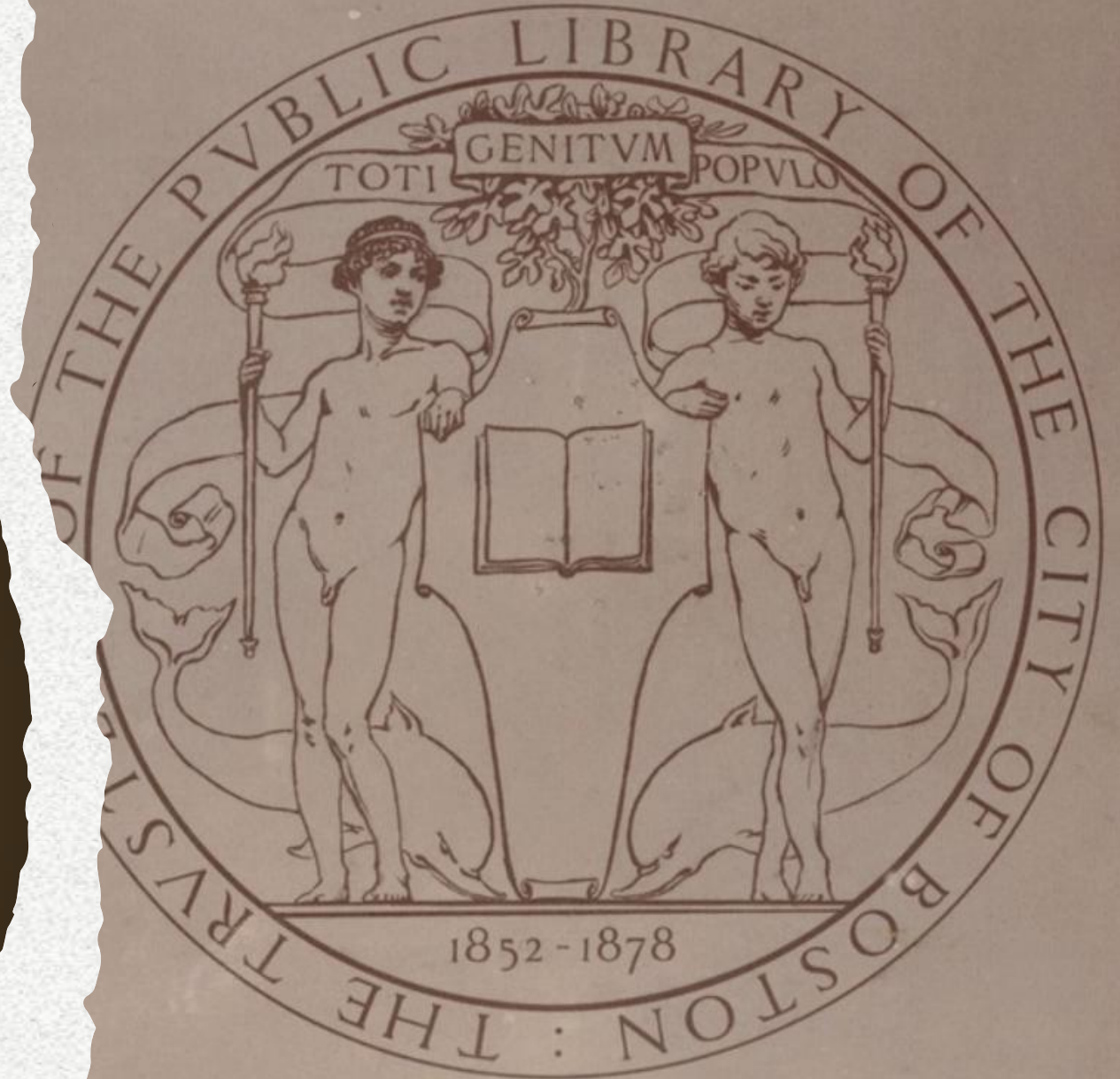
First Public Libraries

Beginning as a collection that had to be stored in a general store and a pharmacy in 1833, the Peterborough Town Library was finally built as a stand-alone building in 1893.



The Tax Revolution

New York (1835) and New Hampshire (1849) passed laws allowing municipalities to tax themselves for free library services. Massachusetts followed in 1851 and opened the Boston Public Library in 1854.



1876: “The Year of Miracles”



In 1876, 103 librarians (ninety men and thirteen women) founded the ALA.

Library Journal first published

Dewey Decimal Classification system created

Librarians become a profession – one that shifted from catering to the elites but began to reflect the reality that women were heavily involved in local and public library affairs across the country.

Women's Groups and The Carnegie Philanthropy Fund

- Through this fund, 1,689 libraries were built from 1886-1917
- Many public libraries were established by local women's groups due to their efforts to raise awareness and direct organized efforts to establish community libraries.



Education and Professional Changes

Professional education began with courses in MLIS beginning in 1887 at Columbia College with core competencies of cataloging, classification, and reference work

“Library Faith” was idealized, promoting the belief that reading transforms individuals and society





Library Structuring

- By the early 1900s, small branch libraries had begun to form out of a network of neighborhoods, bookmobiles, and subsidiary stations.
- Library design and patron experiences were standardized – open plans, low bookcases, and focusing on collections over architecture.
- Subsidiaries & branch libraries became key. In 1909, Chicago Public Library director Henry Legler made branch libraries a priority to encourage community accessibility. Books were made available in 17 languages as urban libraries began to develop an organizational infrastructure that we still see today.



The 20th Century Shift (1900-2000)

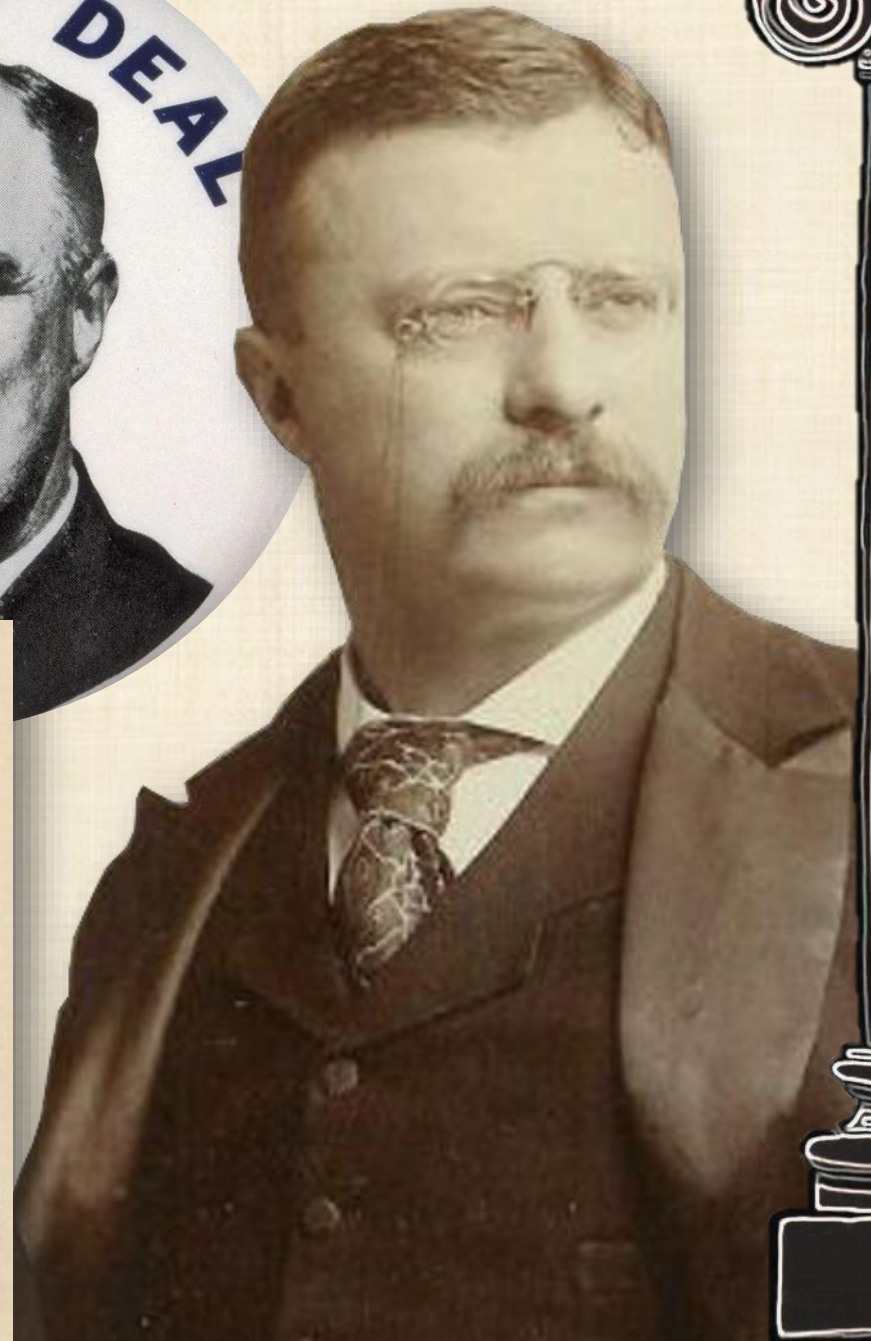
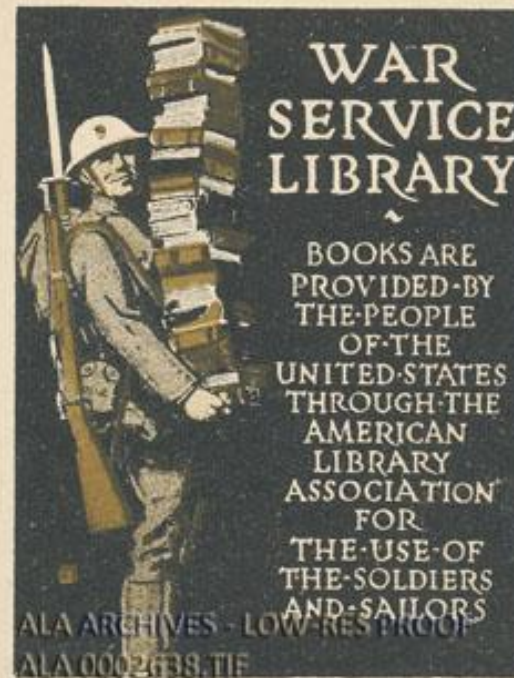
Federal Support

The New Deal, The Great Depression, and
The WPA

Library Services Act (1956-1996)

The Tech Revolution (1960s – 1990s)

Crisis as Catalyst: WW1 and the Library
War Service



Technology Revolution



1967: OCLC

Cooperative cataloging goes digital



Card to Computer

Online catalogs replace card systems



Information Overload

Libraries become guides, not just warehouses



Early Adopters

Libraries lead in technology integration

Historical Barriers

Systemic Obstacles: Historically, libraries often mirrored societal racism, sexism, and classism through their collections.

Excluded Voices: Guides used to build collections largely ignored works by and for people of color for much of the 20th century.

Desegregation: In the 1960s and 70s, activist African Americans fought successfully to desegregate southern public libraries.

Foundations of Black Studies: Librarians like Vivian G. Harsh and Dorothy B. Porter laid early groundwork by indexing materials about African American life.



Atlanta's "whites only" Carnegie Library in 1902

The Great Perspective Shift

- “User in the life of the library” has transformed into the “Library in the life of the User.”
- Intellectual Freedom and the shift from ‘wholesome’ reading guidance to protecting the right to read





Questions or
comments?