

Librariana I: History

Location: Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center

Size: 1 box, ½ linear feet

Formats: Text;

Subjects: Newark Public Library – History; Libraries – History

Time Periods: 19th Century; 20th Century; 21st Century

Language: English

Access policy: Open for research

Collection Description:

The Newark Public Library traces its roots to a referendum in 1887, which approved the founding of a free public library, open to all citizens. Thereafter, the Board of Trustees was established; a librarian, Frank P. Hill, was hired; and the former holdings of the Newark Library Association (a subscription library founded in 1847) were acquired (approximately 10,000 volumes). The new Free Public Library of Newark was opened in 1889 on West Park Street near Broad Street (in the former building for the Newark Library Association). By the end of its first decade, a new building was under construction on Washington Street – one that opened in 1902.

Throughout its history, the Newark Public Library has served and enriched the lives and experiences of citizens and visitors by offering exhibits, cultural programs, classes, reference assistance, popular and research level collections, especially in art and local history, all free of charge.

Collection Contents:

This small collection on the History of the Newark Public Library consists mostly of secondary articles and essay written by various staff members. Of particular interest is the thesis by Julia Sabine on the “Antecedents of the Newark Public Library” (1946), along with her other writings from the 1970s. A history celebrating the 100th anniversary in 1989 is also included, as well as the exhibition labels for the exhibition on the 125th anniversary in 2014.

Container List:

History:

Writings and documents

Newspaper clippings

Libraries in Newark – unsigned essay, undated

Thesis by Julia Sabine – “Antecedents of NPL” – 1946

NPL by Julia Sabine – 1971

NPL by Julia Sabine – 1974

New Jersey Room – A Chronology – ca.1960s

NPL – Histories – ca.1970s

A Century of Service – 1989

Article by Abigail van Stuck – “The Lady and the Library Loafer” – 1996

NPL: 125 Yrs. of Innovation and Service by Nadine Sergejeff

Libraries, Landmarks, and Literacy: Memories of the Weequahic Branch Library

By Sandra L. West and Phil Yourish – 2014