

BLUE BOOK

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Archival function - This function, the oldest historically, serves to collect and preserve recorded human knowledge. Some libraries, such as archives, have this function as their main purpose. Others, the archival function is ^{an} ~~is~~ ^{exists but is} secondary to other services. Essentially, however, all libraries are really archives, in the sense that they preserve, store + classify their collections.

Cultural function - This function serves also to preserve recorded human knowledge, but in doing so, it is preserving the culture from which the knowledge comes. Some libraries, such as public libraries, preserve the "popular" aspects of culture, while others concentrate more on the more "traditional" aspects

such as the "classics" and other materials.

Educational function - The purpose of most libraries is to fulfill this function. Books and other materials are now selected primarily to aid people in furthering their educational needs, whether they be school related or just related to self education.

~~#~~ The purpose of school + college libraries is primarily to aid in the educational needs of students + faculty, while other libraries provide materials for self education.

Recreational function - This function serves to enhance a person's enjoyment of books + other materials. It is mainly in public libraries that this need is met.

^{synonymous with reference service}
Informational Function - This function serves to give people the information they are searching for, whether it be little known facts or bibliographies on complex subjects. Many special libraries provide this service as their main function, while other libraries provide it as a secondary service to their users.

Not all five functions are present in all types of libraries. The first function, the archival, however, is. This is true because by definition, one of the main purposes of libraries is to store + collect information, books + other materials. All ~~library~~ libraries have collections, and in that sense they are archival.

The second function, the cultural function, is only provided in

academic librarians
also provide
cultural
function

Some types of libraries. Public libraries, + school libraries are the most obvious ~~top~~ examples of libraries which preserve + transmit the culture. Many special libraries, however, aren't concerned with the cultural function, since the purpose of many of them is solely to provide information such as statistics + studies to their users.

Practically all libraries provide the educational function to their users. School, college + university libraries all are geared toward supplementing and enhancing the educational needs of the institutions + people which they serve. Even public libraries, the educational function is served to those who want to enhance

their own knowledge. Many public libraries also go out of their way to provide supplementary services, such as ^{educational} workshops + seminars to their users. Some special libraries fulfill the educational function, others don't emphasize it. For example, a historical society library provides materials that enhance someone's knowledge of history, while a corporate library may concentrate ~~only~~ mainly on gathering data on itself and its competitors.

The recreational function is fulfilled primarily by public + some school libraries. Other libraries, such as research + special libraries ignore this function because their purpose

might
this would
be the
best
library
depending
upon the
type of
material
library

is to ^{other} provide research + edu-
cational materials or field re-
lated materials of importance
to their parent institution.

All libraries, I feel, provide
the informational function. By
virtue of the fact that materials
& books contain human knowledge,
if people use these materials they
are getting information. Some
libraries, however, stress information
access more than others. Public
libraries; for instance, may have
information + referral services
which provide people with information
and resources they are ~~to~~ looking
for. Many special libraries also
provide information, this being
their main purpose.

expand
your
definition
of
informational
function
to
reference
services

In school libraries, those which serve grades K-12, the main function is to supplement a child's learning. In this sense their main purpose is educational. However, school libraries also serve to provide children + young adults with materials that are of interest to them, in order to enhance their knowledge + enjoyment of different things.

In this sense, school libraries are also providing for the recreational needs of their users. School

~~College~~ libraries also provide for the cultural + informational needs of students, but their main purpose is educational.

In college + university libraries, depending on the philosophy of these institutions, some functions

are stressed over others. For example, many research + university libraries ~~and~~ tend to bypass the recreational function, because their main purpose is to provide materials which fit the needs of the research + curricular programs involved in such institutions.

Public libraries fulfill all the functions listed. However, some of them, depending on the emphasis of their ~~stated~~ philosophies + collection development policies, stress some aspects over others. For example, many libraries stress the recreational function over the educational one, because their philosophies stress meeting the needs of the users over providing the user with materials.

which some feel are of higher quality.

In special libraries one must take into account which institutions they serve and what their purposes are before defining which functions they fulfill. The primary purpose of say, corporate libraries, is to provide information ^{to the company} and to store information (archival function.) Other special libraries, however, may provide all functions for their users, depending on what is collected. For example, a historical society library may provide genealogy services, and in this sense ~~it~~ it can fulfill the recreational function, the cultural function and the informational + educational functions.

very nicely stated —
you interpreted the information
function in a narrow sense —
it actually includes all activities
related to reference
service

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