

I examined the three main sections of the article: ‘*Library as Platform*,’ ‘*Library as Social Infrastructure*,’ and ‘*Library as Technological-Intellectual Infrastructure*’. I classified the verbs, with "library/libraries" as the subject, into three types: **Inward**, **Outward**, and **Qualitative**. These verbs, or actions, highlight the essential reasons libraries can function as infrastructure. At the same time, as Foucault discusses in *The Order of Things*, systems of categorisation and order are not neutral but are heavily influenced by historical and social constructions. Seeing the library as a subject and categorising its actions creates a unique ‘grammar of the library’. The different categories of behaviour also reveal the multiple meanings and functions of libraries in historical contexts and social needs.

**Inward**

- :
- (a) acquire
  - (b) organize
  - (c) preserve
  - (d) make
  - (e) reinvent
  - (f) employ
  - (g) bring
  - (h) employ
  - (i) package
  - (j) incorporate
  - (k) contain
  - (l) incorporate
  - (m) store
  - (n) get

Libraries maintain their place in history due to their large resource storage capacity. They have consistently provided physical support for vast resources and adapted their structure to meet new demands. Moreover, libraries are constantly reinventing themselves to meet different challenges. In short, the library’s inward behaviour of incorporating resources and updating its construction is an important reason for the library’s stable existence.

**Outward**

- :
- (o) open
  - (p) allow
  - (q) have
  - (r) report
  - (s) devise
  - (t) collaborate
  - (u) address
  - (v) announce
  - (w) benefit
  - (x) reflect
  - (y) open
  - (z) open
  - (aa) partner
- A library’s outward actions clarify its role as social infrastructure. As places and institutions accessible to a large proportion of the population, libraries are called upon to take on an extensive range of responsibilities. To meet the expectations of various parties, libraries are always communicating with different groups, such as the public, educators, and government agencies. In various outward behaviours, libraries have been trained with various abilities, which come from the public, and the public constitutes one community and society after another, and libraries naturally become an important part of society. The expectations from the outside have become the default responsibility of the library, and until now the library has been an indispensable presence in society.

**Qualitative**

- :
- (bb) assume
  - (cc) be
  - (dd) be
  - (ee) play
  - (ff) have
  - (gg) have
  - (hh) continue
  - (ii) have
  - (kk) continue
  - (ll) have
  - (mm) have
- The verbs in this section all show the nature of libraries in a very definite sense, and what they represent is often shaped by a long historical and cultural background. Libraries “have been expected to symbolise the eminence of a ruler or state, to integrally link ‘knowledge’ and ‘power’.” So the library is an amalgamation of knowledge and a symbol of power. As institutions long accepted by the public, libraries can naturally become ‘community centres’ recognised by the public.

1. Mattern, S. (2014) *Library as infrastructure*, *Places Journal*. Available at: <https://placesjournal.org/article/library-as-infrastructure/> (Accessed: 31 October 2024).

2. Foucault, M. (2001) ‘Preface’, in *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences*. London: Routledge, pp. xvii–xx.

- (a) For millennia libraries have **ac-**
- (b) **quired** resources, **organized** them,
- (c) **preserved** them and **made** them
- (d) accessible (or not) to patrons.
- (e) ... so they are continuously **reinventing** themselves and the means by which they provide those vital information services.
- (f) The Queens Public Library **em-**
- (g) **employs** case managers who help patrons identify public benefits for which they're eligible.
- (g) Libraries also **bring** communities together in times of calamity or disaster.
- (h) For instance, "Libraries that focus on early-childhood education might **employ** educators, academicians, or teachers to help us with research into early-childhood learning and teaching."
- (i) "Their narrative" — or what I'd call an "epistemic framing," by which I mean the way the library **pack-**
- (j) **ages** its program as a knowledge institution, and the infrastructures that support it — "must include everyone," says the University of Michigan's Kristin Fontichiaro.
- (j) ... rather, the library should **incor-**
- (k) **porate** the "enfranchised" as a key public, both so that the institution can reinforce its mission as a social infrastructure for an inclusive public ...
- (k) It's worth noting that Boston and other libraries **contained** book railways and conveyor belt retrieval systems — proto-robots — a century ago.
- (l) Snøhetta's James B. Hunt Jr.
- (m) Library (2013) at North Carolina State University also **incorporates** a robotic storage and retrieval system, so that the library can **store** more books on site, as well as meet its goal of providing seating for 20 percent of the student population.
- (n) Others recommend that libraries **get** into the content production business.
- (o) Weinberger argued that libraries
- (p) should **open** up their entire collections, all their metadata, and any technologies they've created, and **allow** anyone to build new products and services on top of that foundation.
- (q) ... libraries have recently **reported** record circulation and visitation.
- (r) 90 percent of respondents say the closure of their local public library would **have** an impact on their community, and 63 percent describe that impact as "major."
- (s) ... and some libraries are **devising** innovative solutions.
- (t) ... but libraries do need to **collab-**
- (u) **orate** with other institutions to determine how they leverage the resources of the infrastructural ecology to serve their publics ...
- (u) ... and tasked working groups with developing proposals for how the library can better **address** those needs.
- (v) The New York Public Library has recently **announced** that some of its branches will serve as "learning hubs" for Coursera...
- (w) The library's social infrastructure thus **benefits** even those who don't have an immediate need for its space or its services.
- (x) A well-designed library — a contextually-designed library — can **reflect** a community's character back to itself.
- (y) Last year, the Brooklyn Public Library, just a couple blocks from where I live, **opened** its Levy Info Commons ...
- (z) Also last year, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library in Washington, D.C., **opened** its Digital Commons ...
- (aa) The Chicago Public Library **partnered** with the Museum of Science and Industry to open a pop-up maker lab featuring open-source design software ...
- (bb) Libraries have also **assumed** a host of ever-changing social and symbolic functions.
- (cc) In short, the library has always **been** a place where informational and social infrastructures intersect within a physical infrastructure that (ideally) supports that program.
- (dd) Libraries **are** infrastructures not only because they are ubiquitous and persistent, but also, and primarily, because they are made of interconnected networks that undergird all that foment ...
- (ee) ... libraries **play** a critical role as mediators, at the hub of all the hubbub.
- (ff) A public library today **has** information to improve people's lives. We are an enabler; we are a connector.
- (gg) Libraries **have** a natural affinity with cultural institutions.
- (hh) Many libraries have **continued** along a path laid by library innovators from Ptolemy to Carnegie.
- (j j) And many libraries **have** classrooms and labs where they offer regular technical training courses.
- (kk) ... while libraries **continue** to serve a vital role as "opportunity institutions" for the disenfranchised, this cannot be their primary self-justification.
- (l l) The [American Library Association] **has** a proven history of commitment to intellectual freedom.
- (mm) The Hunt Library **has** a maker-space, a GameLab, various other production labs and studios, an immersion theater, and, rather eyebrow-raisingly, an Apple Technology Showcase