The Library Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: Culture, Collection, and Community

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Michael J. Paulus, Jr., Seattle Pacific University
The Acquisitions Institute at Timberline Lodge, May 18, 2014
The Seattle Public Library, circa 1960
The Seattle Public Library, circa 2000

New Equalities

Books have to share attention with other media of potent performance and attraction.

A parallel exists between the vast proliferation and incredible intricacy of program in the New Library, and the equally explosive multiplication of information media and social obligations that has to be accommodated within it.

Design Challenges:

1. Past collections
2. Future technologies
3. Present spaces
From Oblivion to Inspiration

Left: Hardware Wars (1978)
Right: Habakkuk Pesher (circa 0 CE)
Augustine on Time
A Library is ...

1. An intention to configure a culture
2. A collection created through selection
3. A collection mediated for a community
The Seattle Public Library, circa 2004
Archive, Apocalypse, Action
In the Beginning ...

The Flood Tablet, part of the Epic of Gilgamesh (7th century BCE), and a tablet library from Sippar (circa 7th century BCE)
The Library at Alexandria

The Library at Qumran
The Library at Caesarea

Image of Ezra from Codex Amiatinus (8th century) and Codex Sinaiticus (4th century)
In the End ...

Apocalypse at Six Flags (2013); scenes from *Oblivion* (2013) and *After the Dark* (2013)
The Apocalypse
Modern Apocalypses

The Last Man

By

The Author of Frankenstein

In Three Volumes

Vol. I

London:
HENRY COLBURN, NEW BURLINGTON STREET
1826

The Last Man (1826) and the 2006 film adaptation of The Children of Men
The MaddAddam Trilogy

(2003)

(2009)

(2013)
The Book People and the People of the Book

Novel (1953) and film (1966)

Covers for A Canticle for Leibowitz (1960-2006)
The Anti-Libraries of Babel and Tlön
Preface to Cassiodorus’ *Institutions* (from 1609);
Malatesta Library, Cesena (built circa 1450);
Bodleian Library (established 1602);
Gottingen Library (circa 1750)
The Library Today

Above: Codex Sinaiticus Website;

Right: Seattle Public Library Mobile App
The Library – Local, Consortial, Beyond
Archive, Apocalypse, Action