

Putting Community First

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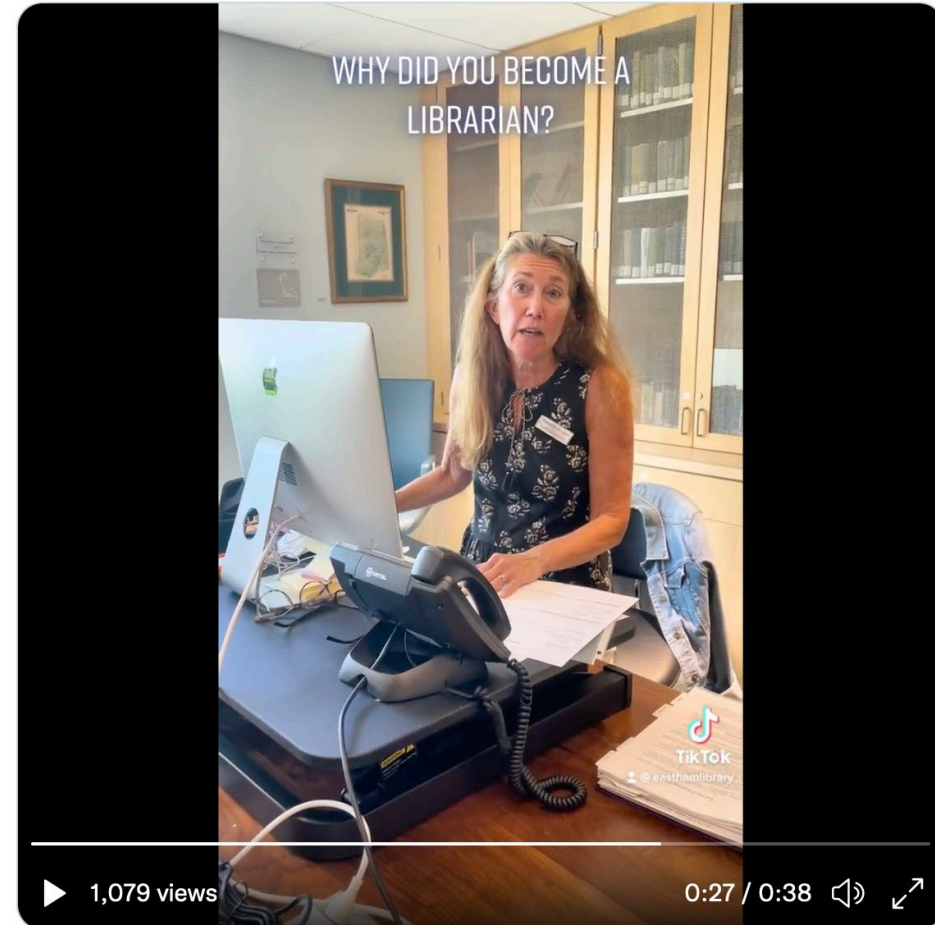
“I became a librarian because I'm all about community engagement, and I'm passionate and committed to community building”



Eastham Library
@EasthamLibrary



Why did we become #Librarians?



10:07 AM · Jul 15, 2022 from Eastham Public Library · Twitter for iPhone



washingtonpost.com

Censorship battles' new frontier: Your public library

The battle that started in schools has spread to public libraries, in what opponents say is a dangerous expansion of secret censorship ...



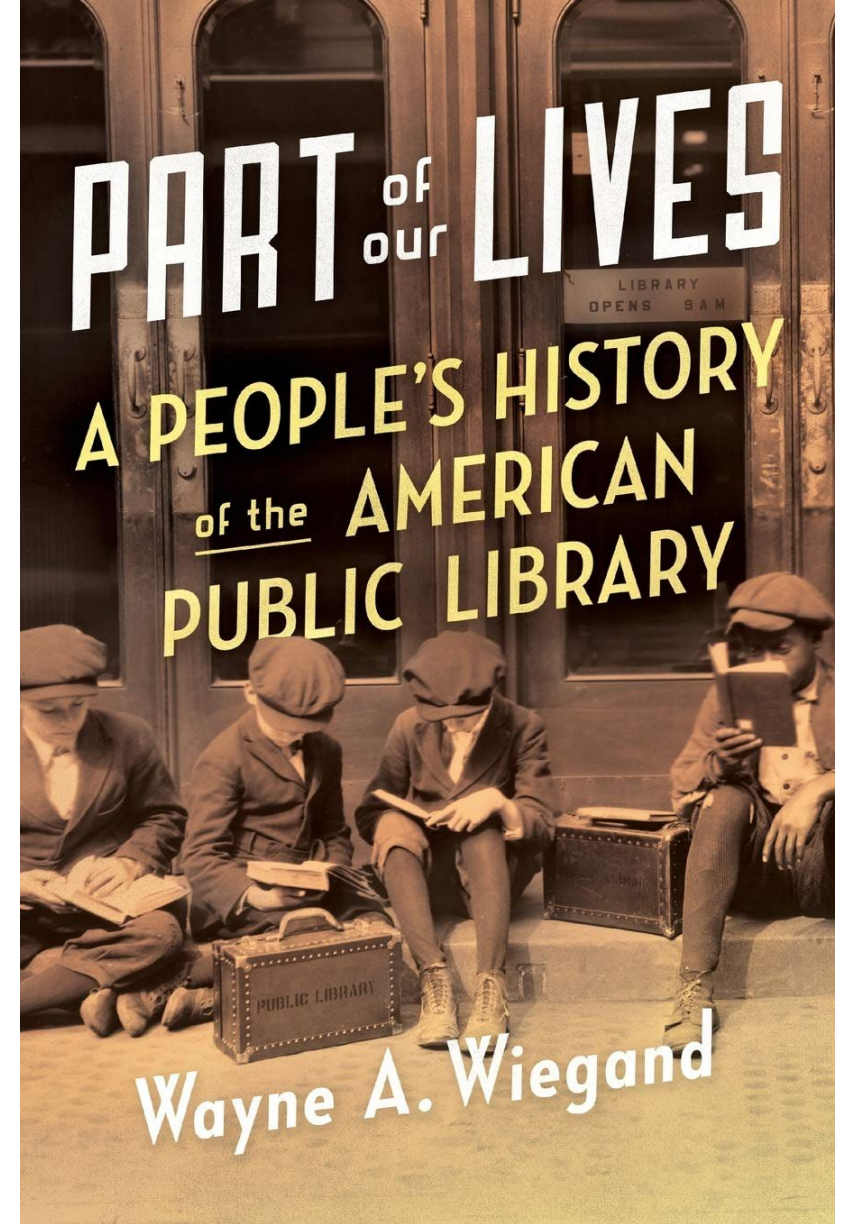
2022 Urban Library **Trauma Study**

Final Report



Hidden history

“During the 1960s, libraries hosted jazz concerts, talent contests, movie nights, and anti-poverty programs. Denver’s public library held a 1973 multicultural series – with such titles as “Black Awareness” and “Viva Mejicano” – that drew up to 3,700 people per event, dwarfing an appearance by novelist James Michener that pulled in just 350”



Inspiration from 1960s & 1970s

“The public librarian may play any of several roles in a community-wide action system: information specialist, catalyst change agent, interpreter of community need, channel to community resource, expert in planning and group process. The action system is an ad hoc task oriented structure, created specifically to deal with a particular problem, and the versatile librarian may exercise leadership and bring library resources and services to bear in a variety of ways.”



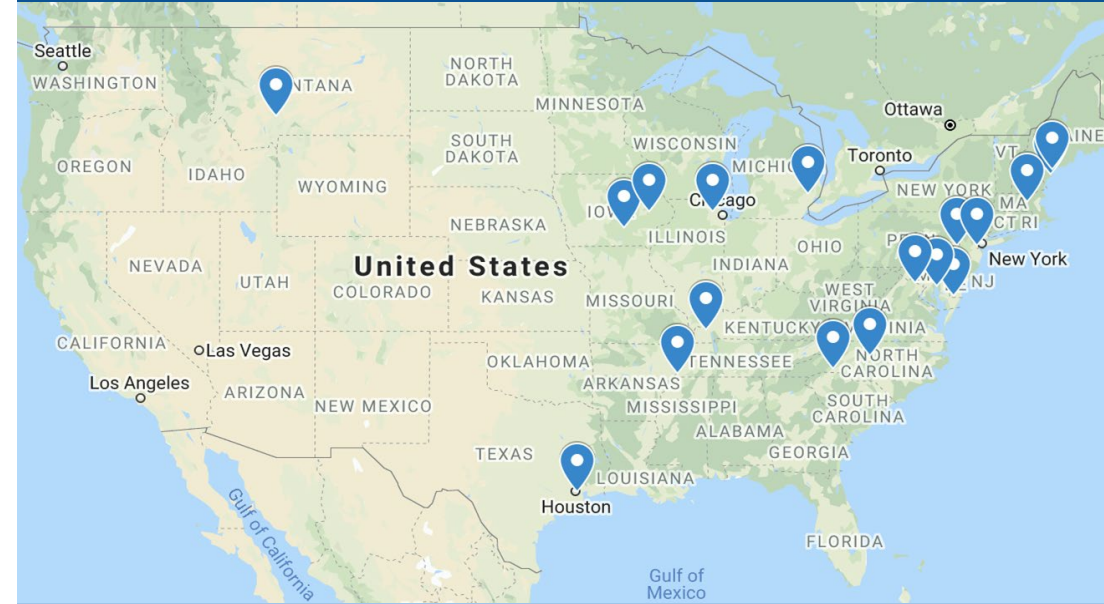
MARGARET MONROE

Memoirs of a Public Librarian

How does it look in the present?

The branch manager told me “almost the whole first year, when we met I was asked to explain why the library was there. ‘What are you doing here? Like you're not a member of the community care team?’ Those were not the words. It was that sort of questioning. To which I said, ‘Oh, uh, we are.’”

HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living) at the Library via Co-Developed Programming



Geographic distribution of case study communities



Noah Lenstra, Early Career Grant

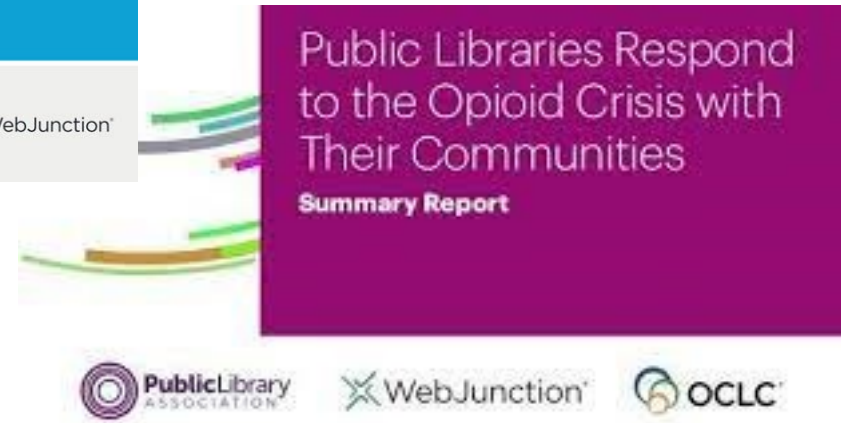
This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, RE-246336-OLS-20

How does it look in the present?



From Awareness to Funding

Voter Perceptions and Support of Public Libraries in 2018



Lenstra, N., & McGehee, M. (2022). Public librarians and public health: How do partners perceive them?. *Journal of Library Outreach and Engagement*, 2(1), 66-80.

How does it look in the present?



Professional Irritant

@paraVestibulum



The main thrust of my role at the library is working on developing community partnerships and all I've really come to learn is everyone wants to take advantage of the library's goodwill but runs for the hills when we ask for literally anything.

4:51 PM · Aug 17, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Where do we go from here?

- Sharing stories of library-community partnership
- Toolkits: How to team up with your community as a public librarian?
- Pedagogy: What do future public librarians need to know, and who should we be recruiting for this field?
- Conversations like this one

Thank you!

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[https://letsmovelibraries.org/
about-us/heal/](https://letsmovelibraries.org/about-us/heal/)

