ERIC/CLIS has compiled this bibliography in an effort to assist the members of the library community who are concerned with the role of public libraries. Although unpolished it is hoped that this tool will serve as a general reference source for those who wish to undertake the preparation of critical review articles or substantive state-of-the-art surveys, to fill informational gaps existing in the field and provide a firmer decision-making base on which the role of the public library can be developed. The items are categorized under five broad topics: (1) The public library mission, (2) The role of the public library, (3) Public Library services, (4) Management of the public library and (5) Use of the public library.
The Public Library: A Bibliography

by

Anne Finnan

ERIC Clearinghouse on Library and Information Sciences

1971
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   B. Objectives and Trends

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The role of the public library, both as a major force in the educational process and as a social agent which can provide a dynamic response to rapidly changing needs of the community, has become of increasing concern to library administrators, educators, and planners. New approaches to education involving independent study outside of educational institutions, on all academic levels, will make new demands on library resources. Also, since public libraries are tax-supported institutions, there is a growing realization of the need to recognize new responsibilities for a rapidly growing and more diversified user population, as well as to stimulate public library use.

ERIC/CLIS has compiled this bibliography in an effort to assist the members of the library community who are concerned with these problems. Although unpolished it is hoped that this tool will serve as a general reference source for those who wish to undertake the preparation of critical review articles or substantive state-of-the-art surveys, to fill informational gaps existing in the field and provide a firmer decision-making base on which the role of the public library can be developed.

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