

Origins of the Los Angeles Public Library Branch System, 1891-1923

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Abstract

Recovery of significant achievements by exemplary individuals and institutions in public education and librarianship informs our present understanding and motivates future efforts. This narrative history recounts some of the struggles and successes of a great city library when the very conception of a free, public library was still being defined. In an era of rapid social and technological change, the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) designed a system of branch libraries to reach patrons where they lived, worked, played and attended school. LAPL's support of public schools provided the original model on which it developed its branches. These extensions of the main library overcame obstacles of poverty, distance, age and health while also relieving congestion at the central facility. At the turn of the twentieth century when political support was unreliable and financial support was weak, LAPL creatively required community participation, local financial support, and sustained usage as sufficient justifications to establish a branch library. This story of the origins of LAPL's branch libraries provides a historical background against which teachers and librarians can appreciate their shared value of public access to knowledge and jointly promote and preserve open access for students and patrons to information in the age of the Internet. (Text contains historical images, appendices include a chronology and a description of primary and chief secondary sources, and there are 55 substantive reference sources.)

Keywords: public library, branch libraries, library extensions, library outreach, library history, Los Angeles Public Library, Branch Library Services Department, University Branch Library, history of public education and public schools, Tessa Kelso, Adelaide Hasse, Clara Bell Fowler, Harriet Child Wadley, Mary Jones, Helen Kennedy, Los Angeles, California.

To the men and women who have kept this light burning, because of their belief in a civilization and a citizenship built on assimilation of ideas, a record of their struggles and triumphs is only just. If it were possible, a complete history should be set down of the thought, time, skill and inspiration given by every Trustee, every librarian, every staff member and every citizen or city official who has aided in the preservation and development of the library idea.¹

Part I: Development of Branch System

I. Introduction

A. Lessons of the Past

This history of the origins of the Los Angeles Public Library's branch system is one chapter in the story of how public libraries came to be and it is also an homage to those who made it possible. One of the objectives of this history is to recognize some of the achievements of our forebears in public librarianship in the context of their times. Throughout late nineteenth century Los Angeles, a horse and buckboard was a common way of getting around the city. The public library movement only gained a foothold nationwide in the post-Civil War era, 1876 being a watershed year.² Running parallel to the early development of branches, many public libraries throughout the country supplied books to rural areas in wooden crates—known as 'traveling libraries'—which were rotated among different communities.³

Yet even as the age of horse-drawn vehicles was coming to a close, our professional ancestors faced continual changes in technology and adapted many of the new inventions to

improve library service. For example, the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) was learning how best to make use of the automobile, telephone, typewriter and mimeograph machine much as we seek to design systems to make the most of digital telecommunications technologies. Of course, there were far fewer forms of information or distribution channels at the turn of the twentieth century, but our mission to provide access in the ‘information age’ as the twenty-first century dawns is still very much akin to LAPL’s drive to overcome obstacles of poverty, distance, age and health by building a system of branch libraries.

B. Scope

The central objective of this narrative history is to describe the origins of one of the extension systems of the city library of Los Angeles. In Part I, the narrative starts by briefly recounting the development of the Los Angeles Public Library from its founding in 1872 until 1905 in order to set the stage to describe the formation of the branch system from 1891 to 1905. In Part II, the history continues with an account of the cultural landscape of the University District of Los Angeles to provide a more visceral context for the story of the University Branch Library from 1893 to 1923, which is a representative branch in the early history of LAPL’s branch system. (A Chronology appears in Appendix A.) In short, the story of LAPL’s branch system is situated in relation to its parent organization and to its cultural context via a detailed description of one of its members.

C. Prior Scholarship

This researcher has found no comparable history of any American public library branch system.⁴ There is an article in *Library History* on the origins of the Leicester, England branch

libraries, which, as claimed, fairly represent many aspects of the development of branch library systems in the English-speaking world.⁵ However, the article describes general events more than the specific conditions under which the branches evolved. Perhaps the most comparable articles are a parallel history on another turn of the twentieth century library extension in America, “traveling libraries,” and a history of mobile libraries in the United Kingdom.⁶ Last, there is an unpublished thesis that covers the histories of the branches as well as the public library itself, but the time period is not that of the advent of the modern public library and, especially, not that of the origins of branches.⁷

With respect to histories that focus on an individual branch library, there is a story on an English library in “Baildon: the Development of a County Branch Library.” The origin of the Baildon ‘Branch’ is enchantingly distinctive in that it developed so independently of its central library that its operation was technically illegal.⁸ Though interesting, it is not the story of a fairly representative branch library.

In an article on three LAPL librarians in the relevant era, there are brief, tangential discussions of the origins of the branch system.⁹ However, the archival record does not support some of the supposed facts reported therein. Further, even though LAPL published several summary histories of itself, including a *Hand Book of the Branch Libraries*, significant findings in this paper differ from LAPL’s remembrances (see Corrections to Received History in Section III.D. below).¹⁰

In short, there appear to be no previous works in the literature that recount the origins of a system of branch libraries or a single branch that detail the methods, failures and successes of the founders of a great public library branch system in the English-speaking world. Moreover, no manuscript of this scope on LAPL’s branch system was found in the archives, nor is there an

extensive manuscript on the University Branch Library (UBL). There exist only a summary report prepared by one of the librarians of the University Branch and a roster compiled by another.¹¹ Yet these sources in the archives of LAPL and the Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library (UBL's successor) did provide useful leads for the current study. Some related research includes a thesis on the history of the University District of Los Angeles and a dissertation on the history of the Los Angeles Public Library from 1872-1910.¹² Those two works provided invaluable information to set the background for the story of the origins of LAPL's Branch Library Services Department.

II. The Los Angeles Public Library

(1872-1905)

A. Mission

In his 1977 dissertation, USC history student Jerry Cao found that the Los Angeles Public Library and its predecessor, the Los Angeles Library Association (LALA), were motivated primarily by (1) civic competitiveness (members believed that a library would be an inducement to new settlers); (2) moral uplift (the LALA expected a library to provide a positive influence on public morals); (3) self-improvement (readers were thought to acquire culture as well as merely be entertained); and (4) education (to supplement school texts and to provide means for continuing education by adults).¹³ Though the Los Angeles Library Association was only marginally successful, it did pave the way for the establishment of the Los Angeles Public Library.¹⁴ For present purposes, the narrative combines the motivations described by Cao into

three objectives directly corresponding to the cultural contexts of (1) economy, (2) education, and (3) entertainment.

One of LAPL's foremost objectives was to support the economic advancement of the City of Los Angeles and to do so with the greatest 'economy' practicable. In terms of this narrative, "economy" means either (1) the activities of business and the technology that supports the exchange of goods and services or (2) best practices in the administration of a library.¹⁵ A related objective was the education of its patrons, both youth and adult. "Education" means formal schooling and continuing education as well as self-education; both practical and aesthetic goals were considered legitimate pursuits. Last, LAPL sought to provide appropriate leisure reading materials for the entertainment of the citizens of Los Angeles. "Entertainment" for the most part means recreational reading but includes music and other arts as well as literature. The following discussion of LAPL's efforts to improve the state of the City of Los Angeles' economy, education and entertainment sets the stage for the central story of the origins of the system of branches.¹⁶

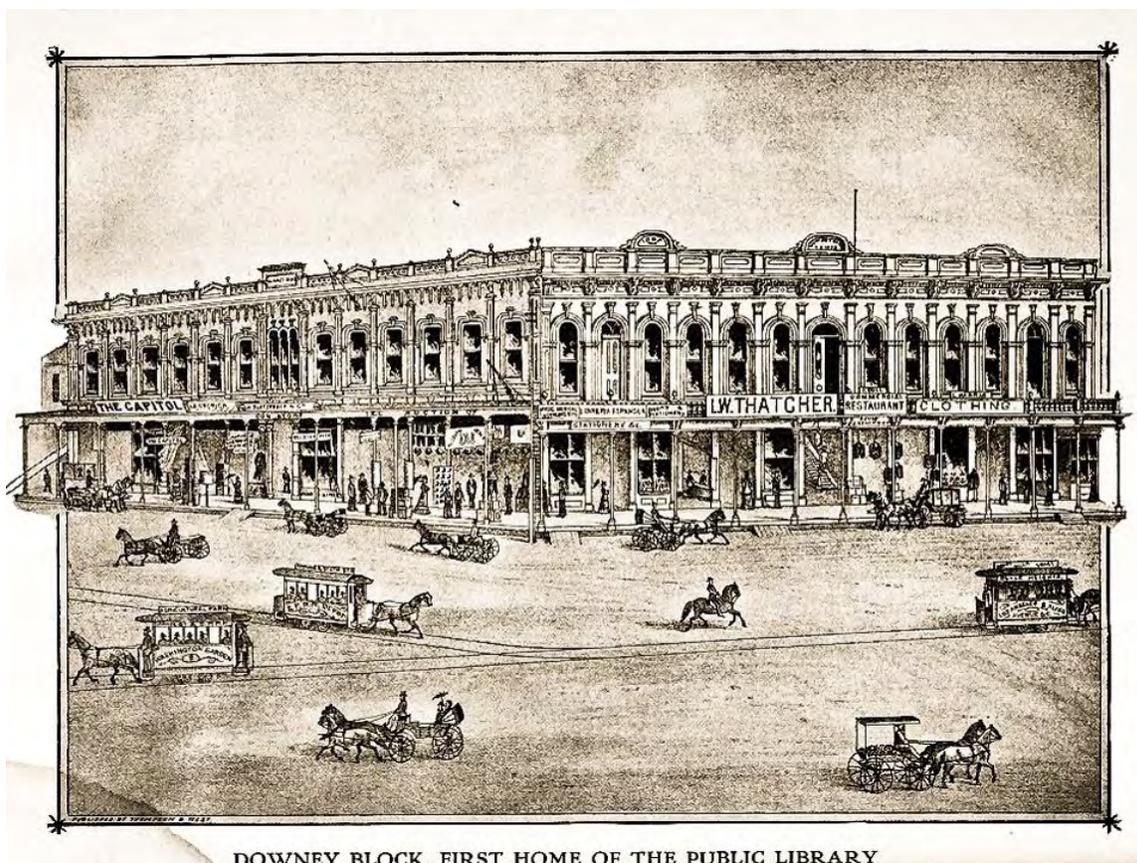
B. Economy, Education, and Entertainment

Los Angeles Library Association, 1872-1888

LAPL recognizes its birth in December 1872 when a group of more than 200 civic-minded citizens formed a privately funded social organization called the Los Angeles Library Association.¹⁷ "After three unsuccessful attempts in 1844, 1856 and 1859," LALA was the first sustainable library.¹⁸ The first published *Annual Report* of the Board of Directors opens with a summary of the history of LAPL until 1889.

To begin with a short résumé of the history of the institution committed to our care, we may state that the nucleus of the present Library was formed in December, 1872, by a voluntary association of citizens, who elected a Board of thirteen Trustees to manage its affairs.¹⁹

In her “Brief History” of the Los Angeles Public Library, Faith Holmes Hyers indicated that in forming the association the founders had done so with the intention of laying the groundwork for a city public library.²⁰



For LALA’s quarters, Trustee Governor John Downey provided four rooms rent-free for the first three months in one of the city’s most prominent business locations, the Downey Building.²¹ LAPL would continue in the Los Angeles Library Association’s original quarters until it moved to City Hall in 1889.

Initially, support for LALA was mostly in the form of subscriptions, donations, and fund-raising events. Just two months after the formation of LALA, “a ‘Grand concert’ was given in the Merced Theatre” that garnered funds for the purchase of hundreds of books.²² In June 1877, a benefit ball was held in the old Turnverein Hall that netted \$220 for book purchases.²³ Thus, LALA received financial support from its members and Los Angeles society.

LALA’s initial trustees and their successors, with John C. Littlefield as the sole librarian for the duration of the Association, managed the library for six years.²⁴ As recounted in the *1889 Annual Report*,

In April 1878, the members of the organization voted unanimously to dissolve the Association under an agreement with the City, by virtue of which the City Council took possession of their property, valued at \$3,134.25, and assumed liabilities amounting to \$1,074.25, and the Library from that date was known as the “Los Angeles Public Library,” under the provisions of the special act passed by the Legislature for that purpose.²⁵

LALA had achieved its founders’ goal to bring a public library into being in Los Angeles.

Moreover, at least by 1880, LAPL did boost the economy as recalled by Mary Foy, the third Librarian (1880-1884), “one of the great services of the library in that day was to just act as headquarters for all the tourists who happened to be here. Anybody coming into any hotel in Los Angeles—any stranger in the city—all were welcome to take out books if they wanted them.”²⁶

The typical residency requirement was waived in order to serve the city’s business interests.

However, the modern conception of a public library was still evolving in Los Angeles.²⁷ Limited tax support had begun in the period between 1878 and 1889, but LAPL was not yet a free public library. The Los Angeles city library would not become “a most important member of

the body politic, kept up by regular appropriations from the funds of the city, for the education and pleasure of thousands of people” until progressive programs began to be adopted in 1889 under a new city charter.²⁸

Los Angeles Public Library, 1889-1905

LAPL’s quarters improved significantly when it moved from the Downey Building to City Hall in 1889. More significantly, a revised city charter that changed management of the library from direct control by the City Council to an appointed Board of Directors enabled LAPL to make substantial progress.²⁹ Though the Mayor appointed the new board, subject to confirmation by the City Council, the five unpaid directors were often permitted to exercise independent control over library operations.³⁰ This volunteer board would give more attention to the funding and operation of the library than the City Council had done under the original charter.³¹ In the Board’s 1894 Report, the directors summarized the results of their liberal policy and the enterprising efforts of Tessa Kelso’s administration (Librarian 1889-1895).³² “In this period of five years, the books have increased from 6356 to 42,313; the membership from 132 to 18,057. During the first month in the new quarters, the circulation was 4762; during the last month of this library year, the circulation was 40,247. Thus it appears that, while the books have been increased nearly seven fold, the use made of the books has increased nearly ten fold [sic].”³³

Further developments continued through 1895 to include the expansion of the library staff from just two persons in 1889 to twenty-three in 1895 and the growth of the collection until the library’s quarters in City Hall were bursting at the seams.³⁴

Unfortunately, the problem of providing adequate space and facilities for the growing library persisted until its present building was constructed in 1926. A long-suffering board

pleaded its case in its 1894 Report: “The Library has been a paying investment for the city, as a means of education and recreation to the citizens, and as an attraction to the tourist population. It would be poor policy to permit the value of the investment to retrograde, yet this must happen if you fail to act promptly in providing more suitable quarters and continue to reduce the yearly income for its support.”³⁵ Note in particular that the argument for better quarters rests on the success of the library in providing education and entertainment for its patrons while at the same time serving as a tourist attraction (or better yet as an enticement to new settlers). Even in the nineteenth century, LAPL was expressly recognized as a multipurpose social agency for business, civic, and educational interests.

Advances in Library Economy

During this same period in which seeds were planted for branch libraries, LAPL undertook several groundbreaking projects in library administration “owing to Miss Kelso’s knowledge and good judgment” as announced by the Board in its *1889 Report*.³⁶

Classification systems

To improve access to the book collection, Kelso and Assistant Librarian Jessie Gavitt reclassified the books according to the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) scheme during the move from the Downey Business Block to City Hall in the summer of 1889. The conversion to the DDC paved the way for the institution of open shelves. Following the advice of John Cotton Dana, Librarian of the Denver Public Library, LAPL Librarian Harriet Child Wadleigh (1897-1900) instituted open shelves in 1897.³⁷

The United States Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents (SuDoc) Classification System had its origins at LAPL in a project described by Kelso in the *1889 Report*:

“Among the accessions of the Library are thirteen hundred volumes of U.S. Public documents, . . . It is our aim to classify and index these volumes to the degree of usefulness that their importance warrants.”³⁸ LAPL was preparing to tackle an issue that had bedeviled the government and its depository libraries for decades.

The American Library Association held its annual conference in San Francisco in 1891. Librarian Tessa Kelso and two assistants, notably first assistant Adelaide Hasse, attended presentations where the problem of organizing and indexing deposits of public documents was discussed by members and guests of the Public Documents Committee. Even after more than a century of existence, the federal government had not developed an efficient method of access to the voluminous publications of its branches and agencies.³⁹ The conference discussions must have provided a significant impetus to Kelso and Hasse, for the system they devised at LAPL would be implemented by Hasse only a few years later in the United States Government Printing Office.⁴⁰ In the *1936 Annual Report*, Hasse recalled the leadership of Kelso and their classification project.

The Los Angeles Public Library had already been made a Government depository, but nothing had ever been done towards exploiting the collection which was then stored in the attic of the City Hall. With uncanny foresight, Miss Kelso undertook the arrangement of this material. A classification for departmental documents was devised which afterwards formed the basis of the present classification in use in the library of the Superintendent of Documents in Washington.⁴¹

Beck reveals that Hasse’s recollection was very modest. Kelso had the vision and confidence to assign her assistant a task that no other librarian had successfully undertaken, but the design of the system was Hasse’s own.⁴² Adelaide Hasse began with Department of Agriculture

publications; her “checklist” was published as the USDA’s Bulletin No. 9.⁴³ The agency-based classification scheme remains in use today.

Training Class

In 1891, the Kelso-Hasse team created a Library Training Class to support LAPL’s growing services. This in-house course of study and apprenticeship was the first to be created by a public library in the United States.⁴⁴ The few other contemporary professional schools for librarians included Melvil Dewey’s original Columbia College School of Library Economy (later New York State Library School) that was established in 1887; the library schools at the Pratt (1890), Drexel (1892), and Armour (1893) technical institutes; and following LAPL’s lead in this instance, the Denver Public Library.⁴⁵ The Library Training Class was eventually admitted to membership in the Association of American Library Schools in 1918 as the Library School of the Los Angeles Public Library.⁴⁶ In 1926 the American Library Association accredited the former Training Class as a junior undergraduate Library School. After closing for economic reasons in June 1932, the scholastic records of the graduates of the long-running Training Class and Library School were taken over by the new School of Library Service at the University of Southern California (USC) and the alumni were adopted by the Trojan Alumni Association.⁴⁷

The Library Training Class was one of the more enterprising of the many innovations LAPL undertook in order to provide or extend its services. In exchange for free training, potential attendants had to pass an entrance examination and then volunteer their labor for the first six months of a yearlong program.⁴⁸ This enabled the library to develop a pool of trained “attendants,” which pool also came to supply other California libraries.⁴⁹ For example, Long Beach Public Library hired a graduate of LAPL’s Training Class, Victoria Ellis, to be its head

librarian in 1903.⁵⁰ In looking back at the beginnings of the program, the *1920 Annual Report* stated that

The development of professional training for librarianship throughout the country is, in fact, virtually coincident with the development of trained service in the Los Angeles Public Library. [Melvil Dewey's] pioneer library school, that of New York State, was established in 1888, but for many years the opportunities for special professional training were too limited to meet the needs of the rank and file of public libraries. Thus, the Los Angeles plan of instruction of library workers within the library was soon followed by most of the larger public libraries of the country.⁵¹

The training program would also be incorporated into the city civil service system.⁵²

Tax Support

The first patrons to receive free borrowing privileges were public school teachers. The Board reported that the teachers made extensive use of the privilege and claimed that this fact evidenced the beneficial effect the library had on the advance of education.⁵³ On July 1, 1891 dues were abolished for all patrons and LAPL became a truly free public library.⁵⁴

Education and Educational Entertainment

Creation of a research library

Further advances in the provision of educational and recreational services were described in the *Annual Report* of 1894:

[The Book Committee of the Board of Directors has] endeavored at all times to provide a clean and wholesome class of literature for the public, and have sought to provide largely

for instruction as well as for entertainment. In 1891, by the concurrence of the Board of Education and the sanction of the Council, the use of an additional room was secured in which the Reference Library was established. This has become an important feature of the institution and has now an average daily attendance of 120. It is in effect a literary work room, and as such ranks as an important feature of the educational system of the city.⁵⁵

By 1897, LAPL was collecting regional historical materials and special collections of Californian and Latin-American literature.⁵⁶

Concerning business information, the library's collection development policies were quite pragmatic.

There are many persons in this city engaged in manual pursuits, who are desirous of supplementing their practical knowledge by a theoretical acquaintance with the best literature available upon the subject. They are thus rendered better equipped in their particular lines, and this better equipment enables them to earn more money than they would without such special study. Again, study of economic and social questions and the teachings contained in books of history, travel and biography, tend to make better citizens. The realization of all these efforts must be offered through the Public Library, and we must be able to supply these people with the requisite books, if we expect the institution to do the work it should.⁵⁷

LAPL was moving beyond the simple circulation of educational and recreational reading matter to become a research library for students, scholars, businessmen and laborers alike.⁵⁸

By 1905, the Los Angeles Public Library had fully established itself as a research library. LAPL provided resources necessary for self-education and economic advancement, good citizenship and entertainment, and preservation of the cultural record.

Music collection

In another innovation intended to enhance public education and entertainment, LAPL established a circulating collection of sheet music, which “has helped to elevate the public taste in this art.”⁵⁹ Kelso reportedly wrote to a trustee from the Cincinnati Public Library that “We consider our music as important as fiction in addition to our resources.”⁶⁰

C. Summary

The Board of Directors had summed up the economic, educational, and recreational significance of the Los Angeles Public Library at the start of the new century as follows: “[LAPL] is regarded among libraries as an institution, a model of its class; that to the citizens of the United States, of note and culture, it is eminently significant of the progressiveness and high grade of the culture of the citizens of Los Angeles; and that to the citizens of Los Angeles it is, in itself, a source of the purest entertainment, and an educational factor of tremendous influence.”⁶¹ From 1872 to 1905, LAPL evolved from a private, subscription-based library association to a public, tax-supported institution—the free public library. The library became a social agency that served the interests of the city by promoting the understanding of regional and national history, cultural values and political processes. In addition to its social roles in providing circulating works of art, education, and recreation, LAPL expanded its functionality to include reference works and special collections for business, cultural and historical research. The Los Angeles

Public Library accomplished its mission by applying the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme, opening its shelves, and training its own attendants.

In 1896, LAPL began experimenting with prototype branches with such success that the system of branches was securely established by 1903 when the predecessor to today's Branch Library Services Department was inaugurated. LAPL's current branch system includes 71 community libraries.⁶² Against the backdrop of LAPL's origins and mission, the story of the early development of the branch system can begin.

III. Branch Library System (1891–1905)

A. Distinguishing Some Archaic Terms

Beginning in 1891, the Los Angeles Public Library extended its civic, educational, and recreational services to patrons who were not able to use the main library in downtown Los Angeles. LAPL's branch system arose from its earliest extension, service to public elementary schools. The provision of books to individual teachers and later distribution to school districts served as LAPL's model when it began to establish delivery and deposit stations in LA's neighborhoods. However, before unearthing the origins of LAPL's first branches and the extension service that preceded them, archaic terms used by LAPL's librarians of that time must be defined to be able to describe the embryonic forms of the institutions that became "branch libraries" intelligibly.

In historical and contemporary usage, the term "extension" broadly describes many modes of outreach to patrons, including horse circuit, traveling libraries, bookmobiles, branches and virtual reference services. However, the term "extension" in this specific period covers

substations, delivery stations, deposit stations, branches and public school library service. The first two extensions were the public school ‘libraries’ and substations (prototypical branches).

To clarify another term that would otherwise be misinterpreted, in late nineteenth century Los Angeles “public school libraries” consisted of little more than a small number of books that elementary teachers were permitted to borrow from LAPL to use in their classrooms; with the exception of the high school, there were few if any elementary school libraries in the modern sense. The use of the term “Public School Library” by LAPL’s directors and librarians is archaic; what they meant by that term was simply the administration of books for elementary schools by the Board of Education or by a department within the city library itself. It was not until 1904 that a ‘Public School Library’ got a storeroom in a schoolhouse that could serve as quarters for a circulating library.⁶³

Substations, delivery and deposit stations were proto-branches. “Substation” was a generic term including delivery or deposit stations; the latter specific terms define distinctive functions in the evolution of branch libraries. In general, a “delivery station” is a way to distribute books to patrons in outlying areas by a library attendant who travels to the outpost on a set schedule for a few hours to lend and collect books; typically once a week. “Deposit stations” are simpler in that they require less administration by the library. Volunteer community members would manage a small collection within a substation Reading Room and, if usage warranted it, the volunteers would be permitted to circulate volumes borrowed on extended loan from LAPL, giving them a virtual lending collection of their own. The library only needed drivers to deliver and pick up sets of books, which might be rotated among different deposit stations.

“Branches,” in this era, would initially have an attendant or librarian from the central library scheduled to work only a day or two but would receive a semi-permanent collection of its

own for reference or circulation. Patrons could also request books from the central library through their local branch. Substations often became a mix of delivery and deposit stations as they developed into full-fledged branches. LAPL's original extension was the acquisition and circulation of books for the city's elementary schools; the branch system to follow would be modeled on that 'public school library.'

The two-room elementary school pictured below was located to the east of Los Angeles in contemporary Rosemead, California.⁶⁴



Garvey Schoolhouse, 1891.

B. Public School Library Service

1891–1895

In a move intended to create efficiencies in service and savings in book expenditures, the Board of Education contracted the administration of public school library services to the Los Angeles Public Library. This compact with the Board was LAPL's original extension.⁶⁵ Tessa Kelso, the city librarian, reported that "In 1891, following the example of the best libraries of the country, the public school library was incorporated into this institution, and since that date books have been issued to the several schools under the supervision of the teachers."⁶⁶ The agreement with LAPL's Board of Directors allowed the public school board to realize savings on purchases of books by virtue of the "full trade discount" given to the city library by vendors. The 'public school library' also saved funds previously spent on clerical costs associated with the administration of book purchasing and lending. In addition, LAPL provided its finding list to each elementary school and opened "the entire resources of the library" to the teachers.⁶⁷

Initially, the practice was limited to teachers who traveled to the downtown library to select books for use in their classrooms to support their curriculum. Subsequently, they were permitted to lend books that they had borrowed themselves to their students as a surrogate librarian. Before long the children were allowed to receive library cards and borrow books directly from the city library.⁶⁸ LAPL's other patrons were expected to benefit by having access to the public schools' collections.

In 1892, the procedures were expanded in a revised contract between the boards. The wider method for distributing books to the schools was described by the librarian. "The plan is to divide the public schools of the city into four districts, each district exchanging their books once

a month; the books being collected on Tuesdays and delivered on Wednesdays; the expense of transportation is born by the School fund.”⁶⁹ This arrangement most likely cut down on teachers’ travel time.

The basic structure of the program was twofold. On one hand, teachers would pick up books from the city library for use in their classrooms and to lend to their students. On the other hand, the library and school board arranged for ‘public school districts’ each to have a collection to share among individual schools for a month after which the books would be rotated to another district. These book services—referred to by the school and library boards as the ‘public school library’—were handled by what came to be called the School Department of LAPL.

1896-1904

The structure of the public school extension system did not change significantly until near the end of the agreement between the Board of Education and the Library Directors in 1906. One minor modification was that “Beginning in 1901, teachers in private schools were allowed to take out four books each.”⁷⁰ Another change was the inclusion of Los Angeles High School. When LAPL deposited books with the high school in 1903—which had previously retained its independence and held 1,000 books of its own—the administration appointed a librarian to run the high school’s library.⁷¹ In its heyday, the role of LAPL’s School Department had expanded to serve a public high school and private schools in addition to the original service for the elementary schools. The impact was that schoolbook lending reached 30% of LAPL’s total circulation by 1903.⁷² In sum, the Board of Education apparently reaped significant savings from the outsourcing of book acquisitions and circulation to the public library for thirteen years, but the burden placed on the library grew to outweigh any benefits.

1905-1906

In 1905, the newly appointed Librarian, Charles Lummis (1905-1910), inspected the School Department and found it sorely lacking in usefulness to anyone. The Acting Principal of the School Department explained that a once mutually beneficial arrangement between the school and library boards had outlived its usefulness as the library became overwhelmed by demand for “supplementary readers.”⁷³ These insubstantial little texts came to make up more than one-third of the total collection in the School Department, which Charles Lummis contended should have contained a much greater proportion of works on biography, history, and literature. “All the assistants scheduled to this department spent their time charging and checking readers.”⁷⁴ The original purpose of the agreement—which Lummis stressed was not to inflate circulation figures—had been lost.⁷⁵ He determined that service to the public elementary schools had become a great drain on library income and personnel while no longer being of mutual benefit to the library and the school board.⁷⁶ Lummis recommended the return of school library services to the Board of Education and his recommendation was approved by both Boards effective in 1906.

So the ‘public school library’ returned to the administration of the Board of Education. The reformed School Department of LAPL still supported public school teachers and students but in a much reduced role.⁷⁷ The return of principal responsibility to the Board of Education for library service to public schools brought an end to LAPL’s first extension.

C. A System of Branches

1891-1895

Though the collaboration between the library and the public schools had had its distinctive features, the administrative services that the library provided for the elementary schools were similar in form and function to those that would shortly follow for the deposit and delivery stations that evolved into branches. In particular, circulation to the public schools had developed into a mix of both deposit and delivery stations. Initially, each teacher had served as the manager and distributor of texts in their classrooms while the library did the buying and cataloging. When teachers traveled to the main library, they selected books suitable for their lesson plans and to loan to pupils. Shortly after the cooperative arrangement had begun, the library and school board arranged for the transportation of larger numbers of texts between school districts on a weekly basis. At the beginning of the compact in 1891 and 1892, the schoolhouse had been both a delivery station with teachers providing hand-picked books for their ‘patrons’ and a deposit station in that sets of books were provided to school districts to share among their schools.

Planning for the extension of services to outlying communities began concurrently with the launch of service to public schools in 1891. To extend library services to a wider populace, the Library Board proposed maintaining four special delivery stations at Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles, Temple Street, and the southwest area of the city.⁷⁸ The Book Committee of the Board was designated to be the responsible agency for funding and overseeing the development of branches before the establishment of a Branch Committee.⁷⁹ However, at this stage it would be too much to claim that the stations were envisioned as ‘prototype branches;’ the fact that the

stations would lead to a system of branches becomes clear only in hindsight. In particular, Beck reports that Librarian Tessa Kelso did not wish to go to the expense of erecting branch buildings as had begun in some large Eastern cities.⁸⁰ While being as economical as ever, Kelso sought only to develop inexpensive and flexible delivery and deposit stations. Nonetheless, progress in extending the services of the main library to locations throughout the city was slow.

In December 1891, the Boyle Heights Library Association attempted the first substation, but because there was insufficient support and usage, its Reading Room disbanded in October 1892.⁸¹ In February 1892, East Los Angeles residents petitioned the Directors for a delivery station but the Board's subsequent request to the City Council for funds was rejected.⁸² The Council would not concede the value of 'branch libraries' for several years; it may well have been this intransigence that led to the idea of community funding. Late in the year, the Directors requested \$2,500 to "establish four delivery stations at appropriate points in the city from which books may be distributed, thereby lessening the pressure which is now at one focal point."⁸³ In the same 1892 Report, Librarian Kelso stated that since the closure of the Boyle Heights Reading Room,

numerous cards have been surrendered by people who could not afford the time or money necessary to reach the library. It is to this very class that the library should be most useful, and the only means of accomplishing this is to distribute books from different points of the city by means of delivery stations; our city covers so much ground that this seems especially necessary. Free distribution of library books has become as much a necessity as free delivery of letters, and as such has been widely adopted by other cities.⁸⁴

In her next *Annual Report* for 1893, Kelso proposed that delivery stations be set up in Angeleno Heights, Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles, and the University District, but even such a small

investment was not approved by the City Council.⁸⁵ The Library Board again sought funds in 1895 to begin a second extension service but the first successful substation would not be founded until 1896.⁸⁶

Note that the impetus in the 1891-95 period to extend library services via delivery and deposit stations was as much to relieve crowding at the main library as it was to reach out to the public. The book collection was already filling the library's quarters on the top floor of City Hall to capacity.⁸⁷ However, the lack of adequate and affordable transportation for potential patrons in a rapidly growing city and the special needs of its many diverse neighborhoods came to dominate the motivations to extend the library's services.⁸⁸ The city grew from 28 to 43 square miles between 1850 and 1900.⁸⁹ Population increased from 11,000 in 1880 to 80,000 in 1890 to 100,000 in 1900 and to 320,000 in 1910.⁹⁰

1896-1900

The Original Five Branches

Casa de Castelar: The First Successful Branch

Casa de Castelar, located on Castelar Street (now Hill Street) in old Sonora Town,⁹¹ was a home for youth run by a charitable organization referred to in the record as the Los Angeles Settlements Association, College Settlement Association, or University Settlement Association.⁹² As early as 1894, LAPL was considering Casa de Castelar as a site to begin another extension system. The *Annual Report* stated that

From year to year the desirability of delivery stations has been urged, both as an accommodation to the public, and to lessen the overcrowding of the delivery room. A beginning of the system might be made in connection with the two College Settlements

that have been started in districts where access to library privileges would be of great moral and educational benefit.⁹³

One of the settlements, Casa de Castelar was located “in the oldest and most crowded part of the city” which was being settled by new immigrants.⁹⁴ As the *Los Angeles Times* described it on October 7, 1901, “What Hull House is to Chicago the Casa de Castelar is to Los Angeles.”⁹⁵ LAPL’s first viable branch would begin in a social services agency for the children of poor immigrants, but that vision would not be realized until a new Board of Directors and Librarian were in place two years later.

Casa de Castelar ‘Deposit Station’ began its probationary period on January 25, 1896. LAPL deposited books for use inside the Reading Room under the rules governing circulation through the public schools.⁹⁶ For example, the association provided facilities and the book depository was handled by its membership. “The necessary room and light were furnished by the association, and the service required in the exchange and care of the books was voluntary. . . . The members of the association have done much to aid library extension in this neighborhood composed largely of a foreign and non-reading people.”⁹⁷ The Reading Room quickly gained a significant patronage. “[Circulation] was considered sufficient evidence of the usefulness of the work to justify its permanency. To this end, on August 9, [1897,] the board of directors of the library provided for the assignment of an attendant to issue cards and exchange books at this point one evening of each week.”⁹⁸ The experimental deposit station had fulfilled its probationary conditions and after 19 months delivery services were added under the auspices of an LAPL attendant. The Castelar Reading Room inaugurated the prototype branch system following the model previously established for public school library services.⁹⁹

In a story published on February 18, 1898, the *Los Angeles Times* described Castelar's operations.

A cosy apartment for the library, which was last fall made a permanent station of the city public library, the first station to be established.

The settlement report states that the library has become a prosperous delivery station, with a circulation of thirty books each Saturday evening, while from fifty to seventy-five readers avail themselves of the fire and lights of the reading-room. During the year, 602 books have gone unto 65 homes; the tone of juvenile books read is becoming noticeably higher and the use of Spanish books increasing.¹⁰⁰

For more than two years, the Casa de Castelar Reading Room had proven to be a marked success. By 1900, Castelar had become LAPL's first full-fledged branch library.¹⁰¹

Unfortunately, the success of the Castelar Branch was short-lived. The board noted in its *1900 Annual Report* that Castelar had begun to fail one of its principal conditions for continued support.

The Castelar branch has continued, as formerly, open two evenings a week, and a distinct falling off of patronage is noted. After a consultation with the managers of the University Settlement Association, who kindly furnish it house room, it is suggested that the branch be abandoned, and as a substitute that a delivery station be established in the same vicinity, but on a more frequented street.¹⁰²

But the University Settlement Association was not quite ready to accept the closing of its Castelar Branch Library. At a board meeting on January 15, 1901, and

Previous to the roll-call, Miss Stoddart and Miss Bingham of the University Settlement Association, appeared before the Board and entered a protest against the action taken at

the last meeting regarding the suspension of the Castelar Branch. The matter was taken under advisement until the next meeting, and the Librarian was instructed to continue the work both at the Settlement and the [new] Delivery Station on Buena Vista Street.¹⁰³

At the next board meeting on January 29, 1901,

The work at the Castelar Branch was discussed and the Librarian was directed to consult with the President of the [U]niversity Settlement Association, in regard to a plan suggested, preparing to reorganize the work on the same basis as that of the public schools.¹⁰⁴

The Board was considering downgrading the Castelar Branch to a deposit or delivery station. However, it appears that Castelar was no longer able to sustain a level of patronage high enough to satisfy their requirements. The final decision to close the Castelar Branch came on October 11, 1901.

The Attendance Committee reported that the condition of the work at the Castelar Branch has again been investigated and that in view of the fact that no progress was being made but rather the contrary, recommended that the branch be closed by Nov. 1st, and that a delivery station be established in its place, if the Manager of the Settlement House so wish.¹⁰⁵

But once again, the University Settlement Association objected and requested the board to reconsider its decision at the next meeting and maintain a branch library at Casa de Castelar. Though not stated explicitly at the October 25, 1901 meeting, it appears from the archival record that the Association rejected the directors' offer to continue supporting the Castelar library—but only on condition that Castelar be demoted to the service level of a delivery station—for LAPL's

first branch was closed in November 1901. The Casa de Castelar Branch Library was replaced by the nearby Buena Vista Street Delivery Station.¹⁰⁶

In sum, Casa de Castelar followed the trail previously blazed by the library school department. The Castelar Reading Room began operating in January 1896, under the management of the local community (the Los Angeles/University Settlement Association). In August 1897, LAPL assumed responsibility and provided the services of an attendant to deliver and circulate books. By 1900, the central library had established Casa de Castelar as its first branch with its own circulating collection.¹⁰⁷ But usage declined and LAPL closed the Casa de Castelar Branch in November 1901.¹⁰⁸ Yet through the nearly six years that LAPL's first branch library existed, all of the conditions that would subsequently be required of every potential branch at the turn of the twentieth century had been applied to the Castelar Branch as it developed: facilities and financial support from the community, the participation of volunteers, and sustained usage. Further, the Castelar Branch had evolved through all of the forms that subsequent proto-branches might take: beginning as a probationary deposit station with a Reading Room, adding book-borrowing privileges followed by delivery services, and then becoming a full branch library.

Stimson Lafayette Industrial School

LAPL established its second delivery station at the Stimson Lafayette Industrial School in October 1898.¹⁰⁹ At Stimson Lafayette, "The work is done largely with the members of a mother's club connected with the institution and the circulation increases week by week. Most of the books requested relate to home life and domestic economy."¹¹⁰ Though set in a school, this early branch was clearly distinguished from the services provided to the public schools. As with Castelar, the Stimson Lafayette Delivery Station was established and initially maintained through

the efforts of a community service group.¹¹¹ Unfortunately, there do not appear to be any further records on the development or decline of the delivery station at Stimson Lafayette Industrial School.

Macy Street Reading Room

The third branch opened in 1899 in another joint project between the library and the school board.

On the 16th of June last, the Board acting in conjunction with the Board of Education, opened a branch reading room with a lecture room annex, at the corner of Macy and Garibaldi Streets, in a building formerly used for school purposes. Under the plan adopted this Board furnishes the attendant, supplies the necessary books for the reading room, and keeps it open every day (except Sundays and holidays) from 6 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. This step was taken to meet certain special conditions existing in the Macy Street neighborhood, and it has been attended with a gratifying degree of success.¹¹²

The Macy Street Reading Room (deposit station) was well received by the people in the neighborhood and it maintained such a high level of use in its first year that in 1900 the board “earnestly recommended that a delivery station for the circulation of books be conducted in connection with the reading room.”¹¹³ Having gone through three stages as had Casa de Castelar, Macy Street graduated to become a branch. Also like the Castelar Branch Library, the life of the Macy Street Branch was short; it closed in 1906.¹¹⁴

Boyle Heights Delivery Station

The fourth branch opened was the reestablishment of an aborted extension in Boyle Heights in 1900.¹¹⁵ (see §III.D., Corrections to Received History, below for a review of contrary accounts of the history of the Boyle Heights Library and origins of LAPL's branch system)

The Boyle Heights delivery station was established September 1st, 1900, [in Dunkel's,] the Boyle Heights drug store, at 1952 East First street, conducting the work [gratis].

Deliveries and collections have been made once a day. The station had been conducted as an experiment, with the idea that if it was successful other stations should be started at various points throughout the city.¹¹⁶

After the initial success of the Casa de Castelar Branch Library, the directors recommended that more branches be developed and the success of the Boyle Heights delivery station reaffirmed their belief in the project. The Boyle Heights experiment achieved the dual goals of the nascent extension system. "Patrons of the library living at a distance are able to exchange their books with a saving of time and car fare, and the crowded conditions of the main library will be somewhat relieved."¹¹⁷ The little delivery station founded in H. W. Dunkel's Drug Store was promoted to branch library status in 1901 and continues to serve the Boyle Heights community today.¹¹⁸ The Boyle Heights Branch Library is also noteworthy because it was one of the six branches to receive funds for a building from the Carnegie grant awarded to LAPL in 1911.¹¹⁹ The building was completed in 1916 and survived until the 1971 Sylmar earthquake.¹²⁰ In 1927, the Boyle Heights Branch Library received the name that it still bears, the "Benjamin Franklin Branch Library."¹²¹

Los Angeles Fire Stations

Fifth, and our last example, circa 1900 the central library began delivering books to the firemen of the city, one book per fireman per month without the option of renewal.¹²² “The loaning of books to the various fire stations in the city is another form of library extension in its trial stage.”¹²³ Though the delivery of books to firefighters was not long lasting, this effort to extend library services shows once again the Los Angeles Public Library’s desire to increase access and its willingness to experiment. This particular experiment foreshadowed LAPL’s extensive service to sailors and soldiers in World War I.

Summary

Though not all seedlings flourished, the branches did grow on the models of the school department’s library services and the Castelar Reading Room. Castelar had quickly evolved from its beginning as a basic deposit station to become a delivery station and ended up as the most advanced branch of its time with its own circulating collection. Stimson Lafayette Industrial School and Boyle Heights began as delivery stations while Macy Street Reading Room and the fire station depositories began as deposit stations in this period.

From such delivery stations much of the present branch system was evolved. If the station prospered it was changed into a branch with permanent collection and library support. If use fell off, it could be discontinued with little loss to anyone. In many instances books and a library attendant were furnished by the Library for a probationary year, while space, lights and other expenses were contributed by the community. At the end of the year, the Library took over the Branch.¹²⁴

The prototype branches were one of the more successful and significant of the many ways by which LAPL sought to provide education, economic advancement, and entertainment to its patrons in an economical manner.

1901-1906

Beginnings of the Branch Department

The experiments of the late 1890s led to the rapid expansion of extension services in the early 1900s and then to systematization beginning in 1903. LAPL opened four delivery stations in 1901 and Macy Street became a circulating branch. Three more delivery stations were added in 1902 and three new deposit stations were tried along the lines of the fire station model. 1903 saw three new deposit stations and the establishment of two branches, including Boyle Heights Delivery Station's graduation to branch status.¹²⁵ A second-class Department of Stations was authorized at the May 15, 1903 Board Meeting.¹²⁶ In 1904, LAPL started two new branches and the Board established a standing committee on branches.¹²⁷ Even though it ended up being 'evicted' after only a few short years, a branch was co-housed in Occidental College's new Stimson Library beginning in 1905 (a cooperative arrangement similar to the University of Southern California's original proposal in 1903 discussed below in Part II).¹²⁸ "In October 1906 Lummis obtained approval from the board for establishing a branches department;"¹²⁹ though the initial department did run aground within two years.¹³⁰ By 1912, branch circulation figures exceeded those of the central library.¹³¹

The general characteristics of the experiments were twofold:

First, community involvement was a prerequisite to starting a deposit or delivery station.¹³²

It is an interesting fact that in most instances, the development of branch libraries has required not only persistent and consistent attention on the part of the City Librarian and the Board of Library Commissioners, but it has needed also the fostering aid of public-spirited community members who gave of their time and means to prove the desirability of branch library service. Early branches were all established in answer to petitions or demands from the community and were required to undergo a year of probation when citizens provided a room, furniture, lights and maintenance, while the library furnished books and a part-time attendant. At the end of the probationary year, the branch or station became a part of the Los Angeles system with all expenses assumed by the Central Library.¹³³

The local community not only had to petition for a library extension service, they also had to provide volunteers to handle distribution, facilities to store books, and often equipment, heat and light for a reading room. Only after demonstrating a significant demand for books for a year would LAPL assume financial and staffing responsibility for administering a ‘branch.’

Second, aside from alleviating crowded conditions at the main library, LAPL sought to reach out to those patrons who were less able to utilize the main library and to provide collections developed specifically to meet their needs.¹³⁴ LAPL used branches as a means to reach out to the “laboring people” and immigrants.¹³⁵

A deposit station has no expense beyond the wear and tear of books—and they are made to be worn and torn. The library doesn’t have to furnish quarters, attendants or anything else except books. The people use the books—the library pays for them.¹³⁶

The Los Angeles Public Library founded the Branch Library Services Department on an intriguing combination of LAPL’s efforts to extend its services to a larger populace, often to

those in greater need, but only on condition of their demonstrated willingness to support a local library.

D. Corrections to Received History

Before turning to the story of a typical and long-lived branch, it would be appropriate to note that the foregoing history of the origins of the Los Angeles Public Library's branch system differs from that of LAPL's publications and common belief as represented in the popular press. Moreover, it differs from what little has been described in the literature on library history.

The Boyle Heights Delivery Station has customarily been recognized as the first branch of LAPL.¹³⁷ The reasons for this historical recognition are most likely based on the following facts: (1) the very first, if failed, attempt to establish a prototype branch was made in Boyle Heights in 1891, (2) the library that began as a delivery station in 1900 has survived to the present as the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library (whereas the Castelar Reading Room did not),¹³⁸ (3) its original Carnegie building remained in continuous service from 1916 until 1971 when, unfortunately, that building was severely damaged by the Sylmar earthquake and had to be vacated,¹³⁹ and (4) predecessors to the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library were lost to memory.

However, the Casa de Castelar Branch Library clearly deserves recognition as the original branch of the Los Angeles Public Library because of the following reasons: (1) both the Castelar and Macy Street Reading Rooms preceded Boyle Heights' first viable substation, (2) the Casa de Castelar Branch Library served its community for nearly six years, and (3) the Castelar Reading Room had fulfilled all of the conditions that were later to be applied to the Boyle Heights Delivery Station and other branches to follow in the early years of the evolving system. Castelar had grown through all of the major stages of the development of a branch, from

beginning as a simple deposit station to become a delivery station and finally to be officially recognized as a branch even as Boyle Heights was just opening its first successful delivery station. In 1900, the Casa de Castelar Branch Library was the original and only existing branch.

In regard to the Los Angeles Public Library's accounts of itself, it appears that the Casa de Castelar and Macy Street Reading Rooms simply faded from memory.¹⁴⁰ They are not even recognized in LAPL's histories pertaining specifically to its branch libraries.¹⁴¹ Moreover, the archival record can be misleading; the *Annual Report* of 1900 could well lead the reader to believe that the experimental station at Boyle Heights was the original model branch.¹⁴² Further, historical sketches and newspaper articles maintained in the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library make claims about that library's priority without support from the archival record. It was research into LAPL's archives that uncovered the lost story of the Casa de Castelar Branch Library and provided the primary source material for this history of the original branches.

Finally, in an otherwise fine article on "the realities of feminization" during the formative years of American public librarianship, Hansen, Gracy and Irvin make tangential comments about the development of the Los Angeles Public Library branch system which are mistaken (the authors use the experiences of three of LAPL's most influential early librarians—Mary Foy 1880-1884, Tessa Kelso 1889-1895, and Mary Jones 1900-1905—to illuminate the issues).¹⁴³ First, in Gracy's section on Tessa Kelso, she reported that LAPL established delivery stations in East Los Angeles, Angeleno Heights, and on University Avenue in 1893.¹⁴⁴ While it is true that Kelso and the Board did propose that those communities receive substations, the City Council did not fund them (the policy of requiring community funding came later).¹⁴⁵ Further, the Mayor and City Council did not approve the funding of any experimental branches until after a newly appointed board had forced Kelso out.¹⁴⁶ Unfortunately, the highly innovative Kelso had only

been permitted to support the short-lived Boyle Heights Reading Room and the public school system. Second, in Hansen's section on Mary Jones, she reported that Kelso (1889-1895) established the deposit and delivery stations and that Jones developed them into branch libraries. However, it was during the administrations of Clara B. Fowler (1895-1897) and Harriet Child Wadleigh (1897-1900) that the 'Kelso plan' for prototype branch libraries was allowed to go forward, beginning with the Castelar (1896) and Macy Street (1899) Reading Rooms. Still, to give her the credit she is due, it certainly appears that Jones gave the nascent branch system the attention and resources required for it to succeed. Hansen also reported incorrectly that the Boyle Heights delivery station (1900) was the inaugural branch.

Given the theme of their study, these factual errors based on the received history are inconsequential. There are no other significant differences between Hansen, Gracy, and Irvin's account of the history of LAPL and that reported herein and, more significantly, they affirmed one of the findings of this study: these experimental stations were designed—in large measure—to be social agencies serving “children, single women, the elderly, and the poor.”¹⁴⁷

Part II: Representative Branch Library

IV. Cultural Context

The story of the University Branch Library situates the origins and growth of the Los Angeles Public Library Branch System in the cultural context of a district due south of downtown Los Angeles and it illustrates the development of branches through a representative example. For the purposes of this narrative history, the cultural milieu is examined in terms of the state of the economy, education, and entertainment in the University District of Los Angeles (UDLA).

A. Economy

In 1870-1880s Los Angeles and surrounding communities, most of the technology that we came to take for granted in the twentieth century was still being invented. Transportation was by horseback, wagon or mule-car.¹⁴⁸ There were no paved streets, no electric lights, no reliable fire alarms, and no telephones. Many of our modern time-saving conveniences were not even imagined by the typical homemaker: neither bread nor milk could be bought in stores (households baked bread and milked cows for themselves); there were no butcher shops (meat wagons came around twice weekly and fish wagons occasionally); and there was no produce section in the local general store (Chinese gardeners peddled vegetables from house to house daily).¹⁴⁹

Though the city leapt in population from 11,000 in 1880 to 70,000 in 1888, the primary industry continued to be agriculture.¹⁵⁰ Most of what is now central Los Angeles and

surrounding areas were ranch land; “the Wilshire district was an enormous barley ranch.”¹⁵¹ The following passage paints a quaint and revealing portrait of the UDLA before its development began following the founding of the University of Southern California (USC).

Seemingly the most undesirable land was the University Section, which was very slow in its development, although thriving fruit ranches surrounded it on all sides. Except for one year, none of the owners tried cultivating the land except Mr. Childs, who tried raising tobacco at Vermont Avenue and Exposition Boulevard; as it was a failure nothing more was done. The land lay vacant, covered with tall mustard, and the neighboring ranchers pastured their cows on this section. In the evening children could be seen riding horseback or walking, listening to the bells on their cows that were roaming over what is now the University Section.¹⁵²

Further, the division of labor that we now take for granted was still very much in its developmental stages. Disparate business enterprises such as ranching and retailing could be handled by one owner during this period.

In 1882 Mr. John Williams with his family arrived in Los Angeles. After looking around the city, he decided to locate in the University District, and established on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Hoover Streets, the first store south of the city.... In front of it could be seen teams of ranchers who had come from Compton, Inglewood, and other outlying ranches to exchange their produce. . . . Mr. Williams bought a ranch on Thirty-third Street, and built his home, paying his carpenter \$4.00 per day and the bricklayer \$5.00. Like other ranchers, as soon as he got ahead financially, he built a tank, holding four hundred gallons of water. For several years he furnished water for wetting down the streets.¹⁵³

For anyone familiar with current living and business conditions in contemporary Los Angeles County, it would require quite a stretch of the imagination to picture Compton and Inglewood as outlying ranch land.

Another particular merchant warrants a closer look, for he was to provide the first quarters for the University Branch Library. George Williams established a general store in “the business center of the University section.”¹⁵⁴ In addition to his public spiritedness discussed below, George Williams’ success in installing the first telephone in the University District in 1888 bears witness to his general enterprise.

Since telephones had been introduced into Los Angeles and were being installed in homes on Figueroa Street, Mr. George Williams put in request after request with no response; finally he paid for the poles that were erected from Jefferson and Figueroa to his store, the wire and the installment of the telephone. This was the first telephone in University district.¹⁵⁵

George Williams would later sit on the Los Angeles City Council. (see § IIB below)

The preceding descriptions generally reveal the socio-economic distance between us and our forebears, yet advances of the modern era were soon to run apace in the 1890s. E.g.,

The Pico Heights Water Company installed water mains throughout this region, replacing the time-honored well and windmill. In an article written by Mrs. Burton Williamson is given a list of stores, and it is readily seen that there was rapid growth. She mentions the following business houses: ‘Five groceries, two butcher shops, one bakery, two drug stores, one dry goods general merchandise, shoe store, ladies’ furnishings, books and news stand, two barber shops, one tailor shop, millinery, two delicacy stores, post-office,

three real estate and insurance offices, justice's office with a constable and livery stables just outside of tract.'¹⁵⁶

Modern conveniences as we came to know them in the twentieth century had begun to arrive in greater Los Angeles.

In sum, the economy in 1870-1890 Los Angeles' University District was agrarian without even such necessities of contemporary life as running water or the rapid transportation that became commonplace in the twentieth century. Yet the technological advancements that enabled mass communication and marketing were already beginning to impact daily life and business by the mid-1890s.

B. Higher Education

The economic development of the UDLA began with the founding of the University of Southern California (USC). Community leaders established the university in 1879 by a Deed of Trust that transferred tracts of land from the donors to the trustees.

The deed specifies that the trustees should incorporate under the name, 'The University of Southern California,' and that the corporation should be 'under the control and management of the Southern California Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church'. . . . The actual incorporation, in accordance with the laws of California, was effected August 5, 1880.¹⁵⁷

The first class of approximately 53 students began study in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences in October 1880 in a frame building that later became known as the "Annex."¹⁵⁸

One of the purposes of the university was to attract eastern immigrants to Los Angeles. "This new innovation was used as a booster in the East for future home seekers."¹⁵⁹ However, it

is also true that the University of Southern California, and other educational institutions such as LAPL, were established to advance culture in southern California as indicated by the title of the inaugural address delivered by the first President of USC, “Education as a factor in civilization.”¹⁶⁰

C. Entertainment

Concurrent with changes in the economy, there were many in the University District who thought that old forms of entertainment should be replaced by more edifying ones. Agriculture Park preceded Los Angeles’ renowned Exposition Park in the University District.¹⁶¹ The Sixth District Agricultural Association had acquired the land in 1872 to hold fairs semi-annually, but they also developed the park for horseracing and rabbit coursing. A hotel on the grounds was said to be a house of ill repute. “[G]ambling was conducted and liquor was sold.”¹⁶² The park drew young boys to fill odd jobs and they would also rescue and heal injured rabbits, but only to course them as they had seen done at the park (“coursing” means dogs chasing jackrabbits on a track). In order to put an end to the horseracing, rabbit coursing, and their “attendant evils,” Sunday School teacher William M. Bowen, Esq. led citizens of the University District (“University Improvement Association”)—including faculty and students from USC—to call for an election to annex the District to Los Angeles.¹⁶³ The following passage describes crucial elements in the campaign to ‘clean up’ the University District.

Under the regime of the parties who were trying to get possession of the park[,] the rabbit coursing, horse racing and attendant evils had become unbearable to the residents of the University Section. So they caused an election to be called to have it annexed to the city (from Thirty-fifth Place to Santa Barbara Avenue). The race track people prepared for the

election by registering voters in the area, men from as far away as West Third Street. On the night before the election, W. M. Bowen, who was ill and hardly able to be out, with others brought the Justice of the Peace from Gardena (whose jurisdiction extended to the city limits) to a room near the park while he (Mr. Bowen) spent the remainder of the night making John Doe warrants and otherwise preparing for the election. In the morning of the election Mr. Bowen bundled up and appeared at the polls and warning was given that the names of the illegal registrants were known and any attempt on the part of any of them to vote would cause their immediate arrest. The result was that not one of them voted, and the annexation carried by a majority of twenty-three, June 12, 1899.¹⁶⁴

Thus the path was laid for the development of Exposition Park—a vision pursued for an additional 10 years by Mr. Bowen—which has become a site for several of the major educational and sports institutions of the University District of Los Angeles (including the Natural History Museum, California Science Center, California African-American Museum, and Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum). Expo Park was temporarily renamed Olympic Park for the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games.¹⁶⁵ To this day it continues to draw families, students and sports fans to its extensive grounds and institutions for picnics, education and entertainment. In short, the denizens of the University District themselves preferred more educational forms of entertainment in communion with their university.¹⁶⁶

Bearing in mind the conditions of life and the state of the economy, education, and entertainment in late nineteenth century Los Angeles, at least as holds true for the University District, one can better appreciate the evolution of the University Branch Library and the expansion of LAPL's branch system.

V. University Branch Library (1893–1923)

A. The Institution

1893-1903

Missed Opportunities

In her *Annual Report* for 1893, the ever-prescient City Librarian, Tessa Kelso (1889-1895), recommended that delivery stations be set up in Angeleno Heights, Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles, and the University District.¹⁶⁷ However, the City Council denied funding for any branches at that time and rebuffed the Board's ongoing recommendations for several years.¹⁶⁸ Finally, in January 1896 under City Librarian Clara Bell Fowler (1895-1897), the first deposit station was established at Casa de Castelar and the branch library system began without tax support for facilities or staff as reported above in §III.C., 1896-1900, The Original Five Branches.¹⁶⁹

The first recorded contact between the University District and the Los Angeles Public Library was an 1889 letter from a Professor Dickinson at the University of Southern California inviting the Directors to visit the campus.¹⁷⁰ He appeared to offer an opportunity for collaboration. However, no further communications between them were found.

By 1902, shelf space and accommodations for the public were lacking on the top floor of City Hall. Moreover, existing branches such as Macy Street and Boyle Heights were proving to be very popular. On May 16, 1902, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that friends of the library “have hit on a plan which they think will relieve the increasing and almost unbearable pressure at the City Hall.”¹⁷¹ The proposal called for the building of branch libraries in outlying areas that will be relatively inexpensive to construct. The *Times* noted further that

Four important sections of the city are without adequate library facilities: University, Garvanza, East Los Angeles, and Boyle Heights. To supply this want and relieve the pressure on the central library, a movement has been suggested for the erection of branch libraries in these sections at a cost of about \$5,000 each, or any other amount that individuals or organizations are fit to raise. With the buildings once erected, it is said the Library Board will find means to operate the branches and to increase their efficiency until they will be nearly as valuable as the main institution.¹⁷²

However, no record of any progress on this Carnegie-like proposal was found. The next plan originated at USC.

The first petitioner for a 'branch' from the University District recognized in the records of the board was William J. Randall, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Southern California. The minutes of the meeting of the board on May 15, 1903, recorded that "A communication was received from Wm. J. Randolph [sic] asking that a branch library be established at the University of Southern California."¹⁷³ The Board approved Director Hickox's motion to appoint Directors Fisher and Jones to a special committee to investigate the matter. At the following meeting on May 27, 1903, the special committee reported that they had investigated the request and recommended that it be granted. The Board approved the recommendation and it very much appeared as if USC and the University District would receive a branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.¹⁷⁴

In fact, the press had already jumped the gun when reporting that the Board of 'Trustees' had granted Dean Randall's request at the May 15, 1903 meeting.¹⁷⁵ The *Los Angeles Express* reported briefly that "The university has agreed to furnish an alcove in the college library quarters and be responsible for the books, the city to furnish an attendant from 3 to 5 o'clock in

the afternoon each weekday to distribute books.”¹⁷⁶ The headline for the *Los Angeles Times* article read, “University Happy, Gets City Library.” The *Times* reported that

Dean William T. Randall [sic] has been working faithfully on this scheme for months, and its successful culmination will be hailed with pleasure not only by the students and friends of the school, but by all residents of the southwestern part of the city....

In talking to a Times reporter last night Dean Randall said: “It seems to me the feature of this new departure is the cooperation of these two institutions of learning. . . .

This has led us to make the college a center for the community immediately surrounding by arr[an]ging with the City Librarian [Mary Jones, 1900-1905] for the opening of the branch. . . . Not only the books of the city, but our own will be at the disposal of the people of this section.”¹⁷⁷

LAPL had even made quick preparations to supply the books as reported on June 1, 1903 by the *Los Angeles Times*.

Miss Gleason, first assistant librarian of the City Library[,] was at the university Thursday [May 28] making the preliminary arrangements for the establishment of the branch of the City Public Library at USC. The first consignment of books will be received today.¹⁷⁸

However, the cooperative effort led by Dean Randall was aborted.

For reasons undetermined (and beyond the scope of this article), newly appointed USC President George Finley Bovard apparently asked Dean Randall for his resignation. In separate articles, the *Los Angeles Times* reported both the arrival of the first consignment of books at the USC library and the story of Dean Randall’s resignation on June 1, 1903.¹⁷⁹ Moreover, President Bovard subsequently quashed the cooperative plan for a branch library. Dean Randall’s vision

for the University Branch Library to be a joint effort and sharing of resources between the university and the public library for the benefit of students and residents alike was never to be realized.

1905-1906

Conception and Birth

The next officially recorded petition to establish a ‘branch’ library in the University District came from a community group at the April 26, 1905 meeting of the board. On condition that “the rent, janitor service, light and heat [] be paid by the signers of the petition,” LAPL would supply the books and an attendant.¹⁸⁰ At the following Board meeting on May 10, 1905, “The Committee on Branch Libraries reported that it had investigated the petition of Mrs. E. A. Pingree and others for a branch library at Jefferson and Kingsley Sts. and had authorized the establishment of a branch library at that location.”¹⁸¹ The Board approved the Committee’s action.

The Board discussed additional business regarding branches in general. The Branch Committee, Mayor McAleer, and the Librarian, Mary Jones, had conducted an inspection of the main library and branches and “reported favorably upon the general condition of the branch libraries.” Significantly, Director Dockweiler’s motion that the Board formally declares a policy to purchase building sites for branches whenever practicable was approved.¹⁸² The University Branch Library (UBL) was born at a time when the young branch system was gathering momentum.

On August 21, 1906—about sixteen months after submitting her original petition—Mrs. Pingree returned to ask the Board to assume full responsibility for the maintenance of the library.

She also offered the Board continued use of the shelving and supplies that had been provided by the community.¹⁸³ During its first five months, the University Branch's circulation averaged 1,718 volumes, the juvenile circulation was 3,516 titles and the adult books reached 5,078, for a total of 8,594 volumes circulated.¹⁸⁴ For its first full year, the probationary deposit station circulated nearly 1,600 books per month.¹⁸⁵ The community group had amply demonstrated the viability of the proto-branch.

At the September 25, 1906 meeting, "The Committee on Branch Libraries presented a report recommending that the Librarian be instructed to take the necessary steps to take over the University Branch and accessories, and that the same be kept open as heretofore."¹⁸⁶ The Board approved the recommendation and promoted the University substation from probationary status "to full standing as a branch of this public library."¹⁸⁷

1907-1923

Growth and Development

The following branch report from LAPL's *1906 Annual Report* provides a snapshot of the activities and holdings of the library in its infancy.

University Branch.

Circulation: Juvenile, 6,598; adult, 12,372; total, 18,970.

Volumes at branch at present: Juvenile, 280; adult, 916; total, 1,196.

Fines \$71.02; books mended, 1,170; notices sent, 156. . .

The change of opening of the branch every evening instead of full hours three days in the week has been greatly appreciated.

CLARA S. FORST.¹⁸⁸

In 1907, Gretchen Smith reported that juvenile circulation had increased to 3,812, adult to 11,965, resulting in a total circulation of 15,777.¹⁸⁹ By 1908, the Principal of the new first-class Branches Department, Julia Blandy, reported that total circulation at UBL had reached 20,702.¹⁹⁰ The *1909 Report* stated, “University has made a wonderful increase—from 17,607 to 26,487. Since this report was filed, University has been promoted to opening every day.”¹⁹¹ The following table presents an overview of the growth of UBL’s operations from 1910-1917 (by 1920, the details were too voluminous to include in the Annual Report).¹⁹²

Fiscal Year	Total Circulation	Circulating Collection*	Members	Annual Report page
1910	29,602	2,589		19
1911	38,166	3,331		17
1912	49,106	3,762	1,703	35
1913	52,498	4,616	2,517	36
1914	59,976	4,871	3,447	35
1915	70,293	5,097	4,301	41
1916	79,355	5,721	5,320	34
1917	80,512	6,226	5,229	36
1918-1920	No branch specific statistics were published during World War I and the ensuing influenza epidemic.			
*includes volumes loaned to branch from main library as well as its own holdings				

In 1913, UBL’s card catalog—along with many other branches—was updated and completed, with “special attention being paid to subject headings and analysis of material which had already proved to be needed in reference work.”¹⁹³ A November 13, 1913 article in the *Los Angeles Southwest Advertiser* discussed the policies of the University Branch Library.

A fine list of books was received during October, among them a guide to good reading with practical directions for the use of the children’s hour in the home. . . . All residents of the city may obtain library cards at the Branch. Cards are issued on application to those whose names are in the City Directory or the Telephone Directory. Others must

have as a guarantee the signature of a property owner or someone who already has library cards.¹⁹⁴

As today, one could get a card in any branch that was good for every library in the Los Angeles Public Library system.

UBL became so successful that it even had its own ‘branch’ for seven years. In November 1916, a sub-branch called Exposition Park Playground Library opened at the west entrance to the Park at 3922 Menlo Avenue in order “to bridge the distance between University and Vermont Square branches.”¹⁹⁵ However, this other predecessor to the current Expo Park Branch closed when the University Branch opened a much larger building in September 1923.¹⁹⁶

UBL remained a circulation leader amongst its peer group of rented space branch libraries. The *Report* for 1919 stated, “Among branches still in rented quarters, there has been friendly competition month by month for first place, but University Branch still stands highest in circulation, number of patrons and reference work.”¹⁹⁷ UBL maintained its lead in circulation through 1921. “Vernon and Boyle stand second and third and University branch is first among the branches in rented quarters.”¹⁹⁸ The success of the University Branch was representative of the growth of the entire extension system.

Burgeoning Branch Department

UBL and its peers grew so rapidly that the branches more than matched the circulation of the main library in 1912.¹⁹⁹ Helen T. Kennedy was the preeminent organizer of the Branch and Station System. She joined LAPL as the Principal of the Training Class in 1912.²⁰⁰ In 1913, she also took over the Branches Department. In 1914, the Board and Librarian permitted Ms. Kennedy to devote her prodigious talents solely to the Branches Department, which she led until 1928.²⁰¹

It was in the 1913-1915 period that branches were beginning to require more than itinerant attendants who had previously been stationed at the main library. Helen Kennedy described the situation in the *1913 Report*.

Schedules have been so arranged that branch librarians have given all of their time to branch work, each being entirely in charge of her own branch, except for nights when she is relieved. The disadvantages of separation from the main [library] are many and serious, but the increase of branch work demands full time of the person in charge.²⁰²

UBL was but one of many successful extensions of the central Public Library into a variety of communities in greater Los Angeles and its activities were not confined to the circulation of books.

University Book Club

The University Book Club (UBC) was a special success. UBL's attendant, Fannie Dorman, organized "the University Book Club to encourage use and appreciation of the library."²⁰³ The club enjoyed a continuous existence from its beginnings in 1914 through at least 1936.²⁰⁴ UBC activities, most often led by women, were reported in Los Angeles newspapers. For example, in June 1914, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that

The University Book Club held its final meeting of the season yesterday at the University Branch Library. Miss Anna Buckley, who is a recognized authority on the early history of California, was the speaker. This club, which was organized only last April, has already attained a secure place in the life of the community. Thus far, most of the speakers have been from outside the membership and several delightful and instructive talks have been given. Plans for work in the fall are well under way, when the members themselves will take a more active part in the programmes.²⁰⁵

The following year, the *Los Angeles Examiner* listed a number of lectures presented by members of the UBC.

The University Book Club, of which Mrs. Laura G. Parkins is president, held a very interesting meeting last Friday. After the roll call, Mrs. Sarah Bromley Rea spoke on the “Rulers of Russia,” and Mrs. George T. Morrison on the “Transformed Russia Under Peter the Great.” Mrs. Grace E. Lampert took Catherine II of Russia for her subject, and reviews of the works of the Russian writer Turgenev were ably handled by Mrs. E. P. Gee. The next meeting will be held on the 19th inst., when further departments of Russian life and literature will hold the programme. Mrs. Frank Stewart will take the “Russian Court of the Twentieth Century” as her subject. Mrs. Abbie Robinson will speak on “A Day in the Russian Capital.” Miss Jeannie Shute [UBL Attendant then Librarian 1914-1933] will discourse upon the Cossacks, and a review of the Russian author, Gogol, will be undertaken by Mrs. Anna Fulton.²⁰⁶

UBC’s educational activities represent an example of women in the early twentieth century taking advantage of intellectual pursuits when afforded to them.²⁰⁷

Moreover, like their peers in cities and towns across the country, UBC members were among the most ardent advocates for their library.²⁰⁸ On August 21, 1917, “Mrs. Del Valle, President of the University Book Club, accompanied by Mrs. Weston of the Club, appeared before the Board and urged the necessity of a Carnegie Building to take the place of the present University Branch.”²⁰⁹ The University Book Club made the first recorded suggestion to request a Carnegie grant for UBL.

UBL and USC

As reported in the *1912 Report*, one of the services provided at the branches was the story hour conducted by “the pupils of Miss Beulah Wright, dean of the College of Oratory at the University of Southern California. Since April 12th, eight young women have told stories weekly at eleven branch libraries. Much interest has been manifested by the children, only one library reporting a small attendance.”²¹⁰ The program continued successfully in 1913 and appears to have expanded. “The series of story hours begun last year by students of the University of Southern California has been continued this year, covering nearly four months of the spring term and bringing pleasure to groups of children in every branch and playground library.”²¹¹ Though the evidence is indirect, as discussed below USC students made good use of UBL and, as one of the leading branches in the time period that was also located nearest to campus, it would be very unlikely that Dean Wright did not utilize UBL for her students’ practicum.

Though he had quashed Dean Randall’s petition to establish UBL in conjunction with LAPL, USC’s President Bovard attended the opening of the new rental building in 1914.²¹² When USC requested UBL to extend its hours in September 1915 to twelve hours per day, President Bovard offered to provide two students for four hours a day. The Board and Librarian agreed to increase UBL’s hours as requested and they also accepted his offer of two assistants.²¹³ Three years later USC had strengthened its own library facilities sufficiently to permit UBL to return its hours to 1:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.²¹⁴

In 1923, USC’s newly appointed President, Rufus V. von KleinSmid, was one of the dignitaries who gave a presentation at the grand opening of the building constructed for UBL.²¹⁵

It is not clear from LAPL's records to what extent USC's students used UBL, but utilize it they did. The *Southern California Trojan* gave a very favorable review of the plans for the new library building in an article dated February 23, 1923.

Foundation of Library Being Laid; Excavation Begun for University Branch of Los Angeles City Library; Estimated Cost is \$55,000; Building Material to Be in Harmony With Structures on the Campus. . . .

Room of Quiet

The 'silence' room in the section for adults will be a decided advantage to University of Southern California students,. . . It will afford a real retreat near the University, where studies can be pursued without interruption.

Approximately 30,000 volumes will be housed in the new library, according to Miss Kennedy of the City Library,. . .

This library, in connection with the contemplated new University Library [Doheny], will give students ready access to thousands of volumes that can only be had at present by going downtown.²¹⁶

The nexus between UBL and USC may never have grown as strong as the unified public and academic library envisaged by Dean Randall, but there was significant coordination between LAPL and USC for many years through the University Branch Library.

B. UBL's Quarters

1905-1907

The University Branch Library began as a deposit station in a spare room in George Williams' grocery store on the corner of Jefferson and Kingsley. Mr. Williams provided the

space, heat and lights, plus a janitor.²¹⁷ After LAPL assumed responsibility for the upkeep, George Williams set the rent at \$15.00 per month and considered the arrangement temporary until the library determined the quarters were suitable or found other quarters.²¹⁸ No direct evidence of an inspection was found, but the quarters must have been deemed suitable because the library occupied them for three years.

1908-1911

In March 1908, Brauer & Krohn [tailors] made a proposal to provide quarters for UBL in their new building at 713 West Jefferson, but this proposition did not pan out.²¹⁹ Instead, George Williams offered space in “a new building on the same lot where the present building stands”²²⁰ and the City Librarian replied in a letter countering that the Board would accept a \$25 per month rent if given a renewable eighteen-month lease. These negotiations were for the 905 West Jefferson location.²²¹ The lease was never executed, but the rental agreement went forward on a month-to-month basis for the agreed-upon \$25 per month until George Williams was elected to the City Council. As a member of the City Council, he decided not to charge rent for the duration of his public service but retained the right to revoke the library’s leasehold upon reasonable notice.²²²

In short, Councilmen Williams provided the original two quarters for UBL, the first one for more than a year without charging rent and the second one gratis for three years. When he notified the library to vacate 905 West Jefferson by February 1, 1912, the Board ordered the President and Librarian to prepare a resolution of thanks for the generosity of Mr. George Williams.²²³ In a more practical move, the Board instructed the librarian to restore George Williams’ room to “first class condition;”²²⁴ but Mr. Williams declined the gesture.²²⁵

In the meantime, LAPL had received a grant from Andrew Carnegie for the construction of six branches in 1911.²²⁶ Perhaps the free rent at 905 West Jefferson Street was a reason why UBL was not one of the initial group of branches to get a Carnegie building.

1912-1922

For UBL's new quarters, George Williams recommended that the Board secure a lease from Dr. A. J. Foster in his building at the corner of Jefferson Street and Wesley Avenue,²²⁷ which they proceeded to do.²²⁸ The rent was \$25 per month for a two-year lease.²²⁹ UBL moved to these larger quarters in the Cool Building at 806 West Jefferson Street in February 1912.²³⁰

With the two-year lease for 806 West Jefferson due to expire, the Librarian and the Branch Libraries Committee began to look for an alternative location.²³¹ In 1914, they elected to move into a 35 x 70 ft. wooden building to be erected by A. L. Smith. The new residence at 824 West Jefferson Street was the first building occupied by UBL that was built specifically for use as a library.²³² The term of the lease was five years at \$40 per month and renewable for another five years.²³³ UBL inhabited this building for nearly ten years.

The opening of the library at its new location was an event attended by officials from USC as well as LAPL. The February 19, 1914 *Los Angeles Southwest Advertiser* announced the opening of the "New Branch Library Rooms."

The opening of the new location of the University Branch Library will take place Thursday. . . . President Bovard of the University will preside, and addresses will be made by Mr. J. L. Wheeler, and Miss Helen T. Kennedy, of the Main Library. Music is to be furnished by the Poly High String Quartette and the University Male Quartette. . . . This new home for the library was especially built for this purpose by the owner of the property, Mr. H. G. Chilson, according to the plans furnished by the Library Board. There

is space for about 1,800 books, with spacious reading and study rooms, and comfortable arrangements for all patrons. Everyone is urged to come and give this grand enterprise a good opening.²³⁴

Records in the Minutes and this newspaper article named different owners for undiscovered reasons.²³⁵

1921 Bond Issue

The branch system continued to expand and the University Branch Library was among the leaders. By 1920, the board recognized that “The branches in rented quarters have grown so rapidly in size and use that their proper housing is a serious problem, and the need of additional Carnegie buildings becomes constantly more imperative.”²³⁶ UBL was to be the recipient of a grant should the Carnegie Corporation be persuaded to help LA once again.²³⁷ (However, in 1917 the Carnegie Corporation of New York stopped funding the construction of library buildings.)²³⁸ Fortunately, the Library Board of Directors finally got a bond issue approved by the City Council and the voters of Los Angeles passed it.

One outstanding event makes the year just closed the most notable in the library’s history. This is the decision of the people of Los Angeles, at the general election on June 7, [1921] to provide through a bond issue of \$2,500,000 for a central library building. . . . From the two and a half millions assured by the bond issue it will be necessary to provide also for at least two branch buildings and the question of a site for the central library is yet to be decided.²³⁹

The first six branch libraries constructed under the auspices of the Los Angeles Public Library were Carnegie grant buildings, but the next set were supported by the taxpayers of Los Angeles.

In 1922, decisions on the design and location of branch libraries and their execution were made without the contentiousness displayed over the siting of the main library building.

“Satisfactory sites were secured for the West Hollywood, University, Moneta, Figueroa, and Edendale branches.”²⁴⁰ By 1923, the Board of Directors could report that

Great advance has been made toward the completion of the branch building program provided for in the bond issue of 1921. Six branches have been completed. [Hollywood, West Hollywood, Figueroa, Santa Monica Boulevard, Barton Hill in San Pedro, and Palms] Six branches are under construction: University, Moneta, Edendale, Jefferson, San Pedro and Pico Heights. . . . In all, fifteen branches and sites are represented in this scheme of branch development, on which approximately \$500,000 is to be spent.²⁴¹

The University Branch Library was a beneficiary of the successful bond drive in 1921 that provided funding for the construction of the first and only site that has housed the Los Angeles Public Library (though not without extensive renovation and expansion).

1923

UBL’s new building at the corner of 34th and University (formerly Wesley) Avenue was opened to its patrons on September 1, 1923, but its grand opening was celebrated September 25, 1923. The *Los Angeles South West Wave* described the program.

University District To Celebrate Opening Of Its New Library. . . .

Tuesday evening, September 25, has been set aside as the formal opening date when everyone may have an opportunity to inspect their new building and help make it a ‘place neighbors meet’ for pleasure and profit. A short program will begin at 8 p.m., when Mr. Ora Monnette, president of the Los Angeles Library Board, and Dr. Von Kleinsmid, president of the University of Southern California, will be among the speakers.²⁴²

The festivities also included addresses by Justice Curtis of the District Court of Appeals and Helen T. Kennedy, Second Assistant Librarian, who was also still in charge of the Branches Department. The daughter of Councilmen George Williams, Georgia Williams, played music.²⁴³

The architectural firm of Hibbard, Gerity and Kerton designed the building and the contractor was the Willard-Brent Company. The library bought furnishings from Melvil Dewey's Library Bureau through McKee and Wentworth.²⁴⁴ LAPL's *Hand Book of the Branch Libraries* described the library building's design.²⁴⁵

Taking the style of the university buildings as a motive, the architect has planned a dignified and attractive structure faced with brick laid in Flemish bond, and trimmed with artificial stone. The details of the openings, the cornice and the deeply recessed main entrance were inspired by existing Romanesque examples in Northern Italy and Southern France. The frieze of the main entrance is a series of grotesque figures, typical of all walks of life, the laborer, the capitalist, the soldier, lawyer, churchman—those who use a public library.

USC archives provide additional details to describe the building, which cost a total of \$66,444 to build, equip and furnish.

The building dimensions were 95' x 85', with a floor space of 7335 sq. ft. and book volume capacity of 25,590. As first built, there was only one floor (plus the small utility basement).²⁴⁶

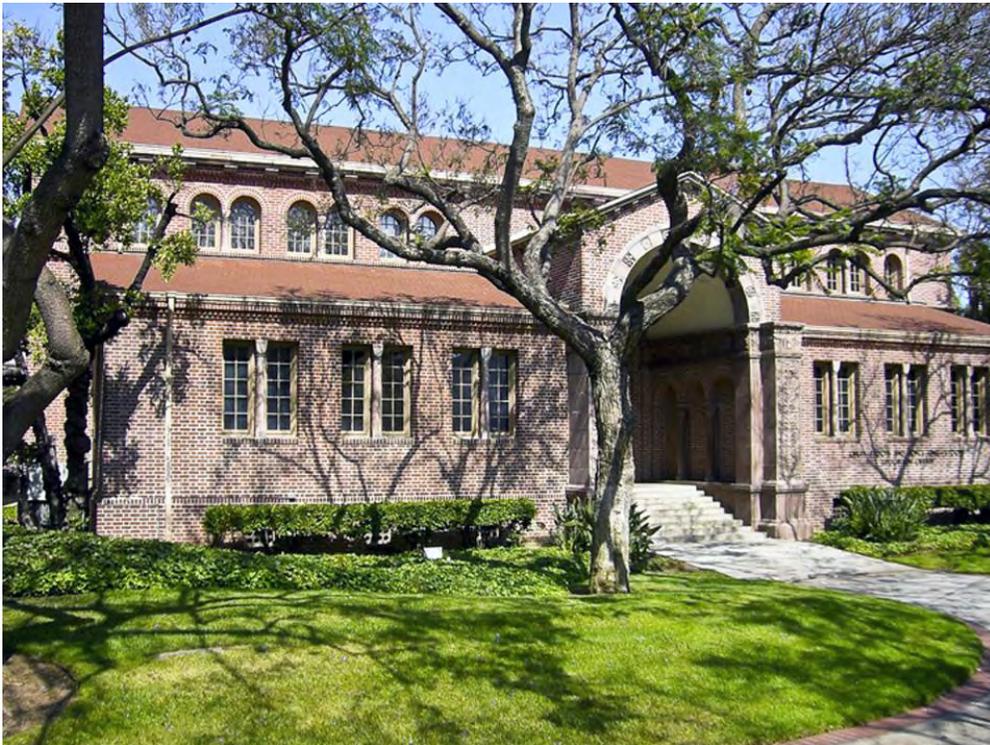
The *Southern California Trojan* described the new library building's interior.

This new addition to the literary life of the University district . . . will be divided into two main rooms.

One room will be for adults, and in this room will be included a smaller 'silence' room.

The room for children will also be divided into two rooms. One room will be for older children, and one for the smaller tots. This children's room will be well supplied with books which delight the child's heart.²⁴⁷

Los Angeles Public Library's University Branch would have made a suitable library for many a small town.



USC East Asian Library in 2003; photo by author.

In a rather interesting twist, it was not the library's personnel and books that had to move once again but the building itself that was relocated. "In 1931, Hoover Street was widened, which necessitated moving the building back a bit on its lot. It was picked up, moved back, and turned to face slightly southwest, rather than straight west. It reopened on May 18, 1931."²⁴⁸ The UBL building may also have served as a backdrop in a Laurel and Hardy film, at least as evidenced by a photo in USC's Public Art in LA archival site.²⁴⁹

USC Buys UBL

LAPL sold the UBL building to USC in 1965. The branch library relocated closer to the grounds of Exposition Park and received a new name, the Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library. This successor to UBL's heritage opened its new building in September, 1975.²⁵⁰

USC acquired the building to house its Stoops Education Library. With the addition of a second floor and mezzanine, the renovated building served USC's School of Education from 1965 until 1998, "when the Education Library was closed, its collections merged in with Doheny Library's. Following a year of redesign and restoration, it opened as the East Asian Library in May 1999."²⁵¹ The Stoops Education Library building held USC's East Asian collections from 1999 to 2007, when they too were moved to Doheny Library. Future plans for the building are not yet determined.²⁵²

VI. Summary Findings

The mission of the Los Angeles Public Library included serving the economic, educational, and recreational needs of the City of Los Angeles. In order to provide services to patrons who were less able to utilize the library in its location downtown, LAPL found several ways to extend services to outlying communities. Two of the original and closely related extensions were the provision of books to the public schools and the establishment of deposit and delivery stations (substations or proto-branches) in LA's neighborhoods.

The Los Angeles Public Library extension systems began during the administration of Librarian Tessa Kelso. LAPL's first extension was the 1891 compact with the Board of Education to supply books to public schools. Initially, LAPL arranged for teachers to borrow

books for use in their classroom instruction. Shortly thereafter the Board of Education's Superintendent of Buildings began depositing and rotating books among the various schools twice a week. The forms and functions of the arrangement with the school board and teachers were later applied to community activists in order both to overcome barriers to access, such as poverty and distance, and to alleviate congestion in the central library.

The generation of the branch system at the turn of the twentieth century was a joint effort between LAPL and individual communities. Like the public schools, there were both deposits and deliveries. Local volunteers generally handled deposits during a probationary period while a library attendant managed deliveries. Book depositories might initially be restricted to inside use, and often were named "Reading Rooms," and the next step would be permitting a volunteer to lend books for home use. Before LAPL would assume full responsibility for a substation, the community had to provide volunteers and financial support in the way of quarters, furnishings, light, and heat. In addition, the inchoate branch must sustain a significant level of usage for a year or more.

Contrary to newspaper articles, LAPL's self-publications, or published research, the first viable branch was the Casa de Castelar Reading Room. In 1896, the College Settlement Association's Casa de Castelar served an immigrant neighborhood and especially its youth. The association provided quarters and volunteer attendants for the very first site where experimental forms of delivery and deposit stations were tested. By 1900, Castelar graduated from those fledgling forms into a fully independent branch; it served as a model for the branches that followed.

The success of Castelar and other early substations—such as the Macy Street Reading Room and the Boyle Heights Delivery Station—led to a rapid expansion of the number of

branches and to a network that continues to serve LA's communities today. By extending its services to outlying areas of the city, the Los Angeles Public Library significantly advanced its mission to support the economic, educational, and recreational needs of the citizens of Los Angeles.

The story of the University Branch Library is typical of most of the large and successful branches begun in the early years of the extension system. After an aborted attempt to establish a branch at USC, LAPL founded the University Branch Library as a deposit station in conjunction with a community group in the University District in 1905. Mrs. Pingree, who led the petitioners and supplied furnishings, was a primary contributor to the birth of UBL. George Williams provided quarters for the substation in his general store and paid for the heating, lighting and janitorial service. LAPL assumed full responsibility for UBL and promoted it to branch status in 1906. From 1906 to 1923 and thereafter, the branch library truly became a social hub for its community through its services to USC's students as well as neighborhood patrons and special educational programmes like the University Book Club.

The University Branch Library continued to grow in several rented quarters. Funding for a grand building, completed in 1923, was provided by the taxpayers of Los Angeles. The citizenry passed the 1921 bond mainly to construct a building for the main library, but around \$500,000 of the \$2,500,000 issue was utilized for the construction of fifteen (15) branches. In 1965, the University of Southern California bought the building from LAPL.

The former University Branch Library continues to serve the University and Exposition Park region but was renamed the Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library.

VII. Further Research

“To the men and women who have kept this light burning, because of their belief in a civilization and a citizenship built on assimilation of ideas, a record of their struggles and triumphs is only just.”²⁵³ Faith Holmes Hyers’ call in the *1936 Report* still deserves a response. Jerry Cao made a significant contribution with his dissertation in 1977. The intent of this history of the origins of LAPL’s Extension System has been to make another, albeit smaller, contribution toward the same goal.

Here are just a few suggestions for further research. First, the stories of librarians such as Helen Kennedy deserve telling. She was the great organizer who consolidated the System of Branches of the Los Angeles Public Library begun by Tessa Kelso. She was so valued that her offers to resign, due to some lengthy illnesses, were repeatedly rejected. Second, LAPL’s Training School was one of the earliest of its kind and might prove to be particularly interesting for a library student to explore. Third, the continuing story of the University/Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library as well as LAPL’s Branch Library Services Department and, most importantly, the entire history of the Los Angeles Public Library would be worthy topics. In particular, it could be inspiring to analyze the application of the values of public librarianship through the policies and practices of LAPL from its origins in the nineteenth century to the present day.

To assist future researchers, the author is compiling an extensive bibliography on the Los Angeles Public Library.

Appendix A:

Chronology

- 1872 Los Angeles Library Association (LALA) founded
- 1878 Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) chartered
- 1879-80 University of Southern California (USC) founded and classes begun
- 1889 New city charter; LAPL became a fully municipal institution, moved into City Hall, and reclassified collection per DDC
- 1891 LAPL became a Free Public Library; Public School 'Library' incorporated into LAPL; Library Attendant Training Class established
- 1892 Preliminary attempt to extend service to a reading room in Boyle Heights foundered; delivery stations set up in elementary schools begin initial formation of LAPL's extension systems
- 1893 Librarian proposed four stations to include the University District
- 1897 Beginning of branch system with opening of Castelar Reading Room; open shelves instituted
- 1898 Macy Street Reading Room opened
- 1900 LAPL opens Boyle Heights delivery station; book deliveries to fire stations
- 1901 Branch experiment deemed a success; six additional deposit stations opened; development of system accelerated
- 1903 USC Dean started petition for branch library but plan was aborted by new President
- 1905 Community petition granted; first University Branch Library (UBL) housed in space donated by local merchant
- 1907 Nine branches in operation; Branch Department organized under a Director
- 1910 Carnegie²⁵⁴ grants \$210,000 to build six branch libraries, last of which was completed in 1917
- 1914 University Branch moved to another rental building, but one built specifically to house a library; USC President presides at opening; University Book Club launched
- 1920 LAPL has 176 distribution centers (branches, sub-branches, playground and school deposits, plus deposit stations in various businesses and organizations); total library circulation reaches 2.5MM of which 1.5MM books are lent by branch system
- 1921 Bond issue passed to build main library and, eventually, 15 branches, including UBL
- 1922 Board proposed new structure for University Branch in a style reflective of USC campus
- 1923 University Branch Library building officially opened on September 25

Appendix B:

Chief Sources

Primary archival sources include (1) the Branch History file maintained at the Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library (successor to UBL) and (2) Annual Reports, Minutes of the Board of Directors Meetings, and Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings kept by the Los Angeles Public Library. In a follow-up investigation, the author would consult LAPL's intermittent monthly *Public Library Bulletins* and relevant documents—such as letters—that were exhibits at Board of Directors Meetings but are stored without finding aids in LAPL's archives. One could find additional sources in the archives of the University of Southern California and the City of Los Angeles.

Contemporary histories referenced include the Los Angeles Public Library's *Los Angeles Public Library, 1872-1920*²⁵⁵ and *Hand Book of the Branch Libraries*.²⁵⁶ An LAPL librarian, Faith Holmes Hyers, wrote a brief sketch of LAPL's history that provided useful leads.²⁵⁷ Alverde June Brode's thesis entitled "The History of the University Section Los Angeles"²⁵⁸ was very helpful in setting the socio-economic milieu of the times.

The following is a list of principal secondary sources consulted:

Cao, Jerry F. "The Los Angeles Public Library: Origins and Development, 1872-1910."

Los Angeles Public Library. *History of the Los Angeles Public Library*.

LAPL. One Hundred Years of Library Service, 1872-1972 .

Notes

¹ Faith Holmes Hyers, "Brief History of the Los Angeles Public Library" in *Forty-Eighth Annual Report of the Los Angeles Public Library*, (Los Angeles: Los Angeles Public Library, 1936), 1-78.

² Alfred Hessel, *A History of Libraries*, trans. Reuben Preiss (Scarecrow Press: Washington, 1950) 101, 104.

³ Joanne E. Passet, "Reaching the Rural Reader: Traveling Libraries in America, 1892-1920," *Libraries and Culture* 26, no. 1 (1991): 100-118.

⁴ Searches in ERIC, LISA, LISTA, LLIS and WorldCat resulted in finding only some broadly comparable projects. Some works include a discussion of branches in the context of more general histories such as the rise of the public library in England by John Joseph Ogle, *The Free Library: Its History and Present Condition* (F. P. Harper: New York, 1898) and as part of the structure of Duncan Gray's *County Library Systems: Their History, Organisation and Administration* (New York: H.W. Wilson, 1922). A journal on one particular extension system, published by the Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship (<http://jupiter.clarion.edu/~csrl/csrlhom.htm>), includes historical articles like John Philip's "An Overview of the History of Bookmobile Service in Ohio: A Mirror of the National Scene," *Bookmobiles & Outreach Services* 7, no. 1 (2004): 29-36. Last, James A. Thrasher wrote about administrative issues regarding "Branch Library Development in Cumberland County, North Carolina," in *New Library World* 101 (2000): 309-314.

⁵ Rachel Fox and John Feather, "The Development of Branch Libraries in Leicester," *Library History* 21, no. 1 (2005): 47-56.

⁶ Passet, "Reaching the Rural Reader," 100-118; Penny Want, "The History and Development of Mobile Libraries," *Library Management* 2 (1990): 5-14.

⁷ Kendel R. Croston, "On the Road to Expansion: Canton Public/Stark County District Library 1929-1997," (master's thesis, Kent State University, 1997).

⁸ W. A. J. Marsterson, "Baildon: the Development of a County Branch Library," *Library Review* 24, no. 8 (1975): 347-353.

⁹ Debra Gold Hansen, Karen F. Gracy, and Sheri D. Irwin, "At the Pleasure of the Board: Women Librarians and the Los Angeles Public Library, 1880-1905," *Libraries & Culture* 34, no. 4 (1999): 317, 324, 337-340.

¹⁰ Los Angeles Public Library [hereafter, LAPL], *Los Angeles Public Library, 1872-1920* (Los Angeles: LAPL, 1920); LAPL, *Hand Book of the Branch Libraries* (Los Angeles: LAPL, 1928); LAPL, *One Hundred Years of Library Service 1872-1972* (Los Angeles: LAPL, 1972); LAPL, *History of the Los Angeles Public Library* (Los Angeles: LAPL, 1980); and Bernadette Dominique Soter, *The Light of Learning: An Illustrated History of the Los Angeles Public Library* (Los Angeles: Library Foundation of Los Angeles, 1993).

¹¹ Mildred Sowers, "History of the University Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, 1937" MS, [ca. 1937], Branch History File, Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library, Los Angeles, Calif.; Helen Spotts, "Roster, 1946" MS, [circa 1946], Expo Park/Bethune Library Branch History File, LAPL Archives.

¹² Alverda June Brode, "The History of the University Section Los Angeles" (master's thesis, University of Southern California, 1922); Jerry F. Cao, "The Los Angeles Public Library: Origins and Development, 1872-1910" (PhD diss., University of Southern California, 1977).

¹³ Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 70-71, 301-302; LAPL, *Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Public Library and Report of Librarian* (Los Angeles: LAPL, 1889), 11. [Titles of the annual reports varied. Hereafter, Annual Reports are referenced in the form "Date Report, Page(s)." For example, the preceding cite would be referenced as "1889 Report, 11." The title given to members of the Board has also varied over time as Trustees, Directors, or Commissioners.]

¹⁴ Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 76.

¹⁵ Stephen Janick, "Drexel Institute Library School: The Early Years," MS (Prof. M. Levitt, History 644, Temple University class paper, December 2, 1999), http://www.pages.drexel.edu/~stj22/drexel_institute_library_school.htm (accessed April 20, 2006); Carl M. White, *A Historical Introduction to Library Education: Problems and Progress to 1951* (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1976), 123-124.

¹⁶ For an examination of political factors, see Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library;” Hansen, Gracy, and Irwin, “Pleasure of the Board,” 84; Margaret F. Maxwell, “The Lion and the Lady: The Firing of Miss Mary Jones,” *American Libraries* 9 (May 1978): 268-272; Wayne A. Wiegand, “The Lion and the Lady Revisited: Another Look at the Firing of Mary L. Jones as Los Angeles Public Librarian in 1905,” *Library and Information Science Resources* 5 (Fall 1983): 273–90; Sharon McCaslin, “The Displacement of Mary Jones,” *American Libraries* (March 1990): 186-191; Armine D. MacKenzie, “The Great Library War,” *California Librarian* 18 (April 1957): 89–92; and Margaret Cool, “The Ousting of Mary Letitia Jones,” *Westways* 70 (November 1978): 14.

¹⁷ *1897 Report*, 20; LAPL, *Los Angeles Public Library, 1872-1920*, 2; Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library,” 45.

¹⁸ LAPL, *History*, 1; discussion of the three prior attempts to establish a library in Los Angeles is beyond our scope, but see Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library.”

¹⁹ *1889 Report*, 7-8. In her “Brief History,” Faith Holmes Hyers described these trustees and other founders of the Los Angeles Library Association.

Among these were leaders in state and city government: John G. Downey, and General George Stoneman, each of whom served as Governor of the State, and General John R. McConnell who had been Attorney General of the State; there were jurists and attorneys of distinction: Judge Ygnacio Sepulveda, Colonel George H. Smith, Wynn H. Mace and Colonel E. M. Stanford—men whose knowledge of the means of attaining legal sanction and protection of libraries was to prove invaluable. There were distinguished professional men in this group: Dr. Joseph P. Widney, second President of the University of Southern California and founder of its medical school, who at the age of ninety-five years is still writing on scientific and religious subjects; H. J. W. Bent, teacher and founder of a college, W. B. Lawlor, teacher and mathematician, H. D. Barrows, educator and historian; H. S. Orme and W. F. Edgar, physicians; and Harris Newmark, whose history *Sixty Years in Southern California*, has become a standard work—men who had faith in the educational possibilities of a public library. There were outstanding leaders in the industrial, commercial and physical development of Southern California: Samuel B. Caswell, A. W. Potts, T. W. Temple, R. H. Dalton; Isaias W. Hellman and J. W. Hellman, bankers, and W. J. Brodrick, developer of water

and street car service—men who believed in libraries as a part of the cultural and necessary development of Los Angeles. *1936 Report*, 31.

²⁰ *1936 Report*, 31.

²¹ *1889 Report*, 7-8; “Downey Block” appears to be a more accurate depiction than “Downey Building.” Picture from *1919 Report*. “The Library’s first location was in the Downey Block, located on Temple Street between Spring and Main, then one of the finest business structures in the city. Unfortunately, nobody knows the exact location of the library rooms within the building.” *1972 Report*; cf. LAPL Photo Collection Database, “Downey Block,” <http://www.lapl.org/>.

²² Hyers, “Brief History,” 35.

²³ *1897 Report*, 22.

²⁴ *1889 Report*, 8; J. C. Littlefield held the post of Librarian from the birth of LALA until after its transition to LAPL in 1878. P. Connolly became LAPL’s second Librarian in January 1879 and served until June 1880. Little is known about the first two librarians, but the “Los Angeles Public Library: 1872-1920” adds some pertinent biographical details to its list of the librarians who followed them from 1880 to 1910.

For the four years, 1880-84, the librarian was Miss Mary Foy, later one of the leaders in the state suffrage campaign and in many other public activities. Miss Jessie Gavitt held the position from January, 1884 to January, 1889; and in April, 1889, after the short three-months’ term of Miss Lydia A. Prescott, Miss Tessa L. Kelso became librarian [with Jessie Gavitt as First Assistant Librarian], and initiated a period of development that in six years had made the Los Angeles library widely known throughout the country for the progressive and original features of its administration and the character and extent of the service given to the community. In 1895, Miss Kelso was succeeded by Mrs. Clara B. Fowler, who served until June, 1897. For the three years from June, 1897 to May, 1900, the librarian was Mrs. Harriet Child Wadleigh, who through succeeding years has been a leading figure in the Y. W. C. A. and women’s club development of the city. Mrs. Wadleigh’s successor was the first librarian with special professional training, Miss Mary L. Jones (New York State Library School), who held the position with much ability from May, 1900, to June, 1905, and who later gave notable service as librarian of Bryn Mawr College and as assistant librarian of the Los Angeles County Free Library. Charles F. Lummis, well known

historian and explorer of Spanish-America and the Southwest and later one of the founders of the Southwest Museum was elected librarian in June, 1905, and held office until March 31, 1910.

LAPL, *Los Angeles Public Library, 1872-1920*, 2-3; see also *1897 Report*, 23; *1889 Report*, 8-9.

²⁵ *1889 Report*, 8.

²⁶ Speech given in 1951 to Native Daughters of the Golden West, quoted in Hansen, Gracy, and Irwin, "Pleasure of the Board," 24.

²⁷ Minutes IA, 01/07/1879, 59-64; Minutes IB, 03/26/1889, 1-11. [References to minutes of the Los Angeles Public Library Board meetings note the order of the binders (IA, II, III and so on) held in the archives and page numbers refer to the pagination of each binder. The dates, of course, are when meetings occurred.]

²⁸ *1897 Report*, 20; *1889 Report*, 10; Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 133. As Cao aptly stated, "A change in the governance of the library from an indifferent [mayor and] city council to a workable five-member board of directors headed by a dynamic president took place upon approval of the revised city charter in 1889." In fact, "The removal of the library from direct council control may be considered the development leading to the transformation of LAPL from a minor institution into a representative library." "Los Angeles Public Library," 141-42.

²⁹ *1897 Report*, 20; *1889 Report*, 14; *1894 Report*, 3.

³⁰ LAPL, *History*, 2.

³¹ *1894 Report*, 3.

³² *Los Angeles Herald*, March 23, 1895. For more on Tessa Kelso, see Hansen, Gracy, and Irwin, "Pleasure of the Board," 311-46 and Anita Szafran, "Tessa L. Kelso," MS (class paper, UCLA Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1990), LAPL, Los Angeles, Calif.

³³ *1894 Report*, 4.

³⁴ Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 141-42.

³⁵ *1894 Report*, 7.

³⁶ Minutes IB, 12/04/1889, 110; *1897 Report*, 22. "The Board is endeavoring to administer the affairs of the Library with such due regard to economy as is consistent with a good return for the money expended.... The introduction of the latest improvements in library arrangements, and the adoption of the best labor-

saving devices in library economy are owing to Miss Kelso's knowledge and good judgment in those matters." *1889 Report*, 11.

³⁷ *1897 Report*, 17-18; *1936 Report*, 47.

³⁸ *1889 Report*, 17.

³⁹ Clare Beck, *The New Woman as Librarian: The Career of Adelaide Hasse* (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press 2006), 1-5.

⁴⁰ James Cameron, "GPO's Living History: Adelaide R. Hasse," FDLP History, http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/history/hasse.html (accessed August 30, 2008).

⁴¹ *1936 Report*, 43.

⁴² Beck, *New Woman as Librarian*, 23.

⁴³ *1936 Report*, 43; Beck, *New Woman as Librarian*, 25.

⁴⁴ *1891 Report*, 7, 22; *1907 Report*, 96; Beck, *New Woman as Librarian*, 21; Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 151-54; Hansen, Gracy, and Irwin, "Pleasure of the Board," 324.

⁴⁵ State University of New York at Albany, Department of Information Studies, "History," <http://www.albany.edu/dis/about/history.html> (accessed March 8, 2006); Pratt Institute, "The History of Pratt," <http://www.pratt.edu/campus/> (accessed April 20, 2006); Drexel University College of Information Science and Technology, "History," <http://www.ischool.drexel.edu/Home/About/WhoWeAre/History> (accessed August 23, 2008); Illinois Institute of Technology, "IIT History," <http://www.iit.edu/about/history/> (accessed August 23, 2008); Kevin Ward, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science, "A Brief History," <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/about/overview/history.html> (accessed August 23, 2008); Mary Niles Maack, "Women's Values, Vision And Culture In The Transformation of American Librarianship, 1890 – 1920," *Libraries and Reading in Times of Cultural Change*, Moscow: Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, 1996, <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/maack/Values.htm> (accessed August 23, 2008); Janick, "Drexel Institute Library School;" Beck, *New Woman as Librarian*, 21.

⁴⁶ LAPL, *Los Angeles Public Library*, 4.

⁴⁷ *1936 Report*, 78; Alumni Association, *Directory of Graduates: Library School and Training Classes Los Angeles Public Library 1892-1932* (Los Angeles: Alumni Association Graduate School of Library Science University of Southern California and Its Predecessor, ca. 1933).

⁴⁸ Beck, *New Woman as Librarian*, 22.

⁴⁹ LAPL, 1920, 4.

⁵⁰ Catherine Outten, "Long Beach Public Library: Inception 1895-1917," MS (class paper, UCLA Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 2004), 13,

<http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/maack/StudentLibrary.htm> (accessed August 23, 2008), citing Walter Case, *History of Long Beach and the Vicinity* (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1927), 561.

⁵¹ LAPL, 1920, 4.

⁵² *1892 Report*, 8, 27-29; *1894 Report*, 26; *1896 Report*, 3; *1897 Report*, 15-16; *1898 Report*, 15-17; *1900 Report*, 18-19.

⁵³ *1889 Report*, 11, 34.

⁵⁴ Minutes IB, 06/16/1891, 296-297; *1891 Report*, 6, 14.

⁵⁵ *1894 Report*, 4.

⁵⁶ Ralph L. Power, *Libraries of Los Angeles and Vicinity* (Los Angeles: University of Southern California Press, 1921), 11; *1897 Report*, 5.

⁵⁷ *1895 Report*, 7.

⁵⁸ Power, *Libraries of Los Angeles*, 11; *1895 Report*, 7, 10-11; *1897 Report*, 5.

⁵⁹ *1894 Report*, 5; *1889 Report*, 17.

⁶⁰ Szafran, "Tessa L. Kelso."

⁶¹ *1895 Report*, 10-11.

⁶² LAPL, Branch Library Services, <http://www.lapl.org/branches/> (accessed August 23, 2008).

⁶³ *1904 Report*, 7.

⁶⁴ LAPL Photo Collection Database, "Schoolhouse in 1891," <http://www.lapl.org/>. It is beyond the scope of this paper to demonstrate that a two-room schoolhouse was typical of the Los Angeles area in the 1890s, but all indications point to small, rural types of school being the norm in what was still an agricultural region.

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- ⁶⁵ *1897 Report*, 10; cf. *1899 Report*, 34-38.
- ⁶⁶ *1894 Report*, 4-5.
- ⁶⁷ *1899 Report*, 36.
- ⁶⁸ *Ibid.*
- ⁶⁹ *1892 Report*, 17.
- ⁷⁰ Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 244.
- ⁷¹ *1899 Report*, 36; Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 244-245.
- ⁷² Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 244.
- ⁷³ *1905 Report*, 38-40.
- ⁷⁴ *1906 Report*, 79.
- ⁷⁵ *1905 Report*, 38-40.
- ⁷⁶ *1905 Report*, 39.
- ⁷⁷ *1906 Report*, 28.
- ⁷⁸ Minutes IB, 07/13/1891, 306-307; Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 154.
- ⁷⁹ Minutes IB, 12/02/1891, 337; Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 154.
- ⁸⁰ Beck, *New Woman as Librarian*, 18, 21.
- ⁸¹ *1892 Report*, 18; Cao, 154-55.
- ⁸² Minutes IB, 02/03/1892, 372; Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 155.
- ⁸³ *1892 Report*, 7; see also Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 155.
- ⁸⁴ *1892 Report*, 18-19.
- ⁸⁵ *1893 Report*, 15.
- ⁸⁶ Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 155-156; for a different account, see Hansen, Gracy, and Irwin, "Pleasure of the Board," 324.
- ⁸⁷ Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 141-42.
- ⁸⁸ LAPL, *Hand Book Branch Libraries*, 7.
- ⁸⁹ *1936 Report*, 71.

⁹⁰ USC Rossier School of Education, “History,”

http://www.usc.edu/dept/education/about/about_history.htm (accessed March 13, 2006); *1889 Report*, 12; *1936 Report*, 71; *Los Angeles Times*, 05/22/1921.

⁹¹ Cf. LAPL Photo Collection Database, “Sonora Town,”

<http://www.usc.edu/libraries/archives/arc/libraries/regional/zoomla1885.html> (accessed August 31, 2008).

⁹² Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library,” 197-198.

⁹³ *1894 Report*, 33; no record of (a) any petition by the University Settlement Association was found nor (b) any second delivery station at another settlement.

⁹⁴ LAPL, *Los Angeles Public Library*, 4.

⁹⁵ *Los Angeles Times*, 10/07/1901.

⁹⁶ *1897 Report*, 10-11.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁹⁸ *1897 Report*, 10-11.

⁹⁹ But cf. LAPL, *Hand Book Branch Libraries*, 9; *1936 Report*, 71.

¹⁰⁰ *Los Angeles Times*, 2/18/1898.

¹⁰¹ As referenced in *1900 Report*, 17-18; Minutes IV, 01/15/1901, 154, 10/11/1901, 254, 10/25/1901, 259-264; and *Los Angeles Record*, 01/04/1901.

¹⁰² *1900 Report*, 17-18; Minutes IV, 01/15/1901, 154; *Los Angeles Record*, 01/04/1901.

¹⁰³ Minutes IV, 01/29/1901, 164.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁵ Minutes IV, 10/11/1901, 254.

¹⁰⁶ Minutes IV, 10/25/1901, 259-264.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ *1901 Report*, 23; Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library,” 198; Minutes IV, 01/15/1901, 159, 211, 254.

¹⁰⁹ *1898 Report*, 13; Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library,” 198.

¹¹⁰ *1898 Report*, 13.

¹¹¹ Little information was discovered about the Stimson Lafayette Industrial School and none regarding its duration.

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- ¹¹² *1899 Report*, 4
- ¹¹³ *1900 Report*, 7, 18.
- ¹¹⁴ *1900 Report*, 7; *1906 Report*, 37
- ¹¹⁵ *Los Angeles Record*, 01/04/1901; the first attempt in 1891 was abandoned in less than a year.
- ¹¹⁶ *1900 Report*, 18.
- ¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*
- ¹¹⁸ LAPL, *History*, 4.
- ¹¹⁹ *1911 Report*, 8.
- ¹²⁰ *Eastside Journal*, 03/30/1972.
- ¹²¹ *Eastside Journal*, 05/16/1965; LAPL, *Hand Book Branch Libraries*.
- ¹²² Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library,” 198; *1900 Report*, 18.
- ¹²³ *1900 Report*, 18.
- ¹²⁴ *1936 Report*, 50.
- ¹²⁵ Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library,” 199.
- ¹²⁶ *Minutes V*, 05/15/1903, 114.
- ¹²⁷ *1904 Report*, 2.
- ¹²⁸ Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library,” 199; a similar plan by USC was aborted in 1903 (see §IV.A. below)
- ¹²⁹ Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library,” 261; *1906 Report*, 29.
- ¹³⁰ Cf. Cao, “Los Angeles Public Library,” 261-263.
- ¹³¹ *1912 Report*, 13.
- ¹³² *1936 Report*, 71, 74; LAPL, 1980, 4.
- ¹³³ LAPL, *Hand Book Branch Libraries*, 9-10.
- ¹³⁴ *Ibid.*, 11.
- ¹³⁵ *1908 Report*, 79.
- ¹³⁶ *1909 Report*, 22.
- ¹³⁷ *Eastside Journal*, 05/06/1965.
- ¹³⁸ *Los Angeles Herald*, 08/11/1900.
- ¹³⁹ *Eastside Journal*, 03/30/1972.

¹⁴⁰ LAPL *History*, 4.

¹⁴¹ LAPL, *Hand Book Branch Libraries*; LAPL, "A Brief Benjamin Franklin Branch Library History," <http://www.lapl.org/branches/hist/01-h.html> (accessed August 23, 2008).

¹⁴² *1900 Report*, 18.

¹⁴³ Hansen, Gracy, and Irwin, "Pleasure of the Board," 315.

¹⁴⁴ Hansen, Gracy, and Irwin, "Pleasure of the Board," 324; source *1892 Report*, 18-19.

¹⁴⁵ *1893 Report*, 15; Cao, "Los Angeles Public Library," 155-156; cf. Hansen, Gracy, and Irwin, "Pleasure of the Board," 324.

¹⁴⁶ See Hansen, Gracy, and Irwin, "Pleasure of the Board."

¹⁴⁷ Hansen, Gracy, and Irwin, "Pleasure of the Board," 332-334.

¹⁴⁸ Brode, "History University Section," 26; *1936 Report*, 72.

¹⁴⁹ Brode, "History University Section," 49-50.

¹⁵⁰ USC Rossier School of Education, "History," http://www.usc.edu/dept/education/about/about_history.htm (accessed March 8, 2006).

¹⁵¹ Brode, "History University Section," 28; Outten, "Long Beach Public Library," 8.

¹⁵² Brode, "History University Section," 31.

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*, 37-38.

¹⁵⁴ Brode, "History University Section," 59.

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 50.

¹⁵⁶ Brode, "History University Section," 52.

¹⁵⁷ Rockwell D. Hunt, "The Semi-Centennial of the University of Southern California," *Overland Monthly and Out West Magazine*, April 1930, 104.

¹⁵⁸ Brode, "History University Section," 35.

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 34.

¹⁶⁰ Hunt, "Semi-Centennial," 104.

¹⁶¹ Exposition Park borders the University of Southern California and is home to the Natural History Museum and Los Angeles Coliseum among other educational and sports facilities. Cf. Natural History Museum, "Exposition Park," <http://www.nhm.org/expo/expopark.htm> (accessed August 31, 2008).

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- ¹⁶² Brode, "History University Section," 46.
- ¹⁶³ Brode, "History University Section," 55-56; Marion Parks, "When Olympic Park Was a Jack-Rabbit Course," *Overland Monthly and Out West Magazine*, July 1932, 151, 158.
- ¹⁶⁴ Brode, "History University Section," 55-56.
- ¹⁶⁵ Parks, "When Olympic Park," 151.
- ¹⁶⁶ Brode, "History University Section," 38.
- ¹⁶⁷ *1893 Report*, 15.
- ¹⁶⁸ *1895 Report*, 8.
- ¹⁶⁹ *1897 Report*, 10.
- ¹⁷⁰ Minutes 1B, 04/03/1889, 11.
- ¹⁷¹ *Los Angeles Times*, 5/16/1902.
- ¹⁷² Ibid.
- ¹⁷³ Minutes V, 05/15/1903, 112.
- ¹⁷⁴ Minutes V, 05/27/1903, 117-118.
- ¹⁷⁵ *Los Angeles Express*, 05/16/1903; *Los Angeles Times*, 05/16/1903; *Los Angeles American*, 05/18/1903.
- ¹⁷⁶ *Los Angeles Express*, 05/16/1903.
- ¹⁷⁷ *Los Angeles Times*, 05/16/1903.
- ¹⁷⁸ *Los Angeles Times*, 06/01/1903.
- ¹⁷⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁸⁰ Minutes VI, 04/26/1905, 34-35.
- ¹⁸¹ Minutes VI, 05/10/1905, 40.
- ¹⁸² Ibid.
- ¹⁸³ Minutes VI, 08/21/1906, 210.
- ¹⁸⁴ *1905 Report*, 31, 57.
- ¹⁸⁵ *1906 Report*, 83.
- ¹⁸⁶ Minutes VI, 09/25/1906, 224.
- ¹⁸⁷ *1906 Report*, 38.
- ¹⁸⁸ *1906 Report*, 83.

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- ¹⁸⁹ *1907 Report*, 85.
- ¹⁹⁰ *1908 Report*, 68.
- ¹⁹¹ *1909 Report*, 54; Minutes VII, 09/28/1909
- ¹⁹² *1920 Report*, 36 and *1921 Report*, 36-37.
- ¹⁹³ *1913 Report*, 27-28.
- ¹⁹⁴ *Los Angeles Southwest Advertiser*, 11/13/1913.
- ¹⁹⁵ *1917 Report*, 29.
- ¹⁹⁶ *1923 Report*, 12; Sowers, "History University Branch Library," 8.
- ¹⁹⁷ *1919 Report*, 31.
- ¹⁹⁸ *1921 Report*, 35.
- ¹⁹⁹ *1912 Report*, 13.
- ²⁰⁰ *1912 Report*, 36, 38.
- ²⁰¹ *1914 Report*, 7-8, 27, 36; *1928 Report*, 4.
- ²⁰² *1913 Report*, 28-29.
- ²⁰³ Sowers, "History University Branch Library," 3.
- ²⁰⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁰⁵ *Los Angeles Times*, 06/16/1914; cf. *1915 Report*, 32.
- ²⁰⁶ *Los Angeles Examiner*, 11/07/1915; see also *1916 Report*, 28; *Los Angeles Times*, 02/13/1916 and 02/12/1922; *Los Angeles Tribune*, 02/13/1916.
- ²⁰⁷ Mary Niles Maack, "Women's Values;" Mary Niles Maack, "Gender, Culture, and the Transformation of American Librarianship, 1890-1920," *Libraries & Culture* 33, no. 1 (1998): 51-61; Fred Lerner, *The Story of Libraries* (New York: Continuum, 2002), 145-146.
- ²⁰⁸ Lerner, *Story of Libraries*, 146.
- ²⁰⁹ Minutes XI, 08/21/1917, 132.
- ²¹⁰ *1912 Report*, 28.
- ²¹¹ *1913 Report*, 30.
- ²¹² *Los Angeles Southwest Advertiser*, 02/19/1914.
- ²¹³ Minutes X, 09/17/1915, 132; *1916 Report*, 27.

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- ²¹⁴ Minutes XI, 09/17/1918, 365
- ²¹⁵ *Los Angeles South West Wave*, 09/25/1923; Sowers, "History University Branch Library," 7; USC Archives, "Stoops Library, USC," <http://www.publicartinla.com/USCArt/stoops/> (accessed August 23, 2008).
- ²¹⁶ *Southern California Trojan*, 02/23/1923.
- ²¹⁷ Sowers, "History University Branch Library," 1.
- ²¹⁸ Minutes VI, 10/02/1906.
- ²¹⁹ Minutes VII, 03/04/1908, 90; 03/17/1908, 96.
- ²²⁰ Minutes VII, 05/05/1908.
- ²²¹ Minutes VII, 07/20/1909; *1910 Report*, 19; though there is a typographical error identifying the new address as 905 West Washington.
- ²²² 03/28/1910 letter from George Williams to Board of Directors; Minutes VIII, 03/28/1910.
- ²²³ Minutes VIII, 01/02/1912, 324.
- ²²⁴ Minutes VIII, 02/02/1912, 337.
- ²²⁵ Minutes VIII, 02/20/1912, 342.
- ²²⁶ *1911 Report*, 8.
- ²²⁷ Minutes VIII, 01/02/1912, 324.
- ²²⁸ Minutes VIII, 02/02/1912, 337.
- ²²⁹ Minutes VIII, 02/02/1912, 335.
- ²³⁰ *1912 Report*, 5, 28.
- ²³¹ Minutes IX, 12/16/1913, 278.
- ²³² *1915 Report*, 5.
- ²³³ Minutes IX, 01/06/1914, 281.
- ²³⁴ *Los Angeles Southwest Advertiser*, 02/19/1914.
- ²³⁵ Minutes IX, 01/06/1914, 281.
- ²³⁶ *1920 Report*, 20.
- ²³⁷ Minutes XII, 08/01/1919, 184.

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- ²³⁸ Carnegie Corporation of New York, "About Carnegie Corporation," <http://www.carnegie.org/sub/about/biography.html> (accessed August 23, 2008).
- ²³⁹ *1921 Report*, 18, 20.
- ²⁴⁰ *1922 Report*, 7.
- ²⁴¹ *1923 Report*, 7-8.
- ²⁴² *Los Angeles South West Wave*, 09/25/1923.
- ²⁴³ Sowers, "History University Branch Library," 7.
- ²⁴⁴ Cards copied in University Branch Library file from LAPL Archives; *Los Angeles Times*, 02/18/1923.
- ²⁴⁵ LAPL, *Hand Book Branch Libraries*.
- ²⁴⁶ USC Archives, "Stoops Library."
- ²⁴⁷ *Southern California Trojan*, 02/23/1923.
- ²⁴⁸ USC Archives, "Stoops Library."
- ²⁴⁹ USC Archives, "Laurel and Hardy in front of the building," <http://www.publicartinla.com/USCArt/stoops/landh.html> (accessed August 23, 2008).
- ²⁵⁰ LAPL Photo Collection Database, "Exposition Park Library dedication," <http://www.lapl.org/>.
- ²⁵¹ USC Archives, "Stoops Library."
- ²⁵² Ken Klein, e-mail message to author, August 30, 2008.
- ²⁵³ Hyers, "Brief History," 27.
- ²⁵⁴ Cf. George Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969); Carnegie Libraries in California Web Site, <http://www.carnegie-libraries.org/>.
- ²⁵⁵ LAPL, *Los Angeles Public Library*.
- ²⁵⁶ LAPL, *Hand Book Branch Libraries*.
- ²⁵⁷ Hyers, "Brief History."
- ²⁵⁸ Brode, "History University Section."