

**EDWARD EDWARDS: THE  
CHIEF  
PIONEER OF MUNICIPAL  
PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

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Edward Edwards: The Chief Pioneer of Municipal Public Libraries by Thomas Greenwood

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**THOMAS GREENWOOD**

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EDWARD EDWARDS



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THE CHIEF PIONEER OF

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES

BY

THOMAS GREENWOOD

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1902





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TO THE  
FORGOTTEN BENEFACTORS  
OF HUMANITY

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. This includes the use of surveys, interviews, and focus groups to gather qualitative information, as well as the application of statistical software for quantitative analysis.

3. The third part describes the process of identifying and measuring key performance indicators (KPIs). It highlights the need to select metrics that are relevant to the organization's strategic goals and to establish a clear baseline for comparison.

4. The fourth part details the implementation of a data management system. This involves setting up a secure database to store all collected information and ensuring that access is restricted to authorized personnel only.

5. The fifth part discusses the importance of regular reporting and communication of findings. It stresses that management should be kept informed of progress and any emerging trends or issues in a timely manner.

6. The sixth part addresses the challenges often encountered during the data collection and analysis process. These include issues such as data quality, incomplete responses, and the time and resources required for thorough analysis.

7. The seventh part provides recommendations for improving the overall effectiveness of the data collection and analysis process. This includes suggestions for enhancing survey design, training staff, and fostering a culture of data-driven decision-making.

8. The eighth part concludes the document by summarizing the key points and reiterating the commitment to continuous improvement and data-driven insights.

## PREFACE.

THE preparation of this Appreciation of the work of Edward Edwards, and the Digest of his evidence before the several Parliamentary Committees, has been a labour of love. It has entailed a great deal of work and much unproductive research, and has left behind a feeling of having hewn away a small mountain to make a hillock, but the hillock was well worth making. Such biographical details as it has been possible to glean have been included, but these are of a scanty character. I have endeavoured to keep the volume within a reasonable limit. Edwards' life was of a simple and ordinary nature, and its interest with the reading public rests on his being the chief pioneer of the public library movement, and with such of his writings as are likely to have a permanent character. No history of the second half of the nineteenth century would be complete without due notice being taken of public libraries, the people's universities, and these are the outcome to an important degree of Edwards' earnest work and abiding enthusiasm on behalf of these institutions. The principal materials for this record have been found in his private diaries, which extend, so far as they have been discovered, throughout the following years: 1844 to 1852, 1854 to 1858, 1860 to 1868, 1870, 1881, 1882 and 1884, making twenty-seven in all. In the Manchester Public Reference Library there are batches of