

**SYLLABUS FOR A COURSE OF
STUDY IN THE HISTORY OF THE
EVOLUTION OF THE LIBRARY
IN EUROPE AND AMERICA**

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Syllabus for a Course of Study in the History of the Evolution of the Library in Europe and America by Frances Simpson

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BY
FRANCES SIMPSON

THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LIBRARY
SCIENCE IN THE STATE LIBRARY SCHOOL
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRESENTED JUNE, 1903

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INTRODUCTION.

Although courses in the history of the library have been offered in other institutions and possibly along somewhat similar lines, no attempt has been made, so far as is known, to collect the materials at hand, correlate them with the social and historical development in each country, reduce this mass of data to the convenient form of a syllabus and place the result at the service of future students.

The motive which has prompted the writing of this syllabus, has been largely the desire to be of assistance to the students of the library school, by helping to lighten, to some extent, the labors of note-taking, always incidental to a course for which the text-book has not yet been evolved. The outline is therefore based upon a course of lectures presented to the senior class of the Illinois state library school during the academic years of 1901 and 1902, and is limited to those phases of an essentially comprehensive subject to which attention has been called during the progress of the course.

The work as planned is divided into twelve distinct lectures, though in practice it has been found profitable to subdivide certain of the longer lectures, as will be indicated in each case, making a course of fourteen weekly lectures, which with the necessary allowance of time for reviews and examination, has occupied exactly one academic semester.

To each outline is appended a list of authorities,

including both books and periodicals, though no attempt at further division has been made. Since the work it is hoped may be of use to the students in the Illinois state library school, and has therefore been planned with their needs in mind, these references have been compiled from such books and periodicals as are accessible in the library of the University of Illinois. It is the purpose of the compiler of this thesis to supplement it, in the near future, with a select annotated bibliography of the subject, which shall not be limited to the books of one library, but shall include at least the material available in a number of libraries in the Middle West; but until that aim shall have been realized, it is not impossible that the accompanying lists of authorities consulted may be found serviceable.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

URBANA, ILLINOIS, May 1, 1903.

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LECTURE 1

MATERIALS

UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY

I. What is a library?

Definition—A collection of written or printed literature, intended to be kept more or less permanently in one place (as distinguished from publishers' or retailers' stock).

II. Materials forming a library.

Books.

a. Definitions

1. Webster's—A collection of sheets of paper or similar material, blank, written, or printed, bound together; commonly, many folded and bound sheets containing continuous printing or writing.

To be criticised as too commercial.

2. Broad definition—Anything which is intended to preserve and transmit ideas.

3. Specific definition—A literary production of some bulk, as distinguished from a pamphlet; now applied particularly to a printed composition forming a volume.

III. Book materials.

1. The memory.

Poetry, the earliest literary form; rhythm or blank verse implied; not rhyme. Art of memorizing peculiar to priesthood; cultivated to a phenomenal degree and transmitted from father to son, thus intensifying capabilities. Hebrew

Scriptures, Vedas, Homeric poems probably thus preserved, until invention of alphabet, and retained subsequently for many generations.

2. Rocks, stone, horn, mammoth's teeth and other hard, smooth substance. Outline of animals, such as reindeer, ibex, fishes, by means of a sharp flint upon smooth surfaces presented by horn or stone form earliest type of written literature as well as art. Careful execution shows this art to have been practiced for many generations. Rock records often of great size, filling entire façade of a temple. Common in Upper Egypt; Karnak; or in Assyria, Behistan inscription of Darius Hystaspes. Records often very minute, as in Egyptian seals, requiring magnifying glass.
3. Hard surfaces prepared artificially where natural hard surfaces could not conveniently be used; clay tablets and picks used by Assyrians; lead tablets, and those of other metals, used by Greeks and Romans.
4. Wooden tablets, either left plain for scratching, as found among northern Europeans, or covered with wax coating for temporary records, as used by Romans for memoranda, letters, etc.
5. Bamboo bark sheets used by Chinese, and birch bark by Indians of North America.
6. Parchment—the specially prepared skin of calves, sheep and goats; in its finest form called *velum*. A favorite material of great antiquity, its popularity lasting through the middle ages, and still used for records of special nature and for binding purposes.