



The New York Public Library
New York Public Library Archives

Guide to the

Readers' Adviser records

1932-1970

MssArc 5684

Compiled by Jim Moske; machine readable finding aid created by FAKER.

Summary

Creator: New York Public Library. Readers' Adviser

Title: Readers' Adviser records

Date: 1932-1970

Size: .33 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Transferred from Office of Branch Libraries.

Abstract: Book lists, annual reports, brochures and miscellaneous administrative files documenting activity of Readers' Adviser program of The New York Public Library from 1932-1970.

Access: Advance notice required.

Physical Location: RG 8

Preferred citation: Readers' Adviser Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Language of the Material: English

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Creator History

The New York Public Library created the position of Readers' Adviser in March 1929. Jennie Maas Flexner (1882-1944) was the first head of the department, which assisted adult readers pursuing self-education. The Readers' Adviser produced bibliographies for Library patrons, counseled individuals on the selection of reading matter, and in later years functioned as a clearinghouse for adult education information. During Flexner's tenure, the service expanded from a single office to a corps of librarians working under her direction in numerous branch libraries. Flexner's salary was paid primarily by the NYPL Reference Department, with a small supplement provided by the Circulation Department. The Circulation Department paid the salaries of clerical staff. In January 1948, the Readers' Adviser began

reporting to the Circulation Department's Office of Adult Services. The department edited *Branch Library Book News* from 1954-1962. For a period of time during the 1960s the Reader's Adviser was a department within the Central Circulation branch. In January 1971, the department moved to the new Mid-Manhattan building. In 1981 the Readers' Adviser became a part of Advisory Services based at the Mid-Manhattan Branch Library.

The following individuals held the position of Readers' Adviser: Jennie Maas Flexner (1929-1944), Beatrice Libaire (1944-1946), Robert Kingery (1946-1947), Mildred Mathews (1948-1953), Leona Durkes (1953), Harry S. Weeks (1954-1955), Mary C. Hatch (1956-1962), Robert Sheehan (1963-1967), Adele Greenberg (1981-1989).

Scope and Content Note

Records consist of printed book lists, annual reports, brochures and miscellaneous administrative files.

Key Terms

Subjects

Libraries -- New York (State) -- New York
Public libraries -- New York (State) -- New York
Readers' advisory services -- United States

Names

New York Public Library. Readers' Adviser
Flexner, Jennie M. (Jennie Maas), 1882-1944

Container List

Readers' Adviser Records 1932-1970

- b. 1 f. 1 Annual Reports 1952-1953
- b. 1 f. 2 The Book That Leads You On 1932
- b. 1 f. 3 Books Are Basic 1956
- b. 1 f. 4 Brochures 1937-1955, n.d.
- b. 1 f. 5 Deets, Lee Emerson. "Towards Clarification of the Concept 'Small Group'"
n.d.
- b. 1 f. 6 Flight 1953
- b. 1 f. 7 Floor Plan - Astor Hall 1964
- b. 1 f. 8 For Tired Eyes: Books and Records 1961
- b. 1 f. 9 Friday Films 1954
- b. 1 f. 10 Interpreting the United States 1947
- b. 1 f. 11 Library's Service to Labor n.d.
- b. 1 f. 12 One Hundred Books n.d.
- b. 1 f. 13 Public Relations for Libraries ca. 1966
- b. 1 f. 14 Publicity n.d.
- b. 1 f. 15 Publicity - Jennie Flexner n.d.
- b. 1 f. 16 Read-Think-Discuss 1955-1957
- b. 1 f. 17 Readers' Advisers at Work - Jennie Flexner and B. Hopkins 1941
- b. 1 f. 18 Requests for Reading Lists for Group Use n.d.
- b. 1 f. 19 Requests for Individual Reading Course n.d.
- b. 1 f. 20 Significant Modern Books 1969-1970
- b. 1 f. 21 Suggested Reading List, WNDT-13 television n.d.