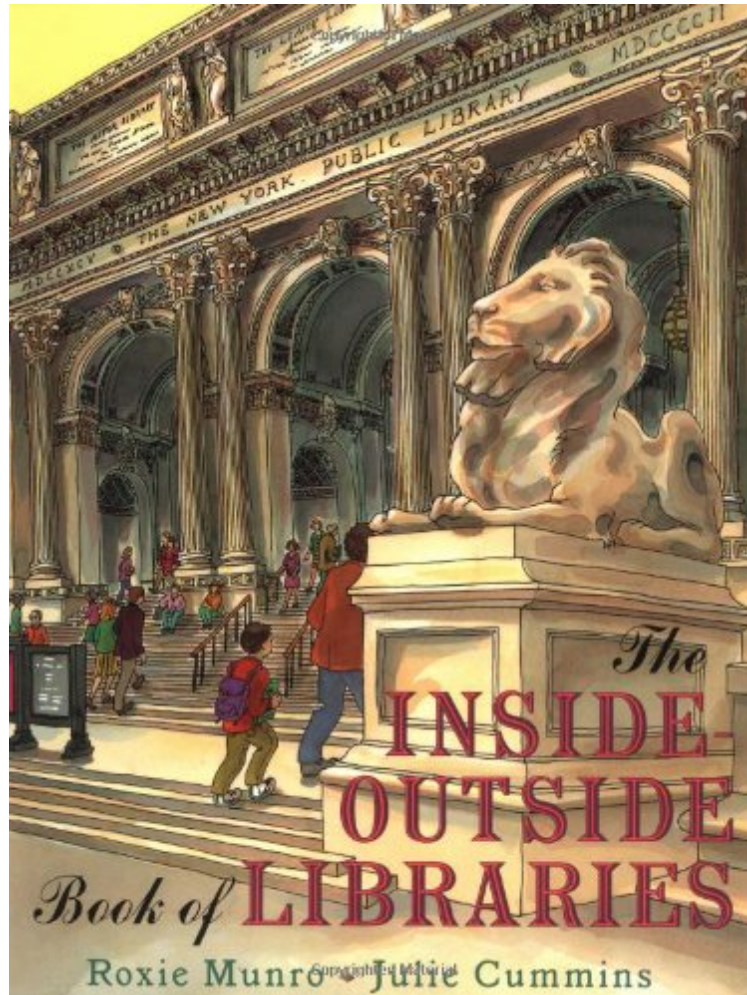


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The Inside-Outside Book of Libraries

Julie Cummins

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Julie Cummins : The Inside-Outside Book of Libraries before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Inside-Outside Book of Libraries:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Buyer bewareBy wdhsPgThe sample pages include a picture of the main reading room of the New York Public Library that is absent from the copy of the book I received. That picture was the main reason I ordered the book in the first place. Now I see that the sample pages are from the hardbound edition, and I ordered the paperback. Why it should have been excluded I cannot imagine. A great disappointment. Buyer beware.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Every Kind Of Library ImaginableBy AlisonI found this book when I was planning to introduce my students to the local public library. Reading through it, I was surprised at how many forms a library can take and how many different groups it can serve. I think this book is just as interesting for us adults as it is for kids. The illustrations are wonderfully colorful and detailed.2 of 2 people found the

following review helpful. Types of libraries By Michael S Roberts This book gives the read pause for thought at the possibilities of the wide differences in types of libraries that are in existence in the United States. Have you ever been to a tool library?

A comprehensive look at libraries, the purposes they serve, and their history demonstrates the various types of libraries, from the vast Library of Congress to a personal library at home, and offers predictions about the future of libraries.

From Publishers Weekly Munro adds to her Inside-Outside series with this portfolio of libraries located throughout this country, lavishing on each her customary affection for architectural details. Two spreads are devoted to each site; the first shows the building's exterior, the second provides a bustling, often brightly hued look at the interior of the library and its patrons. The choices here are imaginative: the tiny one-room library on Ocracoke Island, N.C.; the library tucked below the flight deck on the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln; and the library in California's Folsom prison. Other selections expand popular perceptions of libraries: there's a lending "library" that circulates tools instead of books; and the Internet, "a library without walls." Cummins, the coordinator of children's services for the New York Public Library, throws in intriguing nuggets (e.g., the collection at the Library of Congress grows at the rate of 10 new volumes each minute), but she often writes as if she were addressing other librarians, not children: "The value of a library is measured not by floor space or number of books but by its usefulness to the community it serves." The volume boasts one particularly neat element: a segment about New York City's Andrew Heiskell Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped includes a close-up page of a braille book?complete with the raised dots. All ages. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Grade 1-4? From the cover's imposing view of one of the New York Public Library's lion guardians to the picture of a small table of books in a child's room, this title covers a vast array of libraries whose holdings, regardless of their size, open up whole new worlds for their users. Thirteen very different U.S. libraries are explored, most in a double-page spread that introduces the architectural exterior of the building, followed by another two-page illustration highlighting its interior features. The concise text explains the major facets of each facility that distinguish it from other types; often fascinating facts are included. For example, Cummins explains how the Library of Congress's collection grows "at the rate of ten new items per minute." She tells of "down home" libraries, such as the one-room facility on Ocracoke Island, NC, and explains that the World Wide Web connects library patrons across continents. This book will appeal to an older audience than Gail Gibbons's *Check It Out!* (Harcourt, 1985) or Anne Rockwell's *I Like the Library* (Dutton, 1977; o.p.). Cummins's text flows smoothly and is easy to comprehend, and the vast array of facilities discussed will add greatly to children's understanding of the concept of library services. Munro's excellent watercolor illustrations are extremely detailed and reveal an incredible sense of each architectural space. Her paintings are colorful and bright, and the patrons with which she peoples each library represent a balance of genders, races, and ethnic backgrounds. An excellent portrayal of libraries as the important and exciting places that they are.? Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan, LaSalle Academy, Providence, RI Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Ages 6^9. Instead of discussing generic school media centers and public libraries, this large-format volume offers a tour of specific American libraries with a wide variety of interesting stops: in New York City, the Chatham Square Library in Chinatown, the Explorers Club library, and the Andrew Heiskell Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; the tiny public library on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina; the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.; the library aboard the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln; in California, the Folsom State Prison Library and the Berkeley Public Library Tool Lending Library; the Meadows Elementary School Library in Plano, Texas; the Internet as "a library without walls" ; and home libraries in houses, apartments, and trailers. Illustrating the clearly written text, Munro's attractive, large ink-and-watercolor-wash pictures bring the varied settings to life; the dust-jacket art, featuring that New York Public Library lion, will draw readers in. Well suited to classroom use, this book provides a lively, colorful introduction to libraries. Carolyn Phelan