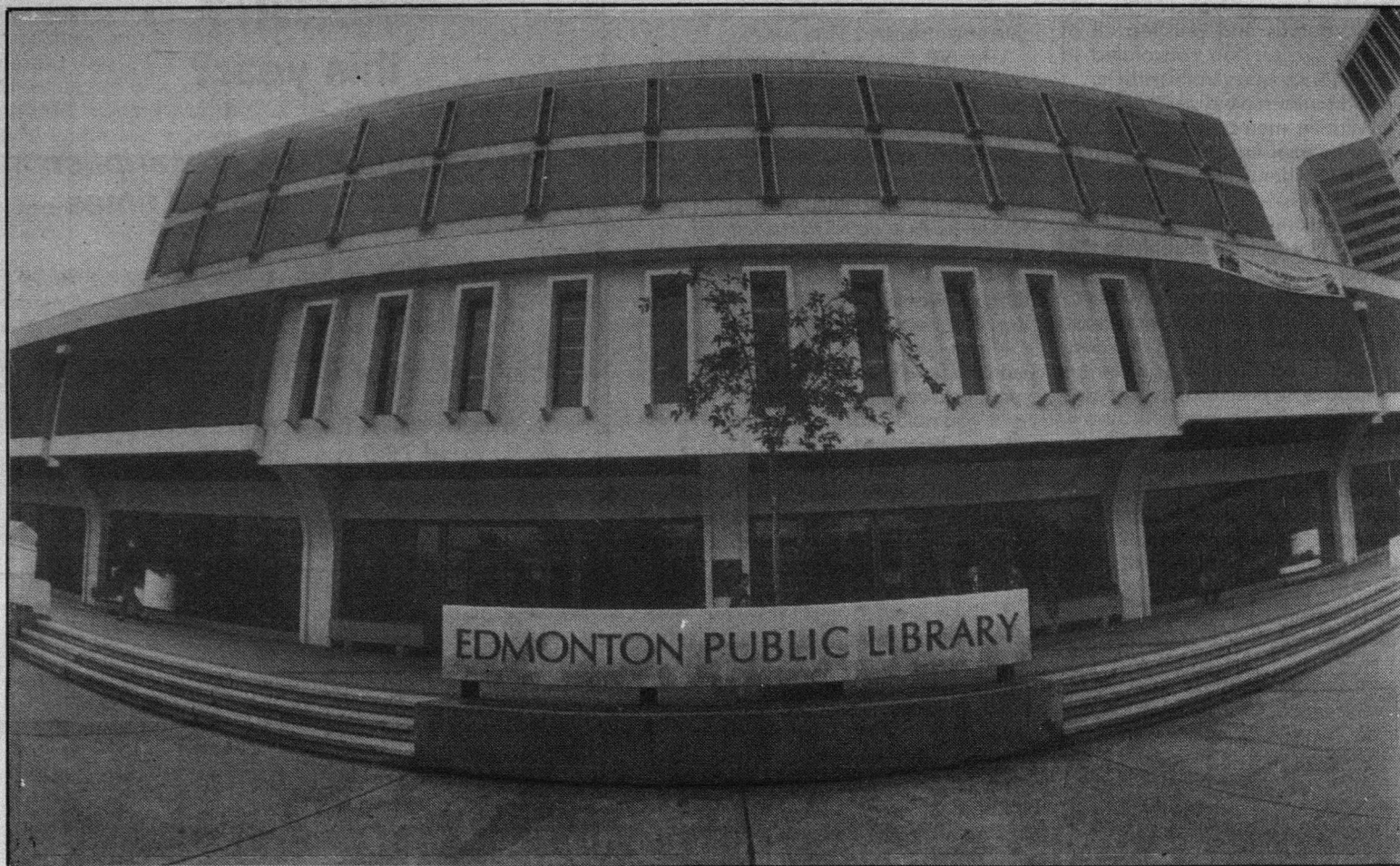


# An overdue look into



its resemblance to a small town library may be temporary relief to the occasional bout of bigcityitis.

While discussing the library branches, it should be noted that not all the branches are created equal. For whatever reasons, be they financial or otherwise, certain branches are more impressive than others. The Downtown Main branch is obviously the most luxurious of the facilities and its materials reflect this; the records at the main branch are, by far, in the best condition. The Strathcona branch is also quite satisfactory in this regard; at the same time, the Southgate location should be avoided at all costs — messy, messy.

Before one can use the public library to its full potential, a library card must be acquired. The obtaining of a library card is really a simple process. If you are a permanent resident of Edmonton, all you have to do is to go down to the location most convenient to you and apply for your card. If you have only just moved to the city you must produce your home address, as well as proof of your Edmonton residency — two addressed letters is sufficient. Also take along your student ID card. Library privileges can be suspended for the usual reasons — excessive fines and abuse of the library system.

"We (the Edmonton Public Library) have to serve everyone"; states Howard Saunders, Head of Branch Services, "students are just a portion of our public". When using the Edmonton Public Library, keep those words in mind. Unlike the university's system which is here for and because of students, the EPL has to serve all of the people of Edmonton. However, if one uses the facilities with respect and some intelligence, its potential uses are limitless. The public library system should be used by all students attending the University to supplement and complement the University's system and thereby insuring that they are receiving the best education, and entertainment, possible.

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To the casual observer it could appear that books are taking a backseat to iguanas and videodiscs at the Edmonton Public Library. Libraries have evolved from simple book lenders to multi-faceted communication centers.

The Edmonton Public Library offers books, videodiscs, record albums, information services and special presentations. The diligent student, with a little bit of foresight, will discover that the library can effectively supplement the University of Alberta's library system and provide a steady source of free entertainment. For example, what happens if that absolutely essential text for your history essay is already borrowed from the university library system?

You might think of looking for that text, or any other book on a required or suggested reading list, at the Edmonton Public Library. The advantage in using the EPL to compliment the university's system are numerous: for one, the three week loan period.

The Edmonton Public Library works with a three week loan period system, with no possibility of having the book recalled; the university's library system works on a one or two week loan period with the threat of the book being recalled if someone else requests it.

Also, while the university has a great selection of books, there is the chance that they may not have a copy of the book you are looking for. If this is the case, contact the public library as there is a good chance they may have a copy of it.

The EPL offers an intricate HOLD system for its users. A hold may be placed on any material in the system (book, record, videodisc) and that piece can be transferred to the branch most convenient to you. Normally, a book or album can be located and ready for you in just a

couple of days.

For students on tight budgets (and who isn't) the library's audio-visual department can be a welcome budget stretcher; its recreational benefits are almost limitless. The library has an immense collection of audio recordings (records) for its members' use. All the musical fields are covered: rock, classical, blues, folk, reggae, jazz, international, film and show soundtracks, spoken word, soul and vocal. The records may be loaned for a week, are free and as such are an inexpensive recreational tool for the student. It should be mentioned that the audio-visual department has attempted to acquire a large selection of foreign pop albums, notably from Hong Kong and India, which may be enjoyable to the many foreign students on campus.

The main branch also has an absolutely huge selection of children's records. Like all the library's records, the children's records may be borrowed for a week, ample time for the kids to get their fill of the latest Sharon, Lois, and Bram album.

Another feature of the A-V division is the library's large selection of videodiscs. Also free to the member, the selection ranges from the Halloween series to *Rebel Without a Cause*; unfortunately, there are no Barbara Stanwyck movies available. With videodisc machines available from the library at only \$10 a day (book weeks in advance, if possible), the library is much cheaper than commercial rental outlets.

The audio-visual department also houses 8mm and 16mm movies (and their projectors) of both entertainment features and educational films. Student teachers may consider the library's selection when attempting to locate films to supplement their in class instruction.

The downtown library has a large children's facility featuring literature, project, and Flash the Iguana. Predominating over the arts and crafts displays is an impressive selection of works designed for your children in English, French and other languages. Elementary education students may find a stroll through the library beneficial to their development as educators. Interspersed among the usual library apparatus is Flash the Iguana, a few rabbits and a dove. The children's library should be used by all children to insure their full educational development.

While the kids are browsing through the children's library, Mom and Dad may wish to indulge in the library's selection of magazines and newspapers. At the downtown branch there are over 2000 current publications in stock from around the world. So, whether you wish to read the *Winnipeg Free Press* or *Sounds*, free of charge, the library is recommended.

The reference area of the library is quite complete and may be helpful to students on certain papers. It features a complete selection of government pamphlets from the federal (Canada), provincial (Alberta) and municipal (Edmonton) levels. Also available to the student (and everyone else) is extensive travel and consumer information, as well as their largest telephone directory in the city; it is invaluable for locating addresses.

The library has a large selection of dictionaries and encyclopedias in several languages and these should not be overlooked when writing serious, big time papers. The reference area may appear confusing at first and it may be recommended that the staff be consulted to achieve maximum use of the area.

The Edmonton Public Library is almost always presenting some type

of program or series for the public's entertainment. The main branch offered several children's programs during the summer and will continue to do so in the fall. According to Maureen Crawford, Assistant Supervisor of Community Programs, the library will offer an evening children's series beginning on September 21. On this evening the library will present mime David Cassell. "Bullfrogs and Bubblegum" is geared for children's enjoyment, however mime enthusiasts of all ages are encouraged to attend, says Crawford. For further information and upcoming events, contact Maureen Crawford at 423-2331.

Other fall programs are still in the planning stages, Crawford says, but a film series of some type can probably be expected. The Community Programs division of the library have divorce, marriage and bereavement information. One session that may be helpful to some students is entitled "How to Build a Healthy Relationship". For details on this year's possible sessions, again contact Maureen Crawford.

In addition to the main library branch downtown there are numerous branches throughout the city. The library branch most convenient to the university area is presently closed. The Strathcona Library, located at 84 Ave. and 104 St., has been closed for much of the summer and will hopefully reopen in November. The Strathcona branch building is currently being renovated, being returned to its glory of the early twentieth century.

Once reopened the library will be more comfortable to visit (cool in summer, warm in winter). In addition to better climate control in the building, the library will have two functional floors, with the basement being activated. The Strathcona Library has a very warm and inviting atmosphere about it;