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.


Physical Location: RG 8

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

Language of the Material: English

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

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.


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. 21  Suggested Reading List, WNDT-13 television n.d.