

# Read. Return. Repeat.

A Wichita Public Library Podcast

## Show Notes

### **Season 6 Episode 1:** **Ask Us Anything, We're Librarians**

March 20th, 2026



### **In this episode**

In this episode, podcast host Daniel Pewewardy is joined by new co-host Jenny Durham to kick off Season 6 of the Read Return Repeat podcast. They talk a little about the history of public libraries, how they became librarians and answer audience questions about the work they do behind the scenes.

### **Corrections and updates for this episode**

- Although Andrew Carnegie did have business interests within the oil and railroad industries, he is best known for being a pioneer of the steel industry and the founder of the largest steel production company of his time, Carnegie Steel. ([Source: Carnegie.org](https://www.carnegie.org))
  - Wichita received money to build a Carnegie Library in 1912; construction of the building began in 1913, and the library building opened in 1915. ([Source: Wichitacarnegie.com](https://www.wichitacarnegie.com))
  - Wichita would not have been 12 years old in 1876. The city was founded in 1868 and incorporated in 1870, so it would have been at most 8 years old. ([Source: Wichitachamber.org](https://www.wichitachamber.org))
  - The Central Library building that was located at 223 S. Main Street opened in 1967, not 1962. ([Source: Wichitalibraryfriends.org](https://www.wichitalibraryfriends.org))
  - The inter-state library lending program in Michigan that Jenny references, a program called MichiCard, was discontinued in December 2013. ([Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MichiCard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MichiCard))
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## Topics discussed in this episode (with timestamps)

- New podcast season, new(ish) show format 0:28
- History of Public Libraries in the United States 2:20
- Evolution of librarianship as a profession 7:20
- Andrew Carnegie's contribution to the development of libraries 12:00
- Wichita's library history 15:52
- The Melvil Dewey controversy 20:00
- Public library structures and funding 23:45
- Sharing our favorite library memories 24:50
- Library tourism (other libraries we've been to) 28:20
- Library and librarian stereotypes 30:40
- We answer viewer questions about libraries/library work 34:30
- What we're reading right now 55:00

## Books, authors, films & other media mentioned in this episode

- *Disorderlies* (1987 film featuring rap group The Fat Boys)
- *Sudden Death* by Álvaro Enrigue
- *Absolute Batman* (graphic novel series) by Scott Snyder
- *East of West* (graphic novel series) by Jonathan Hickman
- *Manhattan Project* (graphic novel series) by Jonathan Hickman and Nick Pitarra

## Relevant links to topics mentioned in this episode

[Digital Public Library of America: A History of U.S. Public Libraries](#)

[American Libraries: "Bringing Harassment Out of the History Books: Addressing the Troubling Aspects of Melvil Dewey's Legacy" \(July 23, 2025\)](#)

[NPR: "How Andrew Carnegie Turned His Fortune into a Library Legacy" \(August 1, 2013\)](#)

[Boston Public Library](#)

[Denver Public Library](#)

[Detroit Public Library](#)

[NYPL](#)

[Chicago Public Library](#)

[National Library of Medicine: "Wikipedia: Why is the Common Knowledge Resource Still Neglected by Academics?" \(December 3, 2019\)](#)

[Link to episode transcript](#)

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**Credits**

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*Read Return Repeat* is a production of the Wichita Public Library. For links to past episodes, show notes and more, visit [wichitalibrary.org/podcast](http://wichitalibrary.org/podcast).