

A library in a community of 25,000 may have 11,000 square feet, with studying or reading space for 150 people, a meeting room for a group of approximately 100, shelving for 65,000 volumes, periodical racks, facilities for listening to records, pamphlet files, circulation desk with book charger and other equipment, a children's room, staff workroom with special equipment, and restrooms.

A library system serving 300,000 people probably will be based on a central library seating about 300. This central library may have a number of special departments, including science and technology, reference, fine arts, history and biography, and special collections and reading space for children and young adults. Other units in this library are: a technical processing area with special equipment, a separate record listening room, an audiovisual room and equipment, and auditorium and multipurpose room seating 200, staff and restrooms. The extension department will include about five branch libraries and one or more bookmobiles, each with a complement of shelves, books, and other facilities. Total floor area of the system will be about 120,000 square feet.

(b) *Standards for Public Library Construction*

A number of general standards or suggestions for public library buildings appear in the American Library Association's *Public Library Service . . . and Interim Standards for Small Public Libraries*.¹ Table 1 presents suggested specific criteria developed for the association for smaller communities of various sizes. Data in table 2, which are for a wider range of community size, are labeled "experience formulas" because these were developed by the authors on the basis of data collected from an actual sample of libraries.

In 1965, local public libraries occupied an estimated 55 million square feet of space and State library extension agencies about 1.5 million square feet. Local public libraries, however, reported needs for the addition of about 40 million square feet at an estimated cost of approximately \$1 billion.

¹ American Library Association, *Public Library Service, A Guide to Evaluation, with Minimum Standards*. Chicago, The Association, 1956. *Interim Standards for Small Public Libraries: Guidelines Toward Achieving the Goals of Public Library Service*. Chicago, The Association, 1962.