



Filed under: N - Fine Art

Patrick McGee and Adelheid Mers:

We are artists who like to read widely. We have worked together on public art commissions, including artwork at the Millennium Park Welcome Center, and we also work independently. Inspired in part by our extensive collection of technical, architectural, human, animal and other drafting templates, we designed 14, translucent, plexiglas pictogram plates for the Richard M. Daley library.

Laser cut into the material are silhouetted words, shapes and pictograms that playfully refer to broadly selected categories from the Library of Congress Classification system that is in use in Chicago Public Libraries.

Some shapes are fully cut out and removed, others merely etched into the Plexiglas, depending on the complexity of the image.

The colors we selected for this project represent the spectrum of visible light: Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet - starting warm over the more sheltered entrance at the south end of the building, moving to cool on the north side with its large, open window. Adjacent panels share a color and present images from two subclasses of one major class. Most panels show two groups of images that can be read from opposite sides.

The result is a floating sea of overhead images, imaginatively yet unobtrusively warming up the cool, highly gridded space of the library, while at the same time referring to some of the content of the many available materials, the way in which they are ordered, and how they can be accessed, in books and on glowing screens.

Filed under: J - Political Science or C - Auxiliary Sciences of History

Richard Michael Daley served as the 43rd Mayor of Chicago, Illinois from 1989 to 2011. Daley was elected mayor in 1989 and was re-elected five times. At 22 years, he was the longest-serving Chicago mayor, surpassing the tenure of his father, Richard J. Daley, who served as the Mayor of Chicago for a total of 21 years, from 1955–1976.

The artwork in the Richard M. Daley library was created by Patrick McGee and Adelheid Mers. It was inspired by the Library of Congress Classification System and is called **Spectrum of Knowledge.**

Filed under: Q - Science and L - Education

The Spectrum of Visible Light serves as a metaphor for solidarity and mutual respect. We are drawing on it here to also represent the spectrum of knowledge. People know different things, and they also know things differently. A library is the perfect place to think about that.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION OUTLINE
MAIN CLASSES

- A GENERAL WORKS
- B PHILOSOPHY. PSYCHOLOGY. RELIGION
- C AUXILIARY SCIENCES OF HISTORY
- D WORLD HISTORY AND HISTORY OF EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, ETC.
- E HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS
- F HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS
- G GEOGRAPHY. ANTHROPOLOGY. RECREATION
- H SOCIAL SCIENCES
- J POLITICAL SCIENCE
- K LAW
- L EDUCATION
- M MUSIC AND BOOKS ON MUSIC
- N FINE ARTS
- P LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
- Q SCIENCE
- R MEDICINE
- S AGRICULTURE
- T TECHNOLOGY
- U MILITARY SCIENCE
- V NAVAL SCIENCE
- Z BIBLIOGRAPHY. , LIBRARY SCIENCE
INFORMATION
RESOURCES (GENERAL)

The Library of Congress was established by an act of Congress in 1800 when President John Adams signed a bill providing for the transfer of the seat of government from Philadelphia to the new capital city of Washington.

The Library of Congress is now the largest library in the world. Its collection of more than 158 million items includes more than 36 million cataloged books and other print materials in 460 languages; more than 69 million manuscripts; the largest rare book collection in North America; and the world's largest collection of legal materials, films, maps, sheet music and sound recordings.

Books in a library are arranged according to a book's primary subject. Each book has a unique call number used to locate it on the shelf. You can also explore the Library online from wherever you are.

<https://www.loc.gov>

