

AC 71
Warren Library
Records, n.d., 1929-2012

Accession No. 2013-1

0.5 c.f. plus 17 oversize posters (3 boxes)

Acquisition: The materials were transferred to the MGH Archives by Maureen Larkin in 2013.

Processed by: Jeannie Casey, 2017

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Agency History

The Warren Library was the recreational library for patients (and later also employees) of the Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1823, Dr. John Collins Warren purchased the Library's first books with a \$50 donation he received. In 1841, he established the Warren Fund with \$1,000 to purchase books on religion and other moral subjects. To heal the body, he said, one must also heal the mind. The Library began by gifting books to patients, but in 1892 became a lending facility. Members of the Ladies Visiting Committee were the first official library volunteers and in 1881, began purchasing books for the library.

The Library began in the Matron's Room of the hospital and then moved in 1888 to the front office. Later locations included the portico of the Bulfinch Building and the Clinics Building. Starting in 1910, a rolling book cart system was also put in place. The final move for the library was to the Bulfinch Basement in 1926. Circulation reached its peak in the 1940s. In 2012, the Library closed for good, continuing to operate as a mobile cart run by the Volunteer Services.

Related Collections Note:

Researchers will also want to see relevant folders in the Subjects Files at the MGH Archives:

Warren Library Annuals Reports

Warren Library--Bills

Warren Library Fund and History

Contents List:

Box 1

Artifacts – Library Ink Stamps, n.d.

Books, 1929-2012

American Library Assoc. – Classification 1934

Brown, Z. – *The Library Key*, 1929

Mason, MF – *The Patients' Library*, 1942

Warren Library Closing – Visitors' Log, 2012

Articles and Pamphlets, n.d., 1931-1977

American Library Assoc. – Glossary of Library Terms, 1969

Bacon, Asa – Library Service in Hospitals, 1931

Blackshear, O. – Building and Maintaining the Small Library Collection, 1966

Deering, MJ – Transcribing Without Tears – Guide to Transcribing and Editing
Oral History Interviews, 1976

MGH Service League Bulletin – Spring, 1977

Moshier, LM – Organizing the Library's Book Collection, 1966

Report of the Committee on Hospital Library Architecture of the United Hospital
Fund of NY – Planning the Hospital Library, 1958

Shubert, JF – Organizing for Good Library Service, 1966

Sturdy Hospital Library - *Boston News*, Jan. 1931

US Civil Service Commission – How the Hospital Library Helps the Sick
Veteran, n.d.

Warren Library Correspondence, 1932-1979

Surveys, Forms and Exams, n.d., 1974-1979

Miscellaneous, n.d.

Foreign Book List, n.d.

Library Uses Chart, n.d.

Useful Information, n.d.

Historical Notes, n.d.

Martell Memorial, n.d.

Circulation Data, n.d.

Eyewitness Account of Library, n.d.

Box 2 & 3

17 foamcore posters for display at the Warren Library Closing Celebration, September 27, 2012