HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OUTLINE

Predecessors of the American Public Library

1. Private Collections

2. Academic Libraries

   Harvard, 1638

   College of William & Mary, 1693

   Yale, 1701

3. Parish Libraries

   Thomas Bray, 1656-1730

   Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge

4. Social Libraries

   Franklin's Philadelphia Library Company, 1731

   Subscription libraries

   Proprietary libraries

   Boston Athenaeum, 1807

5. Growth of Social Libraries
6. Decline of Social Libraries

7. Contributions of Social Libraries

8. Mercantile and Apprentice Libraries

9. Circulating or Lending Libraries

10. School Libraries

11. Public Libraries
    Caleb Bingham, Salisbury, Ct., 1803
    Lexington, MA, 1827
    Peterborough, NH, 1833
    Boston Public Library, 1854