



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Carnegie Corporation of New York correspondence**

1895-1943 [bulk 1901-1912]

MssCol 475

Compiled by Richard Salvato, 1985. Revised by Susan M. Kline, 2016.

## Summary

**Creator:** Carnegie Corporation of New York

**Title:** Carnegie Corporation of New York correspondence

**Date:** 1895-1943 [bulk 1901-1912]

**Size:** .21 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** City of New York via the Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1951

**Abstract:** The Carnegie Corporation was founded in 1911 by Andrew Carnegie to continue his philanthropic work after his death. In 1901 Carnegie offered the City of New York 5.2 million dollars to establish a branch library system. The collection consists of correspondence that chronicles the creation of these circulating libraries. The bulk of the letters dated 1901-1912 were sent to Andrew Carnegie by John Shaw Billings, Director of the New York Public Library. The correspondence discusses the Carnegie gift, cost estimates and specific sites for branches, library needs, and plans to finance ongoing library operations. Other correspondence pertains to branch libraries in Brooklyn and Queens including letters relating to the proposed merger of the Brooklyn Library and the Brooklyn Public Library.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** Carnegie Corporation of New York correspondence, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

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## Key Terms

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

### Subjects

Endowments

Libraries -- New York (State) -- New York

Library buildings -- New York (State) -- New York

Public libraries -- New York (State) -- New York

**Geographic Names**

New York (N.Y.)

**Occupations**

Philanthropists

**Names**

Billings, John S. (John Shaw), 1838-1913

Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919

Brooklyn Public Library

New York Public Library

Queens Borough Public Library

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 1895-1900  
Chiefly requests for funds from the Free Circulating Library (New York City), the Boys Free Reading Room of the Loyal Legion Temperance Society in Pennsylvania, and news clippings about the founding of the New York Public Library.
- b. 1 f. 2 1901
- b. 1 f. 3 1902-1911
- b. 1 f. 4 1912-1943  
Chiefly correspondence regarding libraries in Queens
- b. 1 f. 5 1901-1920  
Correspondence regarding libraries in Brooklyn