

## **Librarians VI: Shein, Urban, and Alrutz Administrations (1972-1988)**



Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center  
The Newark Public Library  
5 Washington Street, PO Box 630, Newark, New Jersey 07101-0630  
Phone: (973) 733-7775; Email: [njreference@npl.org](mailto:njreference@npl.org)  
URL: <http://www.npl.org/Pages/Collections/njic.html>

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**Location:** Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center  
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**Time Periods** 20th Century;  
**Language:** English  
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### **Restrictions on Access**

#### **Access Restrictions**

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#### **Preferred Citation**

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### **Scope and Content**

#### **Collection Description:**

In the 1970s and 1980s, the Newark Public Library was directed by three individuals: Bernard Shein (1972-1977), William Urban (1977-1979), and Thomas J. Alrutz (1979-1987). Their papers have been kept together in one record group.

Bernard Shein joined the staff of the Newark Public Library in 1930 while he was still an undergraduate student at Newark University (now Rutgers-Newark). After receiving his BLS from

Pratt and his MLS from Columbia, he became a professional librarian in 1942. He served as the principal librarian at the Springfield Branch before his promotion to assistant director in 1954. In 1958 he was named Deputy Director and Personnel Officer. Following the retirement of James E. "Ned" Bryan in 1972, he became the director and served until 1977. He was active in the New Jersey Library Association, the Newark Lions Club, and the Municipal Careermen of Newark.

William Urban, born in Trenton, attended Trinity College (BA) and Drexel University (MLS) in the 1930s, where he met his wife, Ruth. He began his professional career at the University of Pennsylvania's library, where his wife also worked. Both of them joined the staff of the Newark Public Library in 1947. Mrs. Urban served as the young adult librarian from 1948 until her retirement in 1969. Mr. Urban became the chief librarian of the Lending and Reference Department in 1962 and assistant director in 1972. He was appointed director in October 1977 and retired less than two years later in February 1979. He was known for his financial acumen; he served as the Treasurer for the New Jersey Library Association for a number of years.

Thomas J. Altrutz came to the Newark Public Library from the Fairfax (Virginia) Public Library in 1979. After his resignation in 1987, he was the chief librarian at the Mid-Manhattan Branch of the New York Public Library.

In addition to the above-mentioned individuals, John R. Abram and Charles F. Cummings served as Acting Directors in 1979 and 1987-88, respectively. Abram had joined the staff of the Newark Public Library in 1955 and had served as supervising library and chief librarian in the Lending and Reference Department. Cummings had joined the staff of the New Jersey Information Center in 1963, led that department for many years, and was the City Historian. After his service as Acting Director, Cummings became the Assistant Director for Special Collections and Statewide Outreach.

**Collection Contents:**

These working papers are arranged alphabetically for the most part. They cover relations with the American Library Association, the New Jersey Library Association, and other organizations; specialized library services and reports; public information; staff relations; and other topics relating to the operations of the Library.

**Container List:**

**Box**

<p><b>SUA1 (legal-size):</b></p>	<p>CHEN (Council on Higher Education in Newark) – ca.1970s                  Employee/Employer Relations – 1970s                  Grants – late 1970s – early 1980s                  Hansberry Series – 1987                  Inter-Library Services – 1980s                  Letters (correspondence) – ca. 1980s                  New Jersey Film Circuit – 1975-1970                  See also letter-size folder                  Newark (City of ) – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 1986                  Press Releases – 1982                  Public Relations – Correspondence – 1987                  Serials – 1980</p>
<p><b>SUA2 (letter-size):</b></p>	<p>American Library Association (ALA)                  and American Library Trustees Association (ALTA)                  ALA Midwinter – 1981                  ALA Annual – 1981                  ALA Midwinter – 1982                  ALA/PaLA Annual – 1982 (Pennsylvania Library Association)</p>

	ALA Midwinter – 1983 ALA/ALTA Annual – 1983
<b>SUA3</b>	ALA Midwinter – 1984 ALA/ALTA Annual – 1984 ALA Midwinter – 1985 ALA/ALTA Annual – 1985 ALA Midwinter – 1986
<b>SUA4:</b>	ALA/ALTA Annual – 1986 ALA Midwinter – 1987 ALA/ALTA Annual – 1987 ALA/ALTA Midwinter – 1988
<b>SUA5:</b>	ALA/ALTA Annual – 1988 ALA Memberships – 1980-1988 ALA/LAMA/PRS – 1984-1987 (Public Relations Services to State Library Agencies and Associations) Alabama Public Library Service – 1984 Re: speaking engagement for Thomas Altrutz ALTA/WILL Planning Committee – 1985-1986 ALTA/WILL Workshop – 1985
<b>SUA6:</b>	Awards – 1970s-1980s Board/Staff Retreat – 1986 Census Data Analysis -- 1980 City Hall Library – Acquisitions – 1970s-1980s Current Bibliography – 1982 Cutbacks – 1982 A Developing State Plan for Library Services – Report – 1979 Development of Library Networks – 1979-1980 Exhibit Studio – Reports – 1971-1974 Hispanics, Service to – 1980 See also Reports: R1979P, R1980L, R1980P Images and Identities: Puerto Rican in Literature – 1983
<b>SUA7:</b>	Insurance Forms (Exhibition Materials) – 1972-1976 Interim Library Network Review Board – 1985 Landmarks Preservation Committee – 1973-1977 Laser Counter – 1987 Memos to Staff – 1979 Memos to Staff – 1980
<b>SUA8:</b>	Memos to Staff – 1981 Micro Automated Catalog (Newark's MAC) – 1971-1982 New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) and New Jersey Library Trustees Association (NJLTA) NJLA – 1981 (Spring) NJLTA – 1981 (Spring) NJLA – 1981 (Fall) NJLA – 1982 (Spring) NJLA/NJLTA – 1982 (Spring) NJLA/NJLTA/EMA – 1982 (Fall) NJLA – 1983 (Spring) NJLTA – 1983 (Spring) NJLA/NJLTA – 1983 (Fall) NJLA/NJLTA – Trustees Orientation and Information – 1983 NJLA/NJLTA – 1984 (Spring) NJLTA – 1984 (Spring) NJLA/NJLTA – 1984 (Fall) NJLA/NJLTA – 1985 (Spring)

<b>SUA9:</b>	<p>New Jersey Library Film Circuit – 1980-1986                  See also legal-size folder                  New Jersey Library Network – 1984                  New Jersey Literary Hall of Fame – 1988                  New Jersey Network Brochure – 1972-1973                  New Jersey Network Protocol Committee – 1982-1983                  New Jersey Regional Medical Library – 1975-1977                  New Jersey State Historical Records Advisory Board – 1988                  New Jersey Statewide Union Catalog – 1981-1986                  New Jersey Television Archives – 1980-1987                  New Jersey Union List of Serials – 1981-1988</p>
<b>SUA10:</b>	<p>Newark Arts Council – 1980-1986                  Newark Board of Education – 1976                  Newark College of Engineering – 1973                  Newark Community TV Advisory Board – 1983-1986                  Newark Public Library – NPL Update – Notes and Issues – 1985-1986                  Newark State College (Union, NJ) – 1973                  Notary Public – Correspondence – 1985                  O’Fiherty Family Gift – 1985                  On the Jersey Side – Film Project – 1984-1986                  Optical Scanners for Libraries – 1980-1987                  Performance Measures Task Force – 1986                  Periodicals – 1979-1982                  Print Shop – 1971-1973</p>
<b>SUA11:</b>	<p>Public Information Office (4 folders)                  1980-1983, Jan.-June 1984, July-Dec. 1984, 1985</p>
<b>SUA 12:</b>	<p>Public Information Office – 1986-1987                  Public Library Development Program – 1987Reports:                  R1973P: The Public Library of Newark: A General Systems Planning Study by Robert E. Coughlin and Barbara Grennell (2 copies)                  R1979P: A Proposal to Increase the Spanish Language Collection by John R. Abram et al                  (see also Hispanics, Service to – 1980)                  R1980L: Library Services to the Spanish-Speaking in Newark by Gregoio Rivera, Jr.                  (see also Hispanics, Service to – 1980)                  R1980P: Profile of Spanish Organization in the the City of Newark by Mark Farell and Judy Burrett (see also Hispanics, Service to – 1980) (2 copies)                  Regional Plan Association (Choices for '76) – 1973                  Research Libraries – 1976-1985</p>
<b>SUA13:</b>	<p>Slide Show – ca.1980s                  Special Library Association – 1980-1987                  Special Police Officer – 1986                  Staff Automation Committee – 1986                  Staff Committees – 1968-1987                  Staff – Hospitalization – 1972-1974                  Staff Lunch Room – 1987                  Suburban Cablevision Studio – 1980s                  Summer Reading List – 1983-1984</p>