Outline

• (1) stereotype of old spinster female librarian: hair in bun, eye glasses, conservative dress, as professional "shusher"
  
  *a) Saturn commercial
  
  b) Ghostbusters

• (2) Librarian as humilitator, bully, and intimidator, embarrassing library patrons
  
  *a) Sophies Choice
  
  b) Seinfeld Bookman episode
  
  c) Party Girl and Conan the Librarian

• (3) More Positive images: Detective Sleuthing
  
  *(a) Eco's The Name of the Rose
  
  (b) Homicide
  
  (c) The Matchmaker
  
  (d) Buffy the Vampire Slayer
  
  *(e) Wings of Desire

• (4) Censorship of Books and Critique of Jewish intellectualism
  
  *(a) Book Thief
  
  (b) Fahrenheit 451
  
  (c) The Footnote
Ghostbusters library card catalog
Sophie’s Choice

https://reel-librarians.com/tag/sophies-choice/
Seinfeld episode Mr. Bookman
“Strange. Let us say rumors about a monk who decided to venture into the library during the night, to look for something, Malachi (The librarian) had refused to give him, and he saw serpents, headless men, and men with two heads. He was nearly crazy when he emerged from the labyrinth.”
The Name of the Rose
Homicide

https://reel-librarians.com/2012/04/24/homicide-mamet/
The Matchmaker
Buffy the Vampire Slayer and The Breakfast Club
Wings of Desire
Fahrenheit 451


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The Footnote
Conclusion

• The purpose of this study into the images of libraries and librarians in film and literature is not to suggest there is validity to these stereotypical representations. Rather we merely point out and note these negative images based on ignorance of what librarians really do and contribute to their institutions. We do not mean to suggest that any individual libraries or librarians have any of the characteristics attributed to them by the stereotypes.

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Conclusion continued

- Rather the goal is to deconstruct these simplistic reductions into stereotypes to point out the complexity of classifying any particular type of profession or individual which is always a limiting of their freedom and acknowledgment of the dynamic of change and development of the complexity of human beings.

- More study and investigation of the grounds from which the stereotypes of libraries and librarians springs is needed. Such research will undoubtedly reveal that these negative images arise because what librarians do and the purpose of libraries is not understood fully by the general public and even administrators at libraries.

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• further library education not only in being proficient in library science skills but better appreciating the value added by librarians and the existence of libraries for the overall mission of any academic or educational institution. The fact that intellectuals like Umberto Eco and Louis Borges would center their creative works around the mystery of the library lends credit to the respect for which libraries and librarians should be awarded. If there were only more patrons like Borges and Eco!