

Areawide Library Plan



Municipality of Anchorage

AREAWIDE LIBRARY PLAN

Adopted

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Prepared by:

Municipality of Anchorage

COMMUNITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Anchorage Municipal Libraries nurture learning, personal growth, and the enjoyment of life, providing enrichment and vision for the entire community and all of Southcentral Alaska. The library system serves over half of Alaska's population, one which is steadily growing and changing in character with expanding economic and cultural diversity. Anchorage recognizes that the library system's promise for the quality of life in twenty-first century Alaska must not be compromised, and that thoughtful, informed, and clear-sighted planning is necessary to achieve that promise.

The following Library Plan establishes objectives for the orderly development of a network of services which will grow appropriately with the community and region. The plan focuses on the central coordinating role of the Z.J. Loussac Headquarters Library, but also emphasizes library branches at optimal locations throughout the community. The system development envisaged by this plan is realistic: it incorporates a recognition of budgetary constraints with an awareness of changing community and regional requirements.

Directions set for the development of the library system should not be viewed as an unchanging course, but as guidelines responsive to creative improvement from an involved public. The Municipal Librarian, the library staff, the Library Advisory Board, and the Municipal Planning Department all encourage the reader's suggestions for enhancing this plan.

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LIBRARY PLAN

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Study

This revised Library Plan is intended to update the previous Library Plan adopted in April, 1977. In the previous Plan the purposes of the Library Plan were well laid out:

..."the concept and role of the public library (has) changed. We find ourselves in the midst of an "information revolution" with different goals than those held 50, 30, even 10 years ago. We find the public asking not for more of the same, but for a whole new thrust for equality in the education process. Increased demands are being made in today's libraries because of these higher educational expectations and needs. Increased production of knowledge in books and other library materials has provided the tools to meet those demands. ...Library service that was designed for the needs of the past is no longer relevant to the needs of today. ...To be relevant, library service should be designed to meet the educational, informational and cultural needs of all of the people of the community.... It should provide not only books, periodicals and newspapers, but all types of audio and visual materials. It should also adopt the long established, but little used role as an agency reaching out to non-users: ...(A library should be) so orientated (that it) is as vital to the development and well-being of the community and the state as any other educational or public service program."

This statement remains current today. The role of the library has continued to change since the Library Plan was adopted six years ago. Moreover, the population of Anchorage has increased by approximately 50,000 since 1977. This increase in population has several important implications for the Municipal Library System. As a result, the Library Plan, which serves as a blueprint for the future expansion and direction of the system, needs to be updated in order to reflect these changes. With this in mind, the following principal objectives of this report have been established:

- Providing a set of facility recommendations more consistent with known and projected development patterns;

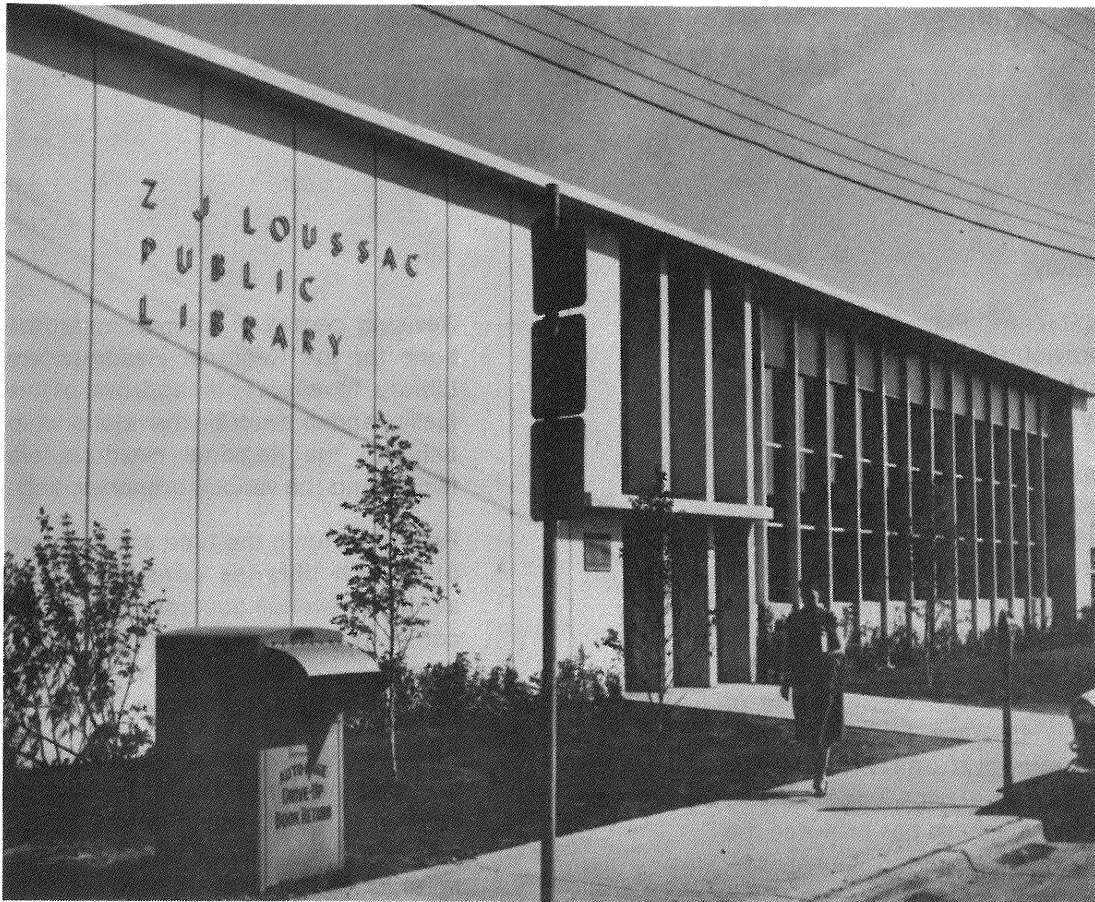
- Revising certain of the recommendations for the Regional Headquarters Library, to reflect voter approval of this facility and to describe the relationship between the Regional Headquarters facility and the various branches; and
- Recommending the type and number of branch libraries consistent with available revenue sources, continuing community needs for information, and the large role to be played in the future by the Headquarters Library.

The plan's recommendations, contained in the last section of this report, attempt to satisfy these objectives by specifying the role of the municipal libraries, the types of branch facilities, and the relationship of the Municipal Library System to the community's total information needs.

1.2 History of Library Services

The Loussac Foundation was created in October 1946, establishing a trust for "social, cultural, and recreational purposes in Anchorage, especially for youth." The largest single achievement of the Foundation was the construction of the public library building on the City Hall Block. In 1960, a library was established by residents of Spenard. This facility was funded, in part, by the Spenard Public Utility District. In 1964, the Library Services Construction Act made Federal funds available for extending library service to outlying areas of the former Borough. The former City library administration contracted to administer the funds to establish three library stations in Girdwood, Eagle River and Chugiak, plus a bookmobile. In 1969, the Eagle River and Chugiak libraries combined to form the Chugiak-Eagle River Library in order to serve both communities.

The Anchorage urban area continued to grow with most of the development occurring east of the downtown area. As a result, by the late 1960's library facilities were established at Grandview Gardens and in the Mountain View area. Development of the



Z.J. Loussac Library
Mid 1950s



Loussac Library after Good Friday Earthquake, 1964.

South Anchorage area resulted in the installation of the Sand Lake branch in 1973 and the Samson-Diamond branch in 1977. Perhaps the most significant aspect of library development over the past decade occurred with the unification of the City and Borough governments in 1975. As a result of unification, library services are now provided throughout the Municipality by a centralized administration.

It should be noted that the first Library Plan for the Anchorage area was developed in the 1975-1977 period. This plan was designed to provide recommendations through the 1995 planning horizon. Certain of the major recommendations of this plan included the following:

- Establishment of a unified library system to serve the entire Anchorage area.
- Construction of a new Headquarters Library building within the Central Business District that would have the capacity to serve community needs for the next 20 years.
- Utilization of the Headquarters Library as the State Regional Library for Southcentral Alaska.
- Establishment of a 0.6 mill levy throughout the Anchorage area for library purposes, with periodic review and possible adjustment of the mill rate if needs dictated an adjustment.
- Development of a plan to attract and keep competent professional personnel.
- Establishment of an effective communications system among all libraries.

- Maintenance of coordination between school libraries, both local and university, and the public library in order to assure economical and efficient service to the public.
- Location of branch libraries in community centers having heavy pedestrian activity; ample off-street parking; and in street-level, glass fronted store space.
- Establishment of library facilities within the Muldoon, Abbott-O'Malley and Hillside areas.
- Replacement of the existing branch library on DeBarr and Bragaw with a branch located to the west where it would be closer to the center of its primary service area.

Certain of these recommendations have been achieved and others have not. The unification of the library system, the acquisition of funding for the development of the Headquarters Library, the establishment of an effective communication system, and the development and maintenance of coordination between the public library and other information resources are all major accomplishments of both the Library Plan and the community. The 1977 Plan was less successfully carried out regarding the development of branch facilities. Nonetheless, the Municipality has made major strides in providing library services to the community, and the intent of this revision to the Library Plan is to ensure the development of a library system that continues the community's strong support of and commitment to an efficient, comprehensive, and convenient library system.

2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

This chapter summarizes the historic growth and development of the city and the general characteristics of the population. The purpose is to produce a community profile which will serve as a data base useful in predicting future demand for library services in the Anchorage area, and in determining the most effective method of providing library services.

2.1 Population, Past and Present

In the seventy years since it was established, Anchorage has experienced tremendous population growth. Table 1 summarizes that growth since 1929. Between the 1960 Census and the Census of 1980, the population has increased by almost 92,000 persons. The speculative boom of the late 1960's deflated in late 1970 and early 1971, but the economy accelerated again in 1972 as oil companies increased their exploration activities.

The impact of the completion of the pipeline construction in 1977 was ameliorated temporarily by the backlog of residential, commercial and governmental construction. The slow-down in the economy, however, could be felt by mid-1978 and by 1979 in-and-out migrations were about the same with the economy performing well below the pipeline construction period. Estimates of population growth for 1981 and 1982 indicate a fairly substantial increase in the rate of population growth. The Municipality has estimated the population as 204,000 as of September, 1982.

This most recent growth is attributed to the general upturn in the construction industry, and industries allied to it, as a result of the infusion of State money into the Anchorage area.

Compound annual growth rates between 1970 and 1980 are given in Table 1. The distribution of population is essential to locational decisions affecting both the regional and branch libraries. During the last 10 years the South Anchorage area has shown the greatest population change (see Map 1). The most pronounced growth was, as might be expected, in South Anchorage since early development centered in the Ship Creek and Chester Creek areas, and because most of the available vacant land now exists in South Anchorage. South Anchorage and the Chugiak/Eagle River areas also offer the most opportunities for residential growth for the foreseeable future. Negative rates of population growth were experienced in several of the more central communities over the 1970-1980 period, including Government Hill, Fairview, Inlet View, and portions of Spenard. Moderate population growth rates were exhibited in the eastern and central portions of the community, including Muldoon, Lake Otis, and Abbott-O'Malley Roads. The principal areas of growth included the southcentral and southern Anchorage areas, which experienced growth rates of 10-20% between 1970 and 1980.

Compound Annual Growth Rate (1970-1980) by Census Tract (1980)

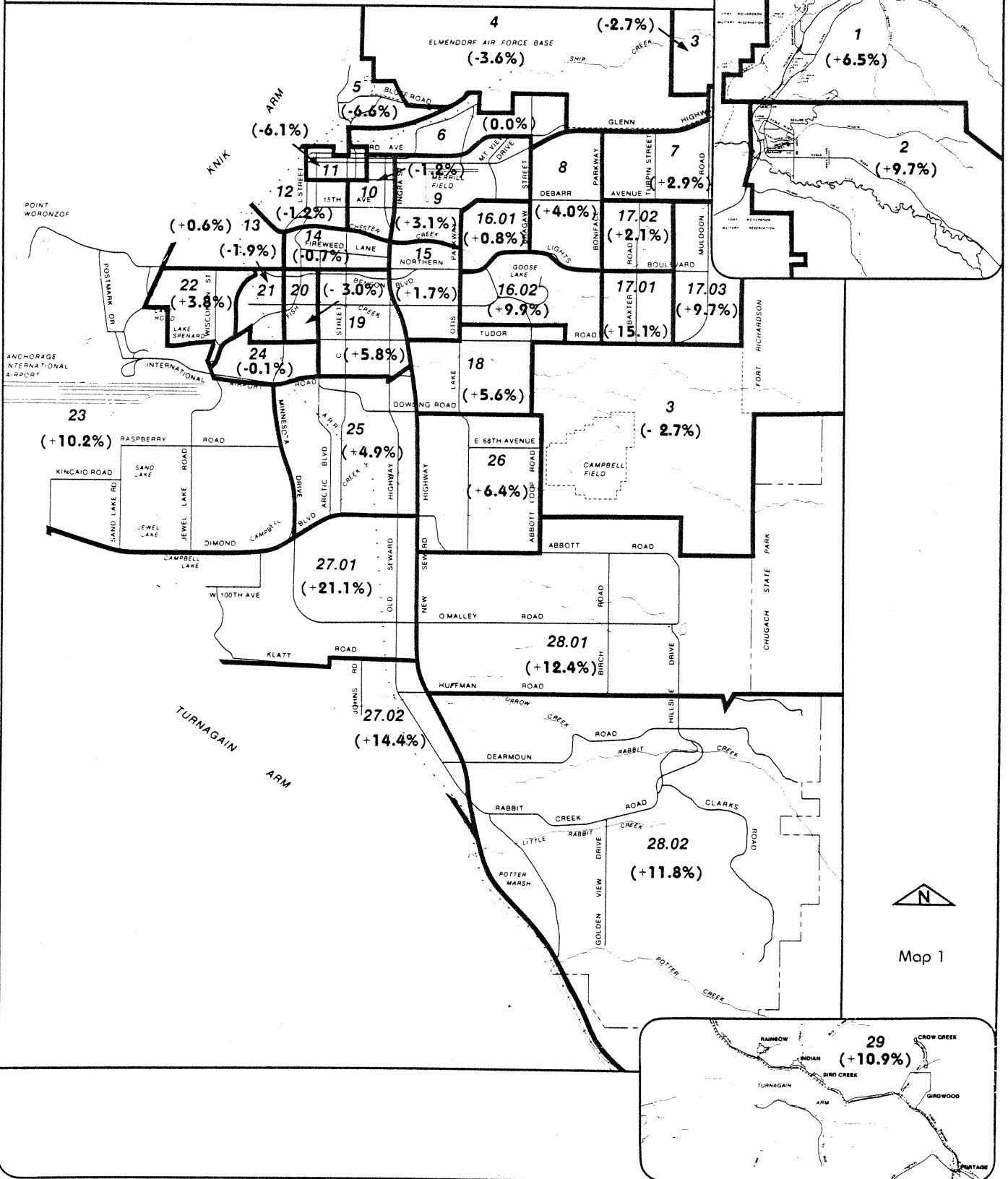


Table 1
POPULATION GROWTH, 1929-1982

Year	Population	Compound Annual Growth Rate
1929	2,736 ^a	—
1939	4,229 ^a	4.5%
1950	30,060 ^a	19.5
1960	82,833 ^a	10.7
1961	89,269 ^b	7.8
1962	90,149 ^b	1.0
1963	93,685 ^b	3.9
1964	94,516 ^b	0.9
1965	102,337 ^b	8.3
1966	105,925 ^b	3.5
1967	107,817 ^b	1.8
1968	111,600 ^b	3.5
1969	114,150 ^b	2.3
1970	126,385 ^a	10.7
1971	135,777 ^b	7.4
1972	144,215 ^b	6.2
1973	149,440 ^b	3.6
1974	162,499 ^c	8.7
1975	177,817 ^b	8.8
1976	179,837 ^c	1.1
1977	182,920 ^c	1.7
1978	180,246 ^c	- 1.5
1979	174,594 ^c	- 3.1
1980	174,431 ^a	- 0.1
1981	187,761 ^c	7.6
1982	204,216 ^c	8.8

(a) U.S. Bureau of the Census

(b) Alaska Department of Labor

(c) Municipality of Anchorage

2.2 Population Characteristics

The desire and ability to use library services is affected by the personal characteristics of the individual. Consequently, it is important to examine the demographics of the population in understanding the community to be served. Identifying the population is also an essential first step in assessing needs of the community for library services. This information is vital for analyzing the level of service and facilities needed for the future. The following demographic characteristics are reviewed as part of the planning effort for library facilities:

2.2.1 Age

The age distribution of the community is important to the library in two respects: (1) amount of use and (2)

kinds of information needed. The present population of Anchorage is young, composed of small nuclear households, predominantly white, well educated and reasonably affluent. Table 2 shows the distribution of the 1980 municipal population by age and sex.

At least three age groups should be considered in examining information needs: children and young adults, the elderly, and other adults. These age groups have differing patterns of information use and exposure, and differing abilities to absorb such information.

Table 2
DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND SEX, 1980

1980 Population				
Age Group(Years)	% Male	% Female	% Total Anchorage	% Total U.S.
Under 5	4.8	4.6	9.4	7.4
5-9	4.3	4.2	8.5	7.4
10-14	4.3	3.9	8.2	8.0
15-19	4.7	4.3	9.0	9.6
20-24	6.1	5.6	11.7	9.4
25-34	12.1	11.3	23.4	16.4
35-44	7.5	6.7	14.2	11.3
45-64	7.2	6.4	13.6	19.7
65+	0.9	1.1	2.0	11.3
Total	51.9	48.1	100.0	100.0

Grade level and the amount and variety of activities and environmental stimuli determine the basic level of information needs for children and young adults. Through story hours, guidance and picture book selection, and other means the library serves age groups from pre-school to high school. Table 3 identifies the percent of households in each of the Municipality's census tracts with children under 18 years of age. The higher proportion of households with children occur in the southern and eastern portions of the city. Areas having the lowest proportion of children under 18 years include the Downtown, portions of Spenard, and the Inlet View-Fairview areas.

Increased aging is frequently associated with single member households, decreased activity, and accompanying decrease in inter-personal contacts. Physical constraints which hamper access to information sources can become critical. To senior citizens, the public library extends a life-line of information enabling them to better cope with the special problems asso-

ciated with aging processes. Table 3 identifies the percent of persons over 65 years of age. Elderly households predominate in the Downtown area, portions of Spenard and Mt. View, and parts of Inlet View and Fairview. It must be emphasized, however, that the proportion of elderly to the entire population is relatively small in Anchorage as compared to other American cities. Only 2% of the Anchorage population is over 65 compared to 11.3% of the population of the United States.

While the young and old form definable target groups in their own right, the information needs of adults between those age groups is also important. Many adults use the library for self improvement purposes, continuing education or for gathering information needed in their daily lives. The nature of individualized adult learning, and its dependence upon the kinds of information resources available from the public library, places the fulfillment of these needs as a major goal for a public library service.

Table 3
1980 HOUSEHOLDS BY CENSUS TRACT

Census Tract	Number Households	Households with one or more person under 18		Households with one or more persons 65 years and over	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1.00 - Chugiak	1692	953	56.3	94	5.5
2.00 - Eagle River	2288	1423	62.2	71	3.1
3.00	1720	1446	84.1	12	0.7
4.00	2059	1652	80.2	14	0.6
5.00	677	240	35.4	61	9.0
6.00	2116	929	43.9	165	7.8
7.00	3382	1655	48.9	78	2.3
8.00	2930	1299	44.3	103	3.5
9.00	2179	831	38.1	243	11.1
10.00	1505	371	24.6	140	9.3
11.0	628	34	5.4	106	16.8
12.00	1683	400	23.8	246	14.6
13.00	1113	533	47.8	73	6.5
14.00	2242	578	25.8	108	4.8
15.00	1879	885	47.1	105	4.4
16.01	1323	640	48.3	72	5.4
16.02	1198	594	49.5	39	3.2
17.01	1369	705	51.5	38	2.7
17.02	1570	855	54.4	56	3.7
17.03	2475	1441	58.2	71	2.8
18.00	2030	856	42.2	57	2.8
19.00	1372	420	30.6	53	3.8
20.00	1443	439	30.4	90	6.2
21.00	1624	502	30.9	94	5.7
22.00	1678	582	34.6	67	3.9
23.00	3675	2079	56.5	101	2.7
24.00	1140	549	47.9	53	4.6
25.00	1821	789	43.3	63	3.4
26.00	1186	597	50.3	48	4.0
27.01	2322	1279	55.0	71	3.0
27.02	1720	1049	60.9	40	2.3
28.01	2238	1351	60.4	64	2.8
28.02	1812	1037	67.2	56	3.0
29.00 - Turnagain Arm	381	124	32.5	13	0.3
Municipality of Anchorage	60,470	29,117		2,765	

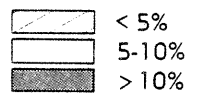
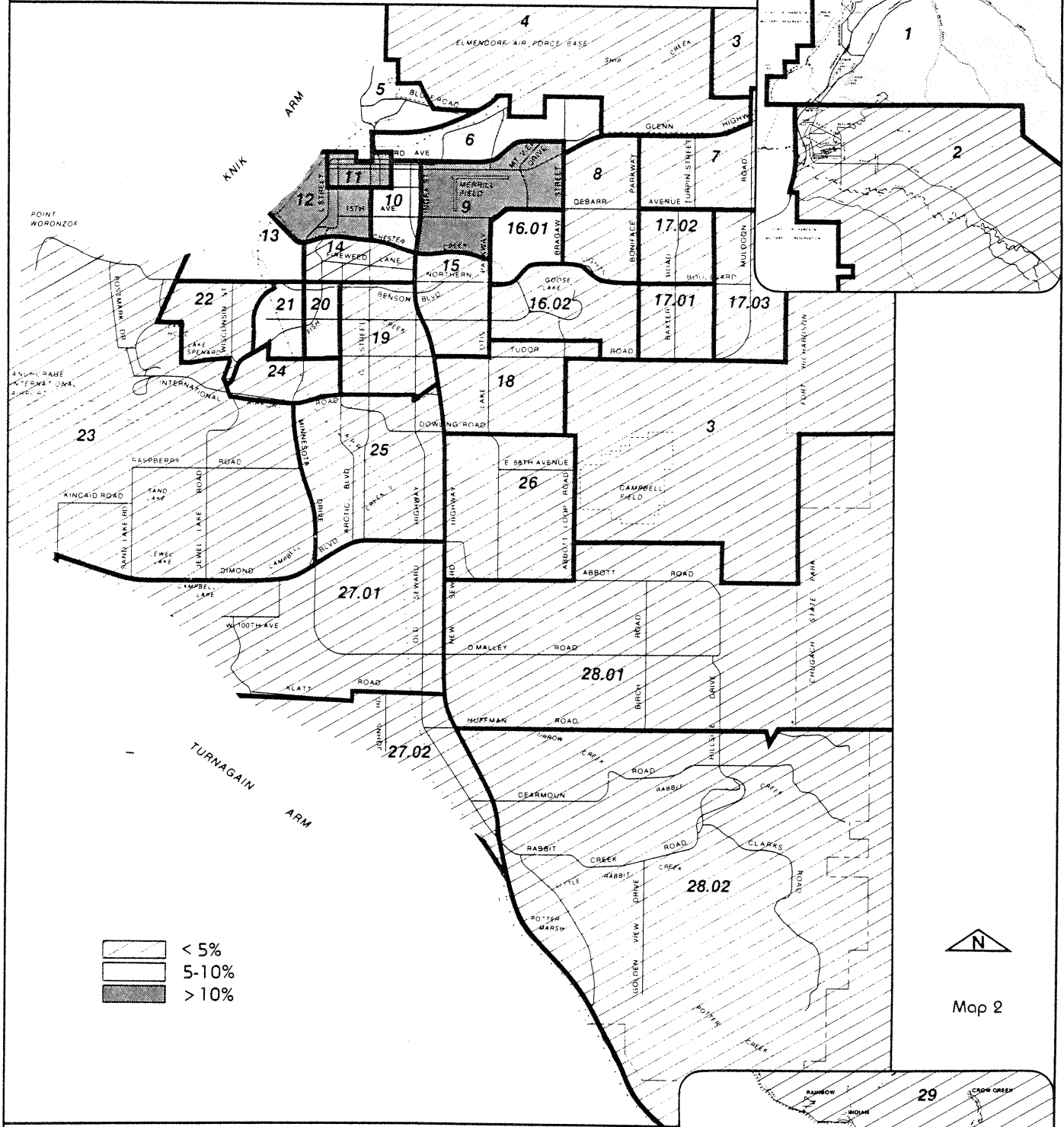
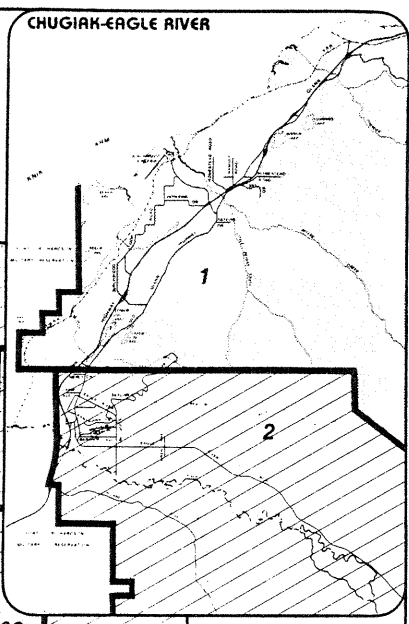
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 (STFI)

2.2.2 Race

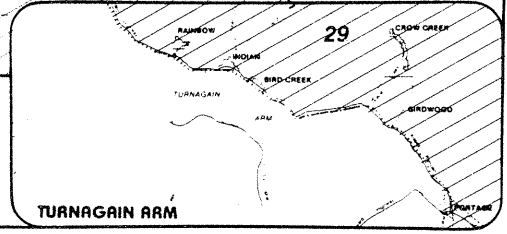
Table 4 summarizes the racial distribution of the Anchorage population. The proportion of racial minorities has been increasing slowly but steadily in the last few decades. It should be noted that the American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut population of Anchorage is over eight times the national average (5.1% compared to 0.6% nationwide). The distribution of minorities by census

tract is shown in Table 5. The heaviest concentrations occur in the older portions of the city. This is significant in terms of branch library service because members of racial and language minorities have different cultural needs. Areas of central Anchorage having more than 25% non-white of the total population include Fairview (census tracts 9 and 10), portions of Mt. View (census tract 6), and Government Hill (census tract 5).

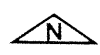
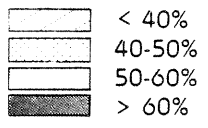
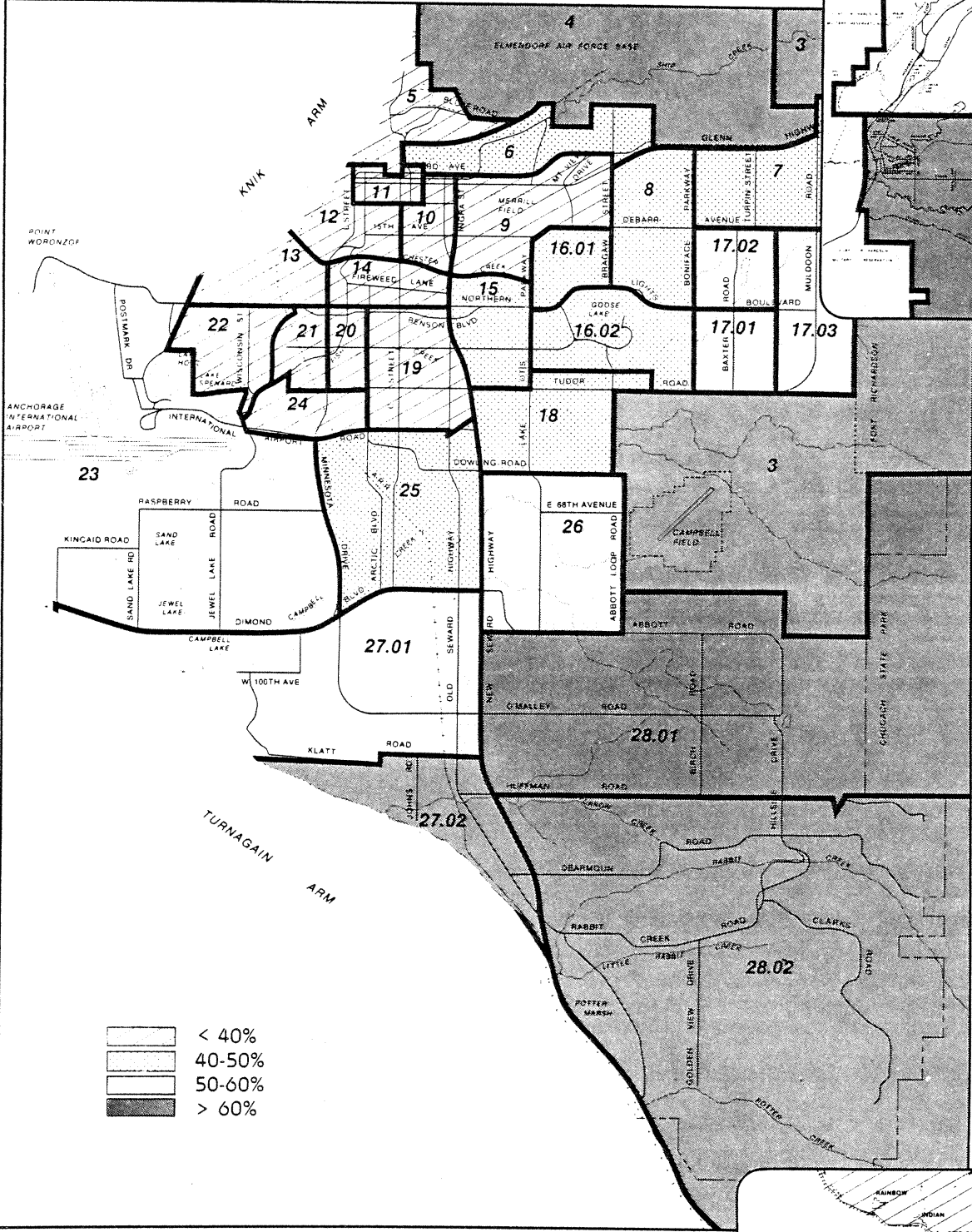
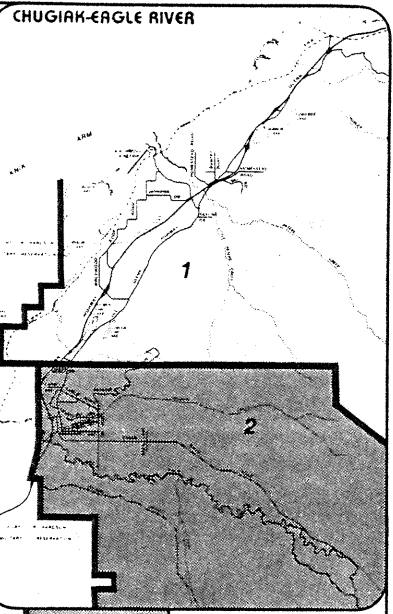
Households with One or More Persons Age 65 Years and Over by Census Tract (1980)



Map 2



Households with One or More Persons Age 18 Years and Under by Census Tract (1980)



Map 3

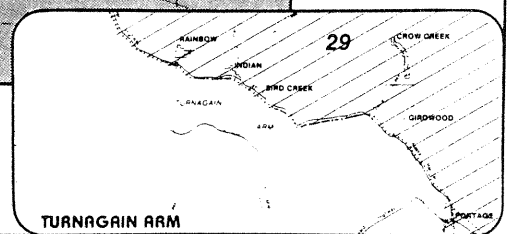


Table 4
DISTRIBUTION BY RACE, 1980

Race	Anchorage (Percent)	U.S. (Percent)
White	85.2	83.2
Black	5.3	11.7
American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut:	5.1	0.6
Asian and Pacific Islander	2.3	1.5
Other	2.0	3.0

1980 U.S. Bureau of the Census, STFIA

Table 5
1980 ANCHORAGE RACIAL DISTRIBUTION
BY CENSUS TRACT
(%)

Census Tract	White	Black	Native ¹	Asian ²	Other	Total Minority Population
1.00	92.9	0.8	4.5	0.7	1.1	7.1
2.00	94.1	0.8	3.1	1.0	0.9	5.8
3.00	74.3	17.7	0.7	2.9	4.4	25.7
4.00	81.8	10.7	1.1	2.8	3.6	18.2
5.00 ³	72.4	11.2	7.9	5.6	2.9	27.6
6.00	63.1	12.6	18.2	2.3	3.8	36.9
7.00	84.6	6.1	5.1	1.7	2.5	15.4
8.00	78.7	10.1	6.0	2.3	2.9	21.3
9.00	62.7	16.9	11.7	5.0	3.7	37.3
10.00	64.5	7.5	22.9	2.4	2.7	35.5
11.00	80.9	2.5	11.9	2.0	2.7	19.1
12.00	94.6	0.6	2.0	2.0	0.8	5.4
13.00	94.6	0.4	1.9	2.6	0.5	5.4
14.00	77.7	4.5	10.8	3.5	3.5	22.3
15.00	87.6	4.7	2.6	3.9	1.2	12.4
16.01	80.5	7.7	7.3	2.8	1.7	19.5
16.02	84.9	6.0	4.6	2.8	1.7	15.1
17.01	89.5	5.4	2.2	1.7	1.2	10.7
17.02	87.5	6.1	3.3	2.2	0.9	12.5
17.03	89.3	5.4	2.4	1.7	1.2	10.7
18.00	87.1	3.5	5.4	1.8	2.2	10.7
19.00	80.8	4.6	8.8	2.8	3.0	19.2
20.00	82.4	3.2	8.4	3.6	2.4	17.6
21.00	84.2	1.6	10.6	1.9	1.7	15.8
22.00	89.2	1.7	4.1	3.7	1.3	10.8
23.00	90.0	1.7	3.7	2.7	1.9	1.0
24.00	86.1	1.8	6.6	2.8	2.7	12.9
25.00	88.8	3.7	3.7	2.4	1.4	11.2
26.00	91.2	2.1	3.5	2.0	1.2	8.8
27.01	90.9	1.6	4.2	2.1	1.2	9.1
27.02	92.5	1.4	3.2	1.9	1.0	7.5
28.01	94.5	0.7	3.3	0.5	1.0	5.5
28.02	95.3	1.3	1.5	1.0	0.9	4.7
29.00	94.4	0.3	2.5	0.6	2.2	5.6
Total	85.2	5.3	5.1	2.3	2.0	14.7

¹Native = American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut

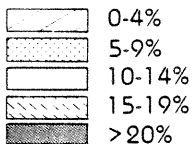
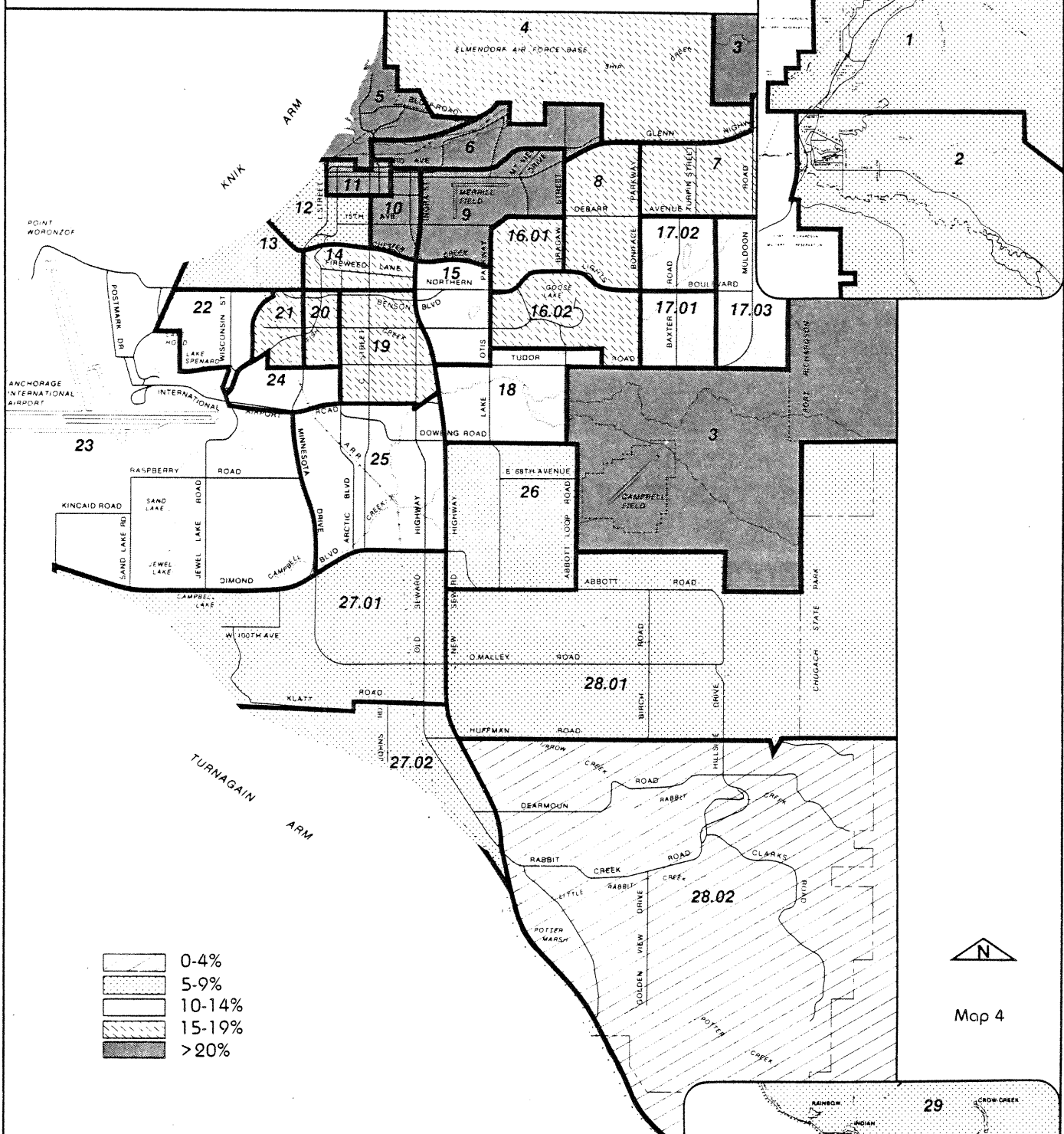
²Asian = Asian and Pacific Islander

³Tract 5.00 and 5.99 combined

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (STF-1A)

Minority Population Distribution by Census Tract (1980)

CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER



Map 4

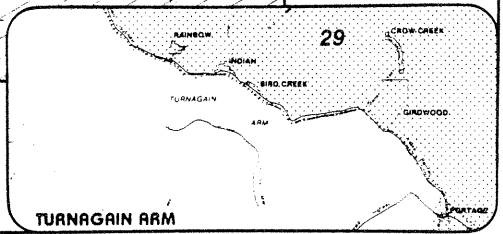


Table 6
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY CENSUS TRACT

Census Tract	Years of Education (Percent)				
	0—8	9—11	12	13—15	16+
1	6.4	10.4	41.5	22.5	16.2
2	2.5	8.7	36.9	29.1	22.8
3	2.2	7.7	51.9	21.4	16.8
4	3.5	4.1	52.6	27.9	12.0
5	4.4	8.3	38.5	27.3	21.5
6	12.4	9.1	46.5	22.8	9.2
7	5.2	6.9	48.2	23.6	16.0
8	5.0	9.0	46.0	25.2	14.8
9	10.8	9.5	42.5	22.0	15.2
10	14.7	10.9	32.1	23.4	18.7
11	5.7	9.7	28.0	25.7	30.9
12	4.9	7.6	23.2	20.1	44.2
13	2.4	2.1	26.7	30.8	37.9
14	4.2	7.9	41.1	21.8	25.0
15	3.5	6.1	32.5	22.7	35.1
16.01	4.0	3.6	37.6	30.1	24.7
16.02	2.6	5.2	39.7	23.3	29.1
17.01	2.7	6.3	40.4	23.7	26.8
17.02	6.4	5.2	38.5	24.0	25.9
17.03	1.3	5.4	40.3	23.8	29.2
18	3.4	11.6	43.8	22.9	18.4
19	6.8	11.2	41.1	23.4	17.6
20	7.4	11.8	49.4	17.0	14.4
21	4.1	9.9	43.5	25.4	17.1
22	3.2	7.6	45.3	22.4	21.5
23	1.9	8.4	39.7	28.0	22.1
24	3.5	7.9	43.6	23.1	22.0
25	4.8	10.3	40.9	22.8	21.1
26	3.3	11.6	39.5	32.2	18.5
27.01	2.5	7.0	31.9	29.5	29.2
27.02	1.5	5.3	40.5	25.9	26.8
28.01	1.6	4.1	29.5	25.7	39.1
28.02	1.8	5.3	29.2	29.2	34.5
29	0.8	5.9	27.6	29.4	36.3
<hr/>					
Anchorage					
Total	4.2	7.5	39.6	25.1	23.6
<hr/>					
U.S.					
Total	18.3	15.3	34.6	15.7	16.2

2.2.3 Educational Level

Educational achievement is usually defined according to three categories: (1) less than high school graduation, (2) high school graduation, and (3) higher education. Although members of the first category are not necessarily non-readers, the highest proportion of non-readers tend to fall into this group. Their awareness of the availability of library service other than the circulation of books is low. Difficulty in identifying or focusing specific information needs is also found among the educationally disadvantaged and, where needs are identified, they are most likely to use informal and non-authoritative information sources. Serving the undereducated usually requires innovative methods of delivery and high interest, low-vocabulary materials.

Developing education profiles for the adults in various service areas helps the library focus its service on the needs of the local community. According to Table 6, the areas with the highest edu-

cational attainment, i.e., at least 16 years of education, include census tract 28.02 and 28.01, Hillside; census tract 15, Lake Otis; census tract 13, Turnagain; census tract 12, South Anchorage; and census tract 29, Turnagain Arm. The results of the library survey (see Appendix A), revealed that persons with at least 16 years of education were much more likely to be frequent users of the library. Approximately 42% of this group reported using the library over 12 times last year compared with 25% for the entire population over 25 years old. This group also contained fewer persons who never visited the library (7% compared to 24%). Thus, educational attainment appears to be an important factor in estimating library use.

When comparing educational attainment in Anchorage to the United States as a whole, it is apparent that Anchorage residents are generally better educated. This may indicate a greater demand for library services in Anchorage than in other parts of the United States.

2.2.4 Occupation

Specific information needs are frequently occupation-related, especially among students, professionals, and to some extent managers. According to R.L. Polk and Co., the number of students as a percentage of the Anchorage population has increased slightly from 0.41% in 1978 to 0.51% in 1980. According to Table 7, 30% of the Anchorage labor force is employed in professional or managerial occupations compared to 22.7% nationwide. This is due to Anchorage's position as

the information, finance and service center of the state. The information which the public library can provide management takes many forms. Information related to effective production, financial, marketing and decision making tasks are critical. In order to serve the members of the Anchorage professional community, the library must provide collections of specialized materials. It is equally obvious that the sizable proportion of non-professional workers will require the continuation of a generalized reading collection.

**Table 7
OCCUPATION**

Census Tract	Managerial & Professional Specialty Occupations	Technical Sales & Administrative Support Occupations	Service Occupations	Farming, Forestry & Fishing Occupations	Precision, Production, Craft & Repair Occup.	Operators Fabricators & Laborers
1	560 (25%)	725 (32%)	264 (12%)	-0-	390 (17%)	325 (14%)
2	493 (15%)	1,957 (60%)	490 (15%)	38 (1%)	494 (15%)	287 (9%)
3	177 (19%)	452 (49%)	163 (18%)	7 (1%)	49 (5%)	74 (8%)
4	207 (15%)	791 (57%)	304 (22%)	-0-	20 (1%)	71 (5%)
5	227 (28%)	280 (34%)	133 (16%)	20 (2%)	52 (6%)	112 (14%)
6	332 (17%)	770 (38%)	392 (20%)	29 (1%)	264 (13%)	214 (11%)
7	869 (22%)	1,501 (38%)	631 (16%)	31 (1%)	443 (11%)	476 (12%)
8	836 (24%)	1,388 (39%)	583 (17%)	17 (1%)	379 (11%)	314 (9%)
9	502 (23%)	786 (36%)	445 (20%)	15 (1%)	277 (13%)	167 (8%)
10	409 (27%)	558 (37%)	299 (20%)	-0-	100 (7%)	158 (10%)
11	240 (41%)	166 (28%)	57 (10%)	-0-	42 (7%)	87 (15%)
12	1110 (49%)	756 (33%)	195 (9%)	13 (1%)	78 (3%)	107 (5%)
13	805 (46%)	592 (33%)	119 (7%)	5	111 (6%)	136 (8%)
14	713 (28%)	927 (36%)	353 (14%)	42 (2%)	214 (8%)	315 (12%)
15	1281 (45%)	913 (33%)	269 (10%)	-0-	160 (6%)	182 (6%)
16.01	742 (41%)	563 (31%)	172 (10%)	12 (1%)	184 (10%)	136 (8%)
16.02	633 (39%)	554 (34%)	145 (9%)	6	201 (12%)	98 (6%)
17.01	687 (35%)	630 (32%)	199 (10%)	9 (1%)	297 (15%)	129 (7%)
17.02	703 (29%)	926 (38%)	289 (12%)	19 (1%)	236 (10%)	244 (10%)
17.03	1321 (36%)	1,230 (34%)	408 (11%)	11	371 (10%)	313 (9%)
18	613 (24%)	1,064 (41%)	310 (12%)	6	299 (12%)	280 (11%)
19	420 (24%)	628 (36%)	239 (14%)	20 (1%)	228 (13%)	188 (11%)
20	312 (19%)	613 (38%)	285 (18%)	12 (1%)	233 (14%)	170 (10%)
21	453 (24%)	692 (36%)	250 (13%)	24 (1%)	255 (13%)	242 (13%)
22	629 (27%)	896 (39%)	342 (15%)	-0-	206 (9%)	226 (10%)
23	1,527 (29%)	1,980 (38%)	573 (11%)	39 (1%)	703 (13%)	430 (9%)
24	523 (33%)	552 (35%)	116 (7%)	-0-	178 (11%)	194 (12%)
25	740 (28%)	1,039 (39%)	301 (11%)	16 (1%)	340 (13%)	240 (9%)
26	434 (23%)	693 (37%)	164 (9%)	14 (1%)	309 (16%)	259 (14%)
27.01	1,153 (33%)	1,138 (33%)	391 (11%)	40 (1%)	401 (11%)	364 (10%)
27.02	976 (38%)	884 (34%)	176 (7%)	17 (1%)	328 (13%)	195 (8%)
28.01	1,384 (38%)	1,147 (32%)	328 (9%)	15 (1%)	406 (11%)	321 (9%)
28.02	1,126 (40%)	860 (31%)	241 (9%)	45 (2%)	346 (12%)	191 (7%)
29	161 (34%)	91 (19%)	95 (20%)	10 (2%)	56 (12%)	59 (13%)
Anch. Total	23,697 (30%)	27,850 (36%)	9,721 (13%)	532 (0.7%)	8,650 (11%)	7,304 (9%)
U.S. Total	22.7%	30.3%	12.9%	2.9%	12.9%	18.3%

2.2.5 Income

Table 8 shows the mean household income for the Municipality by census tract. Map 5 reveals that the average household income is generally highest in South Anchorage.

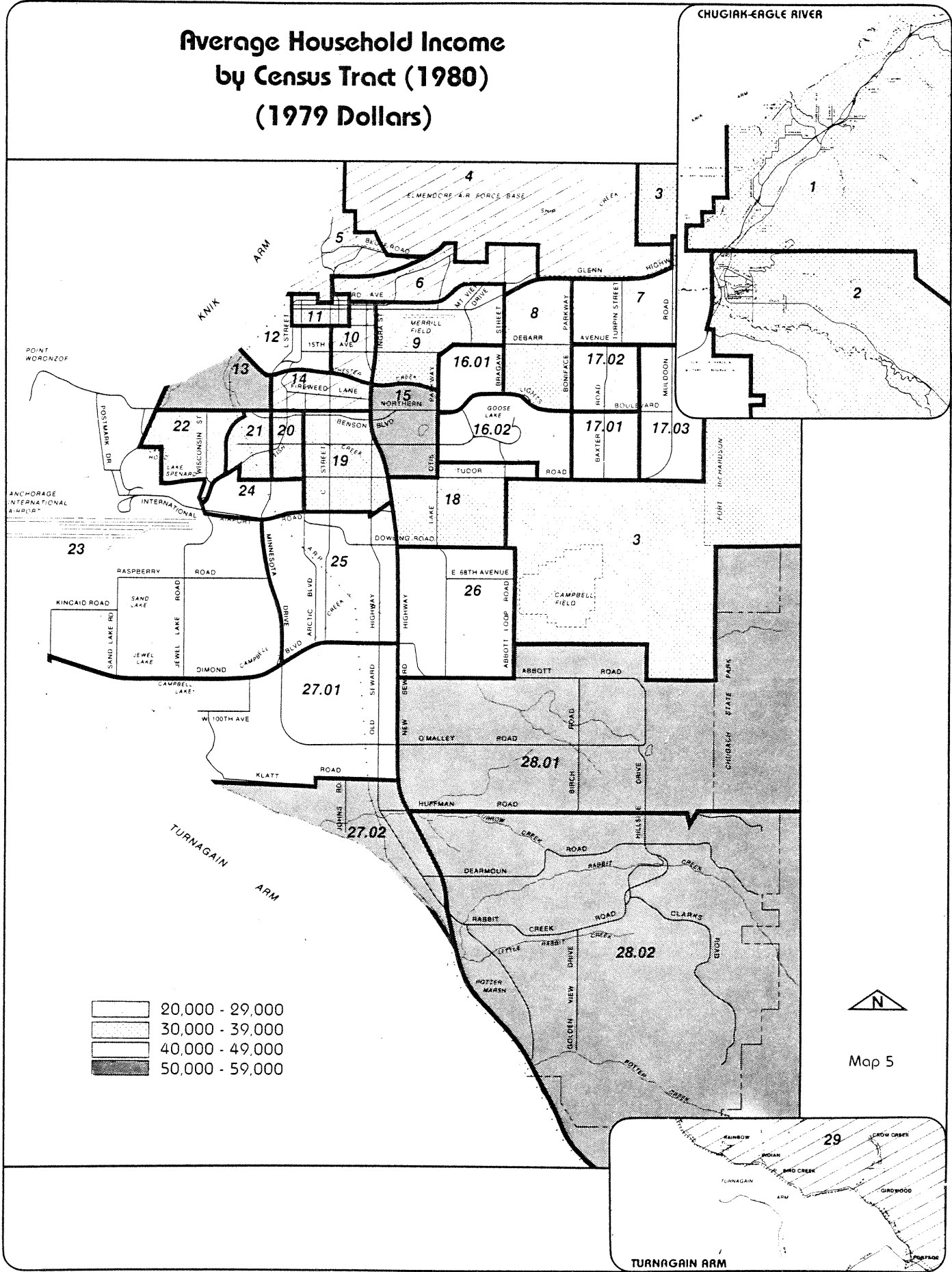
The distribution of low-income residents by census tracts is indicated in Table 9. The percentage below the poverty level is greatest in portions of Spenard, (census tracts 14, 20, 21), Mt. View (census tracts 6) and the Fairview area (census tracts 9 and 10).

Table 8
HOUSEHOLD INCOME*

Census Tract	Average Household
1	\$32,102
2	37,894
3	17,130
4	18,521
5	30,642
6	20,371
7	29,490
8	24,354
9	25,385
10	20,583
11	21,372
12	39,668
13	47,658
14	23,351
15	50,486
16.01	31,975
16.02	35,832
17.01	36,338
17.02	37,872
17.03	37,355
18	28,147
19	24,604
20	22,838
21	23,795
22	30,779
23	36,221
24	32,621
25	34,335
26	33,404
27.01	38,831
27.02	42,782
28.01	45,559
28.02	42,639

*Municipal-wide Average Household Income is \$32,078. The average household income for the United States is \$30,350.

Average Household Income by Census Tract (1980) (1979 Dollars)



[White Box]	20,000 - 29,000
[Light Stippled Box]	30,000 - 39,000
[Medium Stippled Box]	40,000 - 49,000
[Dark Stippled Box]	50,000 - 59,000



Map 5

**Table 9
POVERTY STATUS BY TRACT**

Census Tract	Total	% Dist. by C/T	Above	% Dist. by C/T	Below	% Dist. by C/T	% Below Poverty Level
1.00	5,289	3.1	4,883	3.1	406	3.3	7.7*
2.00	7,416	4.4	6,882	4.4	534	4.3	7.2
3.00	6,466	3.8	5,861	3.7	605	4.9	9.4
4.00	7,548	4.5	7,016	4.5	532	4.3	7.0
5.00	1,780	1.1	1,667	1.1	113	0.9	6.3
6.00	5,405	3.2	4,531	2.9	874	7.0	16.2*
7.00	9,396	5.5	8,426	5.4	970	7.8	10.3*
8.00	7,579	4.5	6,815	4.3	764	6.1	10.1*
9.00	5,140	3.0	4,375	2.8	765	6.1	14.9*
10.00	2,993	1.8	2,371	1.5	622	5.0	20.8*
11.00	979	0.6	899	0.6	80	0.6	8.2*
12.00	3,623	2.1	3,466	2.2	157	1.3	4.3
13.00	3,363	2.0	3,243	2.1	120	1.0	3.6
14.00	4,640	2.7	4,004	2.6	636	5.1	13.7*
15.00	5,489	3.2	5,291	3.4	198	1.6	3.6
16.01	3,829	2.3	3,595	2.3	234	1.9	6.1
16.02	3,489	2.1	3,250	2.1	239	1.9	6.9
17.01	3,978	2.3	3,754	2.4	224	1.8	5.6
17.02	4,744	2.8	4,527	2.9	217	1.7	4.6
17.03	7,867	4.6	7,636	4.9	231	1.9	2.9
18.00	5,248	3.1	4,822	3.1	426	3.4	8.1*
19.00	2,967	1.8	2,722	1.7	245	2.0	8.3*
20.00	3,178	1.9	2,780	1.8	398	3.2	12.5*
21.00	3,663	2.2	3,207	2.0	456	3.7	12.4*
22.00	3,999	2.4	3,759	2.4	240	1.9	6.0
23.00	11,064	6.5	10,613	6.8	451	3.6	4.1
24.00	3,304	2.0	3,078	2.0	226	1.8	6.8
25.00	4,888	2.9	4,649	3.0	239	1.9	4.9
26.00	3,466	2.0	3,214	2.0	252	2.0	7.3
27.01	7,013	4.1	6,694	4.3	319	2.6	4.5
27.02	5,570	3.3	5,337	3.4	233	1.9	4.2
28.01	7,341	4.3	7,104	4.6	237	1.9	3.2
28.02	5,834	3.4	5,679	3.6	155	1.2	2.7
29.00	781	0.5	733	0.4	48	0.4	6.1
Total	169,329		156,883		12,446		7.4

*Percentage below poverty level is greater than the Municipal average.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 (12.4% of the population of the United States is below poverty level).

2.3 Population Growth

The 1970-1980 growth rate for the Anchorage Community was 4.1 percent compounded annually. This growth rate is expected to increase during the coming decade greatly increasing the overall population base over the next twenty years. The growth will be attributed most directly to additional employment opportunities generated by economic activity throughout Alaska. Historically, Anchorage's population growth has primarily been the result of in-migration. This pattern may be anticipated to continue.

The 1980 population of the Municipality of Anchorage was 174,431 persons. The population is projected to increase to 318,366 persons by the year 2000. The additional growth from now till the end of this century is anticipated to be over 143,935 persons, nearly doubling the 1980 population.

Projections of the future population growth for the Municipality and its areawide distribution are given in Table 10.

Table 10
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION

	1980 Census	2000 Projection
Anchorage Bowl (includes Hillside)	143,451	256,176
Military	17,499	17,226
Eagle River/ Chugiak/Eklutna	12,835	42,308
Turnagain Arm	656	2,656
Municipality of Anchorage	174,441 ¹	318,366 ²

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census

SOURCE: Institute of Social and Economic Research

In 1980, the majority of population was still concentrated north of Tudor Road, with fully 73% of the Anchorage population located there. This distribution of the Anchorage population base is expected to change in the future. Approximately one-fifth of the additional growth will take place in the Eagle River/Chugiak/Eklutna and Turnagain Arm areas. Their rate of growth will be higher than the rate for the Anchorage Bowl. Both areas are anticipated to develop and expand on developing utility and public service systems.

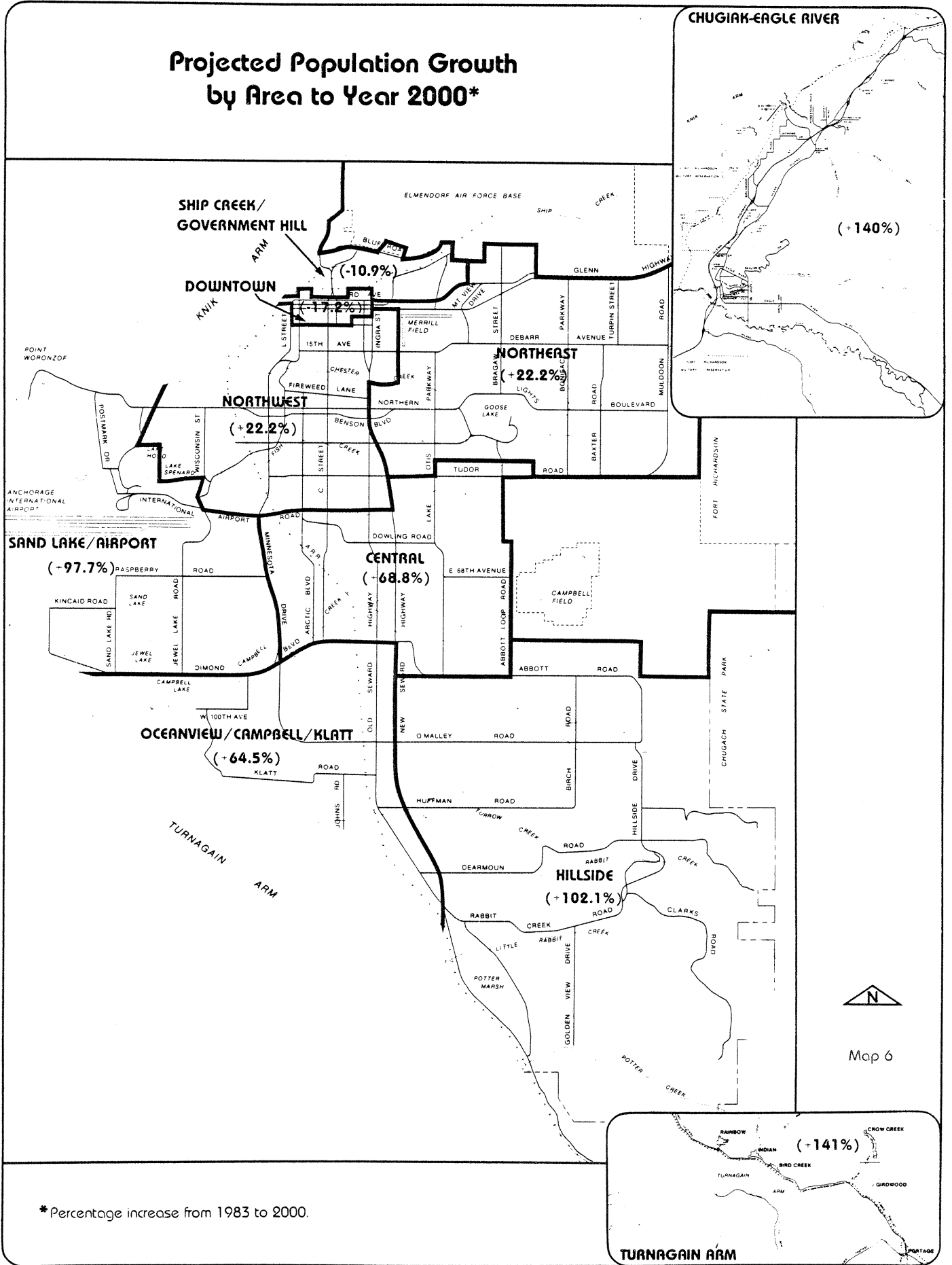
Along Turnagain Arm, most development will take place in Girdwood Valley where a community sewer system is programmed to expand. Girdwood, however, is primarily a recreational community where roughly 80 percent of all the current dwelling units are second homes which are occupied on a temporary basis by non-residents of that community. Consequently, it is difficult to assess what amount of future growth permanent residents will actually cause.

The Eagle River/Chugiak/Eklutna area is projected to absorb 16 percent of the additional population growth to the year 2000. Major reasons for the rapid growth would be the expansion of the sewerage and water systems in Eagle River and the rather large available supply of land. The supply of privately-owned residential land (including Eklutna Native Land Selections) totals more than 28,000 acres. However, nearly two-thirds of this land is in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, or steep slopes, and cannot be easily developed.

The Anchorage Bowl is projected to grow by an additional 115,050 people, equivalent to four-fifths of the total projected growth of the Municipality. Factors responsible for this growth in the Bowl should include proximity to work, shopping and leisure time activity areas, and the availability of land with public services and utilities which would allow greater variation in housing choice.

Table 11 shows the distribution of the growth in the Anchorage Bowl as it exists now (1983) and as it is projected to grow over the next 18 years. These projections of growth are derived from the Municipality's Comprehensive Development Plan, revised in 1982. According to the projections, the largest increase in population should occur in the Hillside area. By the year 2000, approximately 38,172 persons are expected to live in this area, an increase of 102% over the 1983 population of 18,887. Sand Lake-Airport (98%), Central (69%), and Oceanview-Campbell-Klatt (65%) are also projected to grow rapidly (see Map 6). As a result, approximately 76% of the population growth in the Anchorage Bowl should take place south of Tudor Road. This is due primarily to the availability of land in this area, the establishment of infrastructure, and the development of ongoing rezoning efforts. By the year 2000, approximately 124,163 (48.5%) of the

Projected Population Growth by Area to Year 2000*



*Percentage increase from 1983 to 2000.

population in the Anchorage Bowl should live in the area south of Tudor Road while 132,013 (51.5%) will live north of Tudor Road.

The redistribution of population within the Anchorage Bowl has implications for the locations of future branch libraries. New branch libraries should be placed in areas where the population is expected to grow. Thus, while the population in the southern part of the Anchorage Bowl does not pre-

sently warrant a new branch, future population growth will create the need for a new branch(s) toward the end of the century.

The redistribution of population, primarily to South Anchorage and Eagle River-Eklutna, is a major factor affecting the provision of library services and therefore a major issue to be addressed in the view of the Library Plan.

**Table 11
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION BY SUB-AREAS***

Sub-area	1983	1985	1990	1995	2000
Northeast	65,473	68,060	70,064	74,929	80,002
Ship Creek- Govt. Hill	3,301	3,254	3,155	3,051	2,940
Downtown	1,620	1,583	1,504	1,423	1,341
Northwest	43,714	44,612	45,040	46,664	47,730
Central	19,530	21,305	23,008	26,428	32,974
Sand Lake- Airport	14,175	16,047	17,919	21,539	28,028
Oceanview-Campbell- Klatt	15,192	16,467	17,674	20,125	24,989
Hillside	18,887	21,425	23,972	28,887	38,172
Eagle River-Chugiak	17,631	20,519	26,300	32,899	42,308
Turnagain Arm	1,102	1,348	1,800	2,254	2,656
Municipality of Anchorage	217,851	231,846	247,662	275,425	318,366

SOURCE: Research Section, Department of Community Planning, Municipality of Anchorage, 1983.

3.0 INVENTORY OF PRESENT FACILITIES

In order to determine how best to provide future library services it is essential to have a proper understanding of how much and how well we provide such services now. In a sense, it is important to establish a datum upon which to evaluate future services. This chapter attempts to provide this datum and the formulation for the development of proposals for future library facilities and services. This discussion is separated into descriptions of the three library systems serving the metropolitan area, the Municipality, the Anchorage School District and University of Alaska, Anchorage, Consortium Library.

3.1 The Municipal Library System

The Municipality provides areawide library services to the Anchorage Bowl, Eagle River-Eklutna, and Turnagain Arm. These services are provided through branch libraries distributed throughout the Municipality with administrative support offices located at the Loussac Library, Grandview Gardens, and 3800 DeBarr Road.

The central administrative functions include the following:

1. management and training of staff;
2. acquiring and cataloging of materials;
3. physical preparation of materials;
4. preparation of statistics and reports;
5. outreach (e.g., jails, nursing homes, institutions);
6. distribution of new materials;
7. children's programs; and
8. administration of the Municipal Library System.

The Loussac Library, besides providing some of the services described above, serves as a central reference and material collection center. In addition, Loussac also serves as a branch library to downtown workers and to adjacent residential areas.

The Loussac Library has the largest book stock, with a combined adult, juvenile, and reference collection of 107,802. This represents approximately 37% of the total number of books in the entire public library collection. Although it has the largest collection in the state for municipal libraries, Loussac still falls short in its collection stock when compared to regional libraries in other urban areas of comparable size.

The central administration provides library service to the surrounding communities through the branch libraries. There are seven branch libraries within the Municipality of Anchorage. Of these, five are located within the Anchorage Bowl; one, in Chugiak-Eagle River; and one, in Girdwood. (See Map 7). The branch libraries are meant to provide general library services to the population in the immediate vicinity. Thus, the distribution of these facilities is intended to be in close proximity to their service population. However, in several cases proximity to the service population is not always satisfactory.

Combined, the branch libraries accommodate 63% of the total holdings of the Municipal Library System (see Table 13). In terms of materials circulated, the branch facilities are even more significant, providing 86% of total materials circulated (see Table 14). The main distribution vehicle, then, for distributing library materials to the community is through the branch libraries.

3.1.1 Accessibility of Branch Libraries

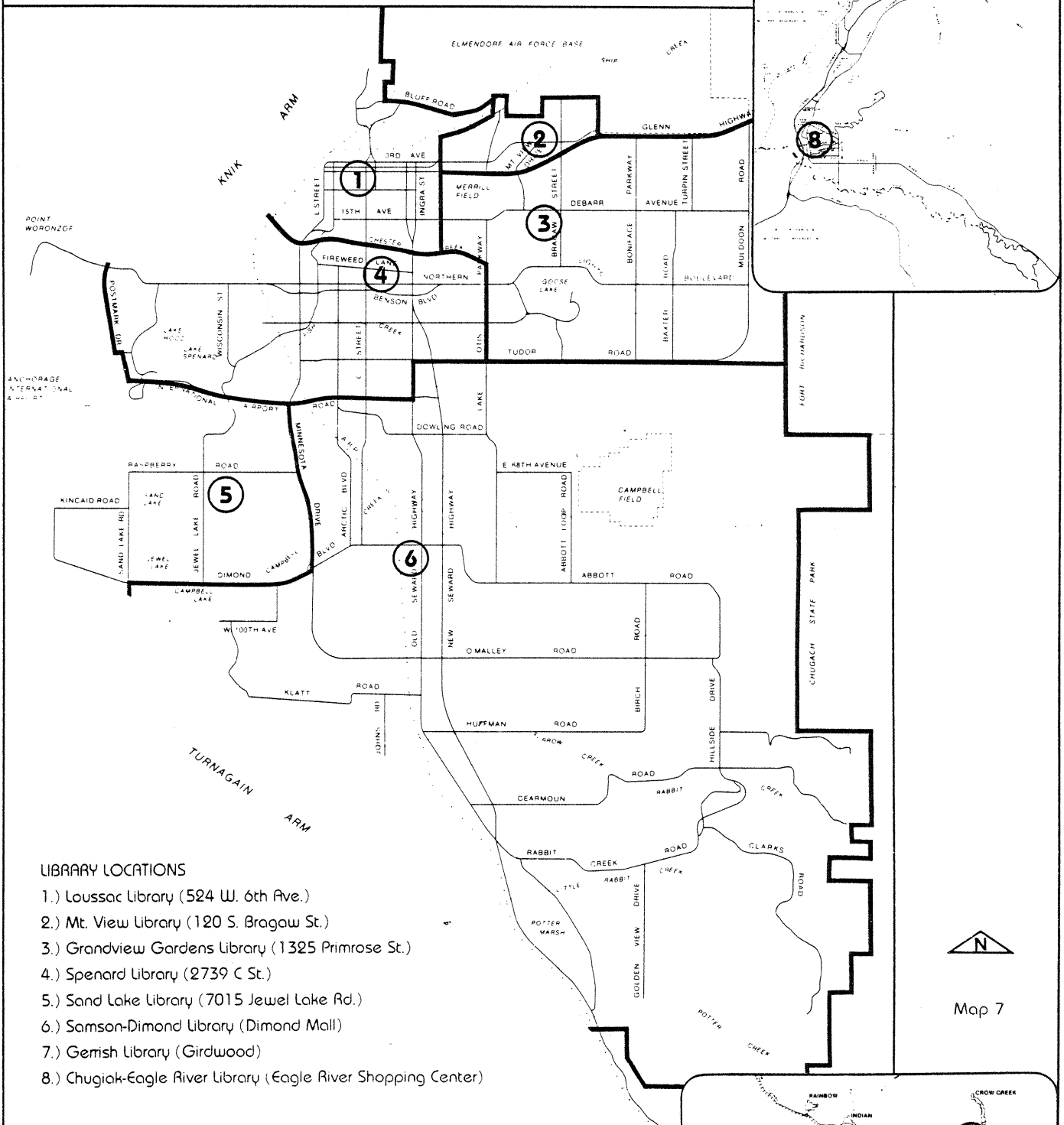
The branch libraries are most easily accessible to library patrons within their service areas. Generally, they are located in areas of high vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The Samson-Diamond, Sand Lake, and Spenard branches have ample off-street parking. At the present time, Loussac is not adjacent to a major parking facility.

Handicapped access is difficult at the Grandview Gardens, Loussac, Mountain View, Girdwood, Eagle River, and Sand Lake libraries due to doors which open outward. There is no handicapped access to the Spenard branch. The Girdwood Library is generally accessible to the Girdwood population, but does not serve as a convenient location for Indian and Bird Valley residents due to the distance from these communities to Girdwood. Unfortunately, this situation cannot be easily remedied.

3.1.2 Buildings

The Grandview Gardens, Mountain View and Gerrish libraries are located in public owned buildings. The Lous-

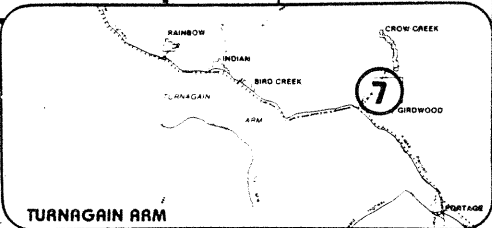
Current Municipal Library Locations and Primary Service Areas*



LIBRARY LOCATIONS

- 1.) Loussac Library (524 W. 6th Ave.)
- 2.) Mt. View Library (120 S. Bragow St.)
- 3.) Grandview Gardens Library (1325 Primrose St.)
- 4.) Spenard Library (2739 C St.)
- 5.) Sand Lake Library (7015 Jewel Lake Rd.)
- 6.) Samson-Diamond Library (Dimond Mall)
- 7.) Gerrish Library (Girdwood)
- 8.) Chugiak-Eagle River Library (Eagle River Shopping Center)

* Service areas are determined by a combination of library survey results and established neighborhood boundaries.
 * The Downtown Library presently serves as a regional facility. Upon completion of the Headquarters Library it will function as a neighborhood facility.
 * The service area for the Gerrish Library includes the entire Turnagain Arm. The service area for the Eagle River Library includes the communities of Eklutna, Eagle River and Chugiak.



Map 7

sac Headquarters Library now occupies rented space. The Spenard, Samson-Diamond, Chugiak-Eagle River and Sand Lake facilities are all located within rented quarters in shopping centers. The use of rental space in shopping centers tends to be especially attractive to library patrons since library use can be combined with multi-purpose trips to shopping centers. The potential combination of trip types tends to increase library use. This condition is reflected by the high circulation figures of the Samson-Diamond Library.

Table 12
LIBRARY SIZE

Library	Size (Square Feet)
Gerrish	1,225
Spenard	3,400
Sand Lake	4,125
Mt. View	4,200 + 2,750 meeting room
Grandview Gardens	4,845
Chugiak-Eagle River	6,720 + 1,080 meeting room
Samson-Diamond	8,922 + 1,378 meeting room
Loussac	13,500

The size of the branches range from 13,500 at the Loussac Library to 1,225 at the Gerrish branch (see Table 12). According to *Modern Branch Libraries*, branches under 5,000 square feet are being built less frequently today and are not recommended.

3.1.3 Collections

The total number of public library books for the entire metropolitan area was 282,790 as of December 1982 (see Table 13). Of this amount, 185,648 are included in the adult collection, 73,917 in the juvenile collection, and 22,625 are reference books. This collection averages about 1.38 volumes per capita, up nearly 0.4 volumes per capita

from 1977. Most of the collection is contained in the Loussac Library, with 107,802 volumes at that location alone. Substantial library stocks are also available at the Spenard (30,370), Samson-Diamond (33,797), Grandview Gardens (29,819), and Chugiak-Eagle River (27,629) libraries.

In addition to the book collection there are 33,075 recordings. Of this amount, 13,344, equivalent to 40% of the entire collection, are contained at Loussac Library. Small recording collection are available at the other branch libraries. A limited number of prints and 8mm films are also available for circulation at the Loussac Library. Toys may be borrowed at the Sand Lake Library.

The Loussac Library also contains the largest proportion (51.4%) of the Municipal Library System's magazines and newspapers. The remainder are divided among the other branch libraries.

3.1.4 Circulation

The increasingly important role of the branch libraries in the overall circulation of books and other information is apparent from recent data (see Table 14). During 1982 Loussac accounted for only 14.3% of all the material circulated. Of the branch libraries, Samson-Diamond (21.5%), Grandview Gardens (15.1%), and Chugiak-Eagle River (17.8%) were the leaders in branch circulation. The prominent positions of Samson-Diamond and Chugiak-Eagle River are particularly noteworthy since this may illustrate the general success of branch libraries located at a central site relative to their service areas and within shopping centers.

The general imbalance between library stocks and library circulation is depicted in Figure 1. With the exceptions of the Spenard, Sand Lake, and Loussac branches, each branch circulates more books than is expected based upon the percentage of the total municipal book collection contained within the library. For example, although the Eagle River branch possesses only 9.9% of the total municipal book collection, it accounts for 17.8% of the total municipal circulation. The

figures for the Samson-Diamond branch reveal a similar discrepancy between the percentage of the total books circulated (21.5%) and the percentage of the total book collection (12.3%) contained in the library. The large imbalance between circulation and holdings for the Loussac Library is the result of the more specialized collection, its downtown location; and the absence of adequate parking, among other factors.

Figure 2 provides another means to analyze circulation by directly comparing the total number of books contained in each branch library with its total circulation. This results in a ratio of circulation to number of books.

Thus, it can be seen that the Eagle River and Samson-Diamond branches circulate each book an average of 4.2 times per year, compared to a rate of 2.4 times per year for the entire Municipal Library System. On the other hand, the Loussac Library is the only library in the system which circulates each book less than once a year. This, however, may be due to the more specialized nature of the Loussac Library's large book collection. Although there is no national standard which indicates what the rate of book circulation should be, a ratio of 4 to 1 may indicate a need for more books. Otherwise patrons may have difficulty finding the books they want, since each book is more likely to be checked out.

Table 13
MUNICIPAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
Library Material Collection*

Library	Adult Collection	Juvenile Collection	Ratio A/J	Total Book Collection	% Of Total Book Collection	Reference Books**	Periodical Subscriptions	Recordings
Chugiak/ Eagle River	12,895	12,799	1:1	25,694	9.9	1,935	144	2,837
Gerrish	5,122	2,503	2:1	7,625	2.9	630	98	1,012
Grandview Gardens	18,648	9,621	2:1	28,269	10.9	1,550	140	2,376
Loussac	83,775	11,627	7.2:1	95,402	36.7	12,400	942	13,344
Mt. View	11,227	6,521	1.7:1	17,748	6.8	1,140	106	2,853
Samson- Diamond	19,518	12,469	1.6:1	31,987	12.3	1,810	160	4,586
Sand Lake	15,507	8,615	1.8:1	24,122	9.3	1,430	102	2,326
Spenard	18,956	9,684	2:1	28,640	11.0	1,730	141	3,363
Total	185,648	73,927	2.5:1	259,565	100%	22,625	1,833	33,075

*Source: Municipal Library Staff, 1982, Year End Report

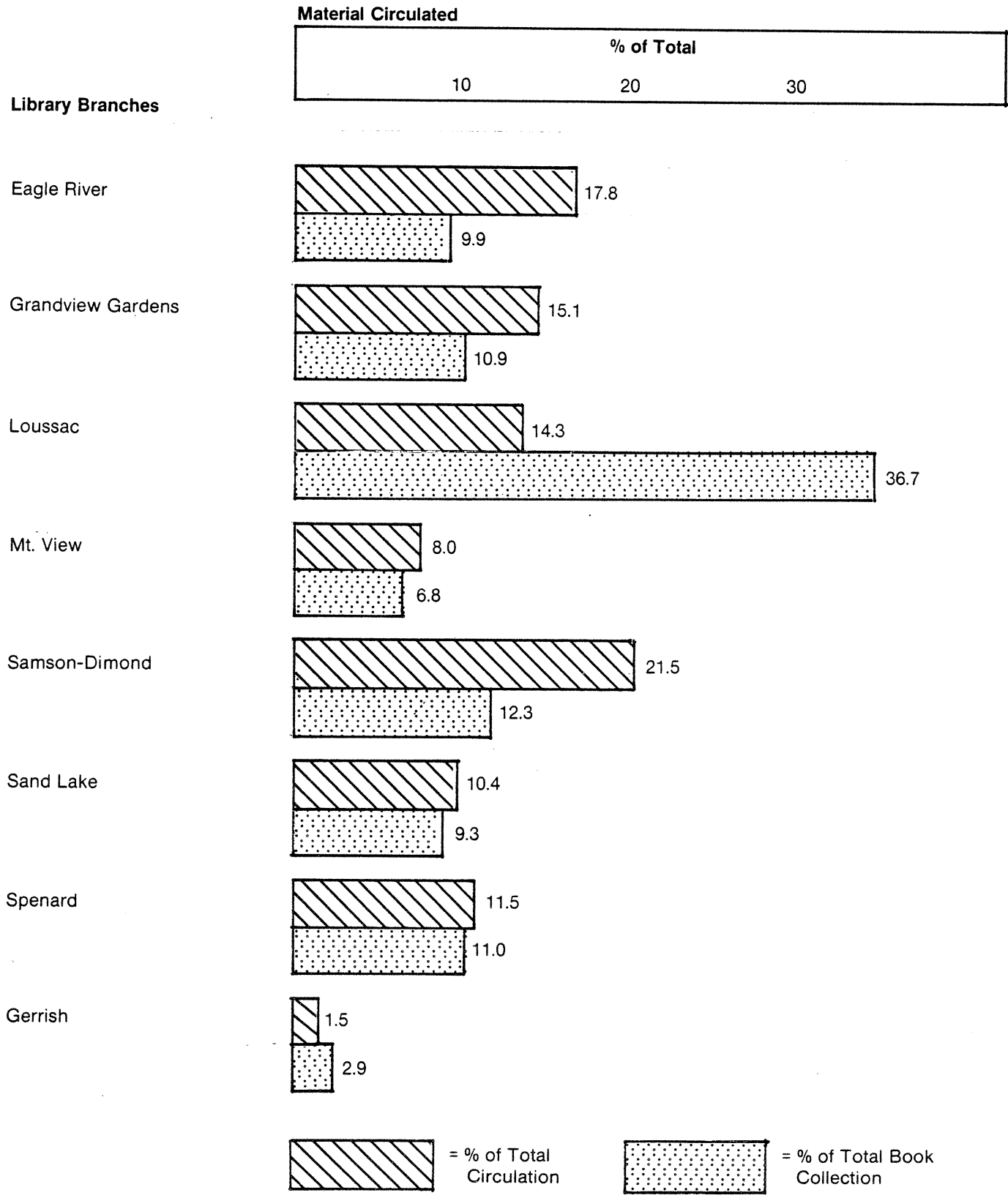
**Includes all non-circulating reference materials including Alaskana

Table 14

MATERIALS CIRCULATED — 1982										
Library	Adult Books	Juvenile Books	Magazines	Toys	Records Cassettes	Misc.	Films	Art Prints	1981 Total	1982 Total
Chugiak/ Eagle River	70,407	41,416	4,527		7,142	86	240*		119,869 (18.5%)	124,073 (17.8%)
Gerrish	4,035	3,875	717		1,493	384			6,852 (1.1%)	10,513 (1.5%)
Grandview Gardens	56,036	37,855	4,584		6,566	2			94,706 (14.6%)	105,213 (15.1%)
Loussac	63,180	13,233	9,019		12,779	63	578	715	85,074 (13.1%)	99,730 (14.3%)
Mt. View	32,935	17,089	1,687		4,178	7			52,259 (8.1%)	55,984 (8.0%)
Samson- Diamond	75,939	58,784	4,767		10,360				146,329 (22.6%)	150,044 (21.5%)
Sand Lake	39,951	26,864	1,812	780	3,270				59,062 (9.1%)	72,756 (10.4%)
Spenard	44,105	25,379	4,466		6,082				82,954 (12.8%)	80,111 (11.5%)
Total	386,588	224,495	31,579	780	51,870	542	818	715	647,105	698,424
MATERIALS CIRCULATED PER CAPITA: 3.42										

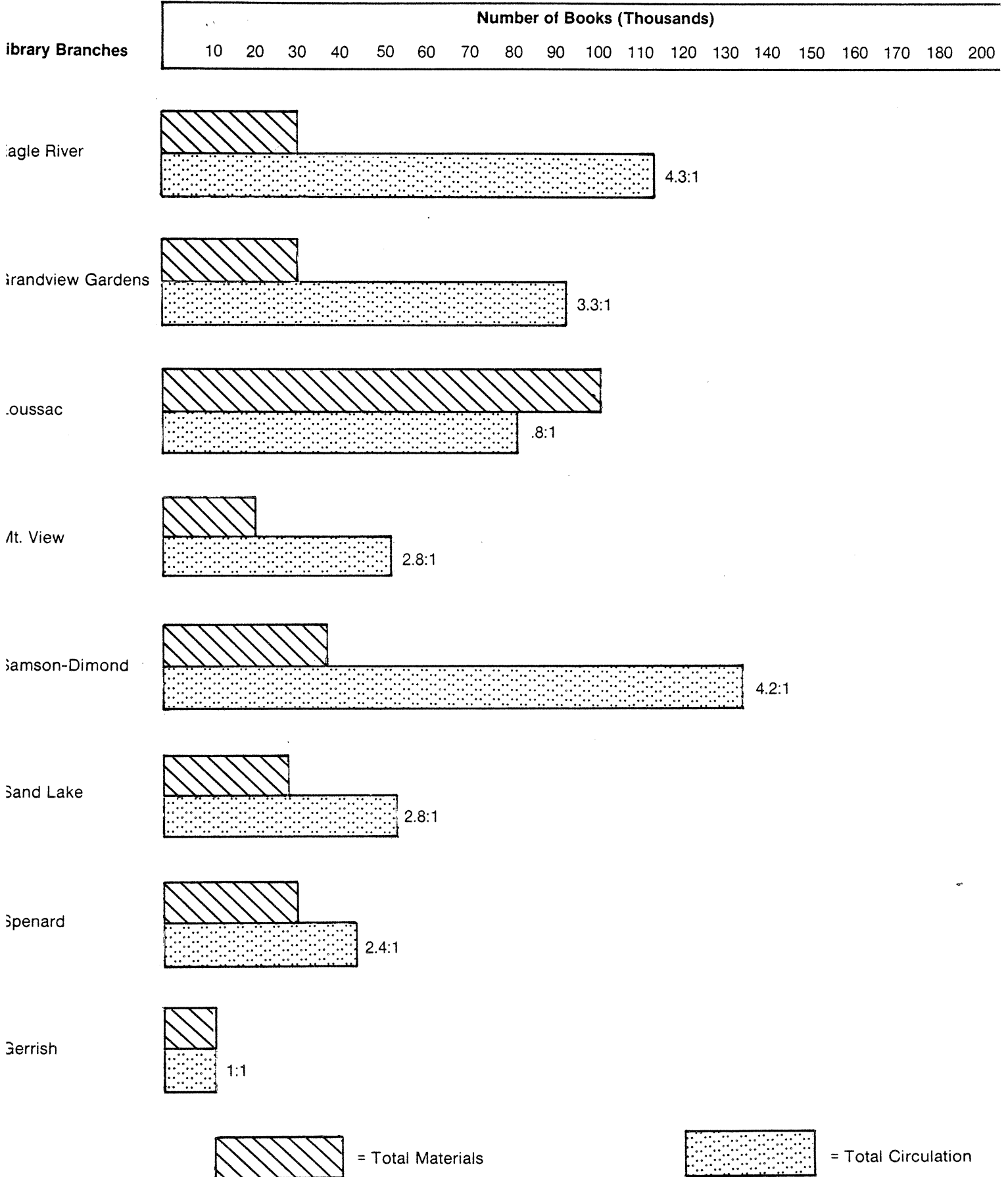
*State Library Films Circulated

Figure 1
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL LIBRARY STOCK*
COMPARED TO PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CIRCULATION



*Excludes all non-circulating reference and Alaskana books.

Figure 2
COMPARISON OF BOOKS TO CIRCULATION



*The Municipal Library System circulates each book an average of 2.4 times/year.

3.1.5 Reference Services

The types of reference services provided by the library system are identified in Table 14. There are a number of types of reference service, ranging from casual walk- or phone-in contacts to more detailed reference searches. The predominance of the Loussac Library is readily apparent, in terms of reference services, with fully 46% of all

such services provided by this facility. Of interest, too, is a comparison of reference services with materials circulated (see Table 15). Most of the branches, with the exceptions of Gerrish and Spenard, provide a smaller proportion of the total reference service than the proportion they provide for the total materials circulated.

**Table 14
REFERENCE SERVICES — 1982**

Library	Ready Reference		In-Depth Reference		Directional/ Equipment	Catalog Search	Mail Reference	Outside System Referral	Alaskana Reserves	Total Questions
	Phone	Walk-In	Phone	Walk-In						
Chugiak/ Eagle River	2,108	5,873	354	1,097	730/1,032	2,546		123		13,863
Gerrish	140	526	35	160	54/260	1,392	1	1		2,569
Grandview	807	1,381	271	506	201/339	1,168	3	60		4,736
Loussac	16,921	12,720	899	617	4,387/2,003	4,031	50	166	2,084	43,878
Mountain View	1,030	1,390	270	806	220/412	1,322		113		5,563
Samson/ Dimond	1,224	3,421	299	512	394/527	1,057		20		7,463
Sand Lake	1,413	1,395	138	372	166/250	1,102	1	20		4,857
Spenard	4,231	3,965	412	584	555/391	2,034	1	3		12,176
Total	27,874	30,671	2,678	4,663	6,707/6,214	14,652	56	506	2,084	95,105

Table 15
COMPARISON OF MATERIALS CIRCULATED TO REFERENCE SERVICES PROVIDED*

Library	Materials Circulated	Percentage of Total Materials Circulated	Reference Questions	Percentage of Total Reference Questions
Chugiak/Eagle River	124,073	17.8	13,863	14.6
Gerrish	10,513	1.5	2,569	2.7
Grandview Gardens	105,213	15.1	4,736	5.0
Loussac	99,730	14.3	43,878	46.1
Mt. View	55,984	8.0	5,563	5.8
Samson-Diamond	150,044	21.5	7,463	7.8
Sand Lake	72,756	10.4	4,857	5.1
Spenard	80,111	11.5	12,176	12.8
Total	698,424	100%	95,105	100%

*SOURCE: Municipal Library Staff, 1982

3.2 Anchorage School District - Resource Centers

Public school libraries are administered by the Anchorage School District of the Municipality of Anchorage. In 1982, there were 51 elementary schools, 6 junior high schools, and 6 junior-senior high school complexes in the school system. All schools in this system have library facilities. All school libraries are open during the entire school day. Additionally, some of the libraries are open one-half hour before and after regular school hours. Due to funding constraints, school libraries are closed evenings, weekends, and through school vacations. This results in a limited access to library facilities for the students, and for the public in general. Although school libraries are open to the public, they are of limited value to the general public since the library materials are primarily used to supplement the school curriculum.

In addition to a book collection, every school library in the Anchorage area contains multi-media materials. Some of the materials are housed in each school and become a part of that school's permanent collection. A large selection of multi-media material is housed at the School District's audio-visual center which is made available to all schools in the District.

3.3 Consortium Library-University of Alaska, Anchorage

The Consortium Library, established in 1973, provides services to Alaska Pacific University, the University of Alaska (Anchorage), the Anchorage Community College and (on a limited basis) to the general public of Southcentral Alaska. This library houses the single largest collection within the Municipality and includes 501,300 total volumes in 1982.

The purpose of the Consortium Library is to provide joint library resources to the educational institutions located in the Goose Lake area. It also serves as the State Research Library for the southcentral area of Alaska. The Consortium Library is open to the adult public for reference and also permits the public to check out books and other material for a sixty dollar initial lifetime fee, which is refundable. The business collection is not available to the general public, however.

3.4 Summary

Library services are provided through the Anchorage Municipal Library System by a combination of information resources from the Loussac facility and seven branch library facilities. Branch libraries are intended to

provide general reference and general interest reading material to the public in their immediate service areas. To the extent practicable, they are intended to be located at the center of their service area, and are meant to act as an information and cultural center for their area. The Loussac Library functions as a general resource and reference facility to the branch libraries. Administrative support is provided through offices located at the Loussac Library, Grandview Gardens, and DeBarr Road.

In addition, the Consortium Library at the University of Alaska provides library resources to the educational institutions of the

Goose Lake area and, to a more limited degree, to the Anchorage general public. The library resources of the Anchorage School District are provided through each of the elementary, junior high, and senior high schools, to the student body and faculty. Although open to the general public, school facilities are not readily accessible because of the limited hours of operation and because their literature is strongly curriculum-oriented. The capability of the library system to provide effective library services is analyzed in more detail under the discussion of service standards and the provision of library services.

4.0 ROLE OF MUNICIPAL LIBRARY SYSTEM IN THE COMMUNITY

The role of the community library system needs to be clearly defined in order to understand the functional linkages that now exist between the library and the overall metropolitan information system and the relationship of the various parts of the Municipal Library System to each other. Although it would seem that, of all areas of municipal government, the role of the community library is the most clearly defined, in fact much discussion of the library's role has occurred over the last 10-15 years. Questions have arisen over whether it should perform an informational role or a cultural communication one, over the number and kind of services to provide, and the relation of the library system to newly emerging informational technology. Each community has answered these questions differently, according to its needs, resources, and values. Anchorage must also make these decisions.

To clarify these relationships this chapter attempts to define:

- The relationship of the Municipal Library to other library services.
- The role of the various components of the Municipal Library System, especially that of the headquarters and branch libraries.
- The relationship of the library system to emerging informational technology.

4.1 Relationship of the Municipal Library System to Other Library Services

The Municipal Library System functions as the principal reference and lending library for the Anchorage community. Specialized collections, especially of reference, business and Alaskan works, are available at Loussac Library. The branch libraries also provide direct service to the community in the areas of children's literature, young adults' literature, general reference, and general interests literature. In addition to this general role, the Loussac Library operates as the resource library for the southcentral area of Alaska. In this capacity the Municipal Library makes general literature available to communities and individuals outside the Anchorage area. It is expected that this role will increase over time, especially as the new headquarters library becomes operational.

The previously described role must be viewed in the context of an overall information system which serves the Anchorage

community. In addition to the municipal system, library services are provided by the Consortium Library operated from the University of Alaska-Anchorage and by the Anchorage School District. The Consortium Library provides library services to the Anchorage Community College, Alaska Pacific University, and the University of Alaska-Anchorage. In addition, it provides services to the general public, operating as the research library for Southcentral Alaska. Its collections are also available to the general public on a limited loan basis. In essence, then, the Consortium Library functions as a more detailed, specialized technical and research library than that which is currently available at the Loussac Library.

Library services are also provided through the Anchorage School District system of school libraries. Such libraries are available at each of the elementary, junior high, and senior high schools. These services are heavily curriculum oriented and access by the public to the collection is severely limited. This limitation is caused by both the type of collection as well as the hours of operation. The school libraries can be viewed as that element of the information system oriented toward the educational needs of school-age children.

In summary, the Municipal Library System fulfills the general informational role of providing reference, general literature, and certain specialized informational services to the community. The Consortium Library provides additional specialized informational services to the general public through its function as the Southcentral Research Library while the Anchorage School District provides library services primarily for curriculum support to the children and young adult users.

4.2 Role of the Headquarters and Branch Libraries in the Municipal Library System

The Municipal Library System can be divided into two systems of information delivery: that provided by the headquarters facility (Loussac) and that provided by the branch library system. Each component has very specialized functions; these functions are reinforced by the facility's location within the community and by the type of collection it has available.

According to *Modern Branch Libraries*,¹ "a good relationship between the central library and the branch requires an administration that decentralizes initiative where local knowledge is important, and centralizes tasks that are repetitive or require uniformity throughout the whole system for some very important reason." In general, a headquarters library should operate as the general administrative unit, as well as the central technical resource repository. It should also provide both specialized collections to the general public and supplementary service to the branch libraries as a part of their effort to disseminate information to the public.

4.2.1 Headquarters Library

The role of the Anchorage Headquarters Library is similar to the description given above. It provides central administrative and budget control, support and technical services, and both supplementary and specialized collections to the general public and the various branches. This is the traditional role of a headquarters library.

Although it is appropriate that this role continue, it may change somewhat given the type of facility to be developed as the new Headquarters Library. This facility will house an extensive collection of nearly 500,000 volumes and will be centrally located to the using public within the Anchorage Bowl. For this reason, this facility should function not only in its traditional role as a headquarters library, but also as a central information center to the community, a community cultural center, and, to a certain degree, as a type of branch library. Experience has shown that as the location of a facility becomes more centralized relative to its service population, and as the need for specialized collections becomes increasingly important in our society, greater patron use is generated. It is very likely that patronage will be derived from all parts of the Anchorage Bowl and that collections more characteristic of branch libraries may be required.

4.2.2 Branch Libraries

The library literature views the branch library as the principal vehicle of information: "we may expect that the majority of book loans may be made from

branches or service centers, while central libraries, often marooned in a downtown location with little or no parking, become centers for specialized reference and research for the public and information centers for its community libraries via telephone and teletype." (*Modern Branch Libraries*, pg. 39-40.) The literature generally defines the term branch library as "any library agency which is part of and receives direction, services, and support from the central library or headquarters." Branch libraries are further distinguished from central libraries by differences in patterns of services, purposes and use. According to *Modern Branch Libraries* branch facilities tend to:

1. give more time to the public;
2. provide a more personal atmosphere;
3. be more heavily used by children than central libraries;
4. become an integral part of their neighborhoods, often serving as a community activity center;
5. provide a more limited, general book collection and be far less specialized; and
6. fit their service programs to the needs of the community since the community is more compact and communication is easier.

The literature identifies two theories of branch library function. The "library service" role emphasizes the branch as a smaller scale public library offering reference and other special services, similar to the central library. The "book distributing branch" function assumes that branches should be agencies for the circulation of popular books at the neighborhood level. Both are valid concepts since they apply to different types of branches. However, according to the library literature, there should be fewer of the small book distributing branches, and many more of the larger branches that provide informational service to adults and young people.

The Municipal Library System essentially follows the "library service branch" orientation, with general litera-

¹Eleanor Brown, *Modern Branch Library*. Metachen, New Jersey, Scarecrow Press, 1970.

ture and reference services being provided to the service population. More specialized services are provided through the headquarters facility. This orientation tends to be typical of most larger metropolitan areas, and seems to be a satisfactory balance between the general division of responsibilities between branch and headquarters libraries. It should be noted that increasingly, urban areas are planning to develop what are termed "regional" branch libraries. Typically, library planning guidelines call for local branches to serve between 25,000 and 35,000 people, with regional branches serving between 50,000 and 75,000 individuals. In general, the small branch library is giving way to strong regional branches serving large areas.

According to *Modern Branch Library*, "Related to these factors is the truism that small, weak branches with diminutive book collections, lacking personnel of high quality, and with limited programs and services, generally do not justify themselves by public use. Libraries which are strong in book collections, highly trained staff and a variety of high quality services are economical and justify the tax dollars spent upon them by proportionally higher use." Small branch libraries are typically defined as having between 4,000 and 9,000 square feet and a service population of between 20,000 and 30,000. Anchorage branch libraries fall into this classification.

In summary, the Municipal Library System is separated by function into two general services: the regional headquarters library and the system of branches. The headquarters facility is intended to provide administrative and technical support services. It is also intended to provide specialized collections and to have sufficient general collection resources to provide supplementary resources to branch libraries as necessary. The branch library system is intended to afford closer contact to the public through a more generalized literature collection and reference service. Increasingly, the intent of municipal library planning is to develop strong regional branches serving populations of 30-60,000 individuals and having strong general collection and

reference services. This approach is justified by the proportionally higher use and associated cost savings.

4.3 Relationship of The Library System to Emerging Informational Technology

Increasingly, library systems have made use of recent innovations in computer technology to automate certain of the services they provide. Automated information systems have been developed for certain file structures, especially in larger metropolitan systems having large circulation volumes. These systems are particularly well suited to repetitive tasks involving highly labor intensive work. Generally the information systems are used for bibliographic record structures, listing and accounting systems, serial accessioning systems, circulation control, ordering and acquisitions, and cataloging and bibliography listing.

These systems have been automated to accomplish a number of purposes: to speed up the main processing cycle, to reduce cost, or to increase the accessibility of the library's holdings to its users. The literature indicates that whether or not the repetitive functions of library ordering and serial control should be automated is primarily a question of cost, volume of circulation, and effectiveness of existing manual control. A detailed systems structure analysis is normally required to determine whether the library system should be automated. The Municipal Library System has determined that automation of the more basic, recurring tasks of the type described above is both desirable and feasible. Thus, these aspects of automation technology can and should be applied to the library system.

The issue of whether library services can be automated in terms of the provision of information to the public is another issue. (This issue is different than the previous question of whether it is advisable to automate certain internal library functions.) Some authorities have held that the on-line storage of large amounts of information will increase, but most hold that such installations are costly and the benefits must be proven beyond doubt—in competition with less glamorous approaches—before the cost can be justified for even a large library. The report prepared by Tebbel, "The Role of Technology in the Future of Libraries," indicates that until libraries determine how they are going to be financed in the future, at a time when communities are unable to maintain present

standards much less exceed them, the theories of large-scale information distribution (to the public) technology are not likely to be tested in practical terms except in small-scale efforts.

This report also analyzes other problems associated with the widespread uses of technology in substituting information systems for traditional library systems. The most critical problems are the expense of the operation and the very formidable problem of providing the library users with access to the library stock. In nearly all cases an automated system is a very expensive operation and one that normally does not appreciably lower labor costs. Typically, libraries have opted to mechanize only those portions of their systems that deal with system repetitive tasks that may represent some degree of additional system control or some added marginal amount of cost saving. They have not opted for the automation of the information to be used by patrons. Tebbel identifies a number of reasons for this: copyright laws, the development of technology convenient to use by the consumer, and the general problem of user compatibility. Copyright laws generally preclude the copying of information and much of the mechanized forms of information transfer are dependent upon such duplication. There is also the fear that such automation will create an elite within the library profession that will make it difficult for many individuals to use the

information of the library except with difficulty. Finally, there is the difficulty of the potential loss of user understanding and the still larger problem of the receptivity by the library user to non-written forms of communication. Increasingly research has indicated the reluctance of the user to make use of non-printed media; they tend to prefer the portability of and ease of access to written material.

Generally, the literature indicates that information dispersion technology is going to play an important, but as yet undetermined, role in the library of the future, in spite of the caution and outright opposition impeding its advance. It also concludes that cost will limit that advancement in all but the largest libraries and even then the limitations will be determined by the state of the national economy. Machinery exists to almost completely automate libraries and it is entirely feasible to construct large information files and to interconnect libraries as well as to connect users with knowledge sources. The future will make clear whether or not mechanization/automation in the library system, as well as in other settings, is worth the significant cost for hard and software; and if the results will, through patron education provided by library staff, be accepted by the individuals the system proposes to serve.

5.0 LIBRARY SERVICE NEEDS

The purpose of this chapter is to analyze the general demand for municipal library service over the next 15-20 years, and to relate this demand to the locational requirements and kind of facilities required to satisfy the community's requirements for informational services. The result of a recent survey of library use are also included in order to provide a basis for the evaluation of current services and the basis for providing future services. Anchorage is a growing metropolitan area, and its population is characteristically young and professionally oriented. It can be expected that the demand for informational services will increase rapidly over the next several decades and that the Municipal Library System will be called upon to fulfill a large part of those requirements.

5.1 Standards and Siting Guidelines for Public Libraries

Guidelines for determining minimum requirements for public libraries have been developed by the American Library Association. The standards are generally accepted as a means for evaluating existing library service and are also used in the planning for the development of future library facilities. However, these standards should be modified when applied to particular areas, such as Anchorage, and especially in a planning effort such as this one. The Anchorage area differs markedly from most metropolitan areas in the continental United States. There is a difficulty in applying general standards to the Anchorage area since existing services fall far short of meeting nationally accepted standards. Local priorities should be set on the basis of relative need in order to have an early impact, to improve existing facilities, and to reach out to those areas with no facilities at all. Also, library service standards assume the existence of a relatively fully developed or settled service area in terms of population, economy, and mature public institutions. Anchorage is, of course, in a state of dynamic growth with a relatively new history of library service and other public services. In the Lower 48, most cities are close to large university libraries and have better access to these resources. Anchorage does not have these resources and consequently must rely more upon the Municipal Library System.

5.1.1 Material Standards

The American Library Association's minimum material standards for population centers ranging from 150,000 to 1 million is 2-4 volumes per capita. Population centers at the lower end of the range require a greater number of volumes per capita. Thus, Anchorage, with a population of over 200,000 should use the higher end of the range (3-4) when determining material standards for the area. This is due to the large number of unique books a library must carry, regardless of its size. Once an adequate number of unique books are obtained, the marginal need for books is reduced. It will be recalled that the current ratio is 1.5 volumes per capita. This general standard, of course, includes only current, usable volumes. To maintain a minimum collection, annual additions and replacements of not less than 1/6 volumes per capita in areas serving up to 500,000 should be made.

Generally, it is evident that the Anchorage Municipal Library System falls well below the range of adequacy relative to national material collection standards. These standards point out the need for improvement in the existing material collection, as well as specific components of that collection related to general collections and certain specialized subcollections. The standards also emphasize the need for marked improvement in the number of volumes provided by the Municipal Library System, and the need to emphasize priorities in terms of how the library system should be strengthened to meet the particular areas of concern and need.

5.1.2 Locational and Sizing Criteria

General

Both headquarters and branch libraries have specific locational characteristics. Access to the library is an essential aspect of the overall success of a municipal library system. Reasonable accessibility to the service population is, according to the library literature, of nearly equal importance to the type and number of collection volumes. Much of the understanding of the locational characteristics of libraries has evolved over the last 10-15 years.

Empirical research has documented certain important locational characteristics essential to the effective provision of service by headquarters and branch libraries. This literature also documents certain of the sizing and collection characteristics of branch libraries.

Headquarters Library

Traditionally, municipal headquarters libraries have been located in the central part of the metropolitan area, commonly the central business district. The most recent planning literature does not specify a particular geographic area but emphasizes certain essential locational characteristics.

According to the report, "Minimum Standards for Public Library Systems",

"the headquarters unit of a library system is a focal point of service and administration both in its immediate locality and for the member or branch libraries affiliated with it. Here people find a level of library service that will help them meet their many interests, needs, and obligations. The headquarters building of a library system, which constitutes the readings and resource center for many people as well as the administrative center of the system, should be adequate to fulfill the objectives of the program of service. The site for a public library building should be where the largest percentage of the people to be served will have access to the library frequently in the normal pursuit of their activities. The site should be convenient to public transportation; and have conveniently available automobile parking in public, commercial, or library parking lots."

The selected location of the Municipal Headquarters Library fulfills the requirements stated by the report. This location is central to the Anchorage Bowl. Furthermore, scheduled transportation improvements, both roadway and transit, should increase its accessibility to the developing areas of South Anchorage over the next several decades.

Branch Libraries

In many respects the locational characteristics of branch libraries are similar to those of the headquarters facility.

Branch libraries should also be convenient to the service population and should be located at the central point of access to principal transportation routes. In the context of this report, a typical neighborhood or community library branch is defined as ranging between 5,000 and 12,000 square feet. These branches offer reference and other special services in addition to a general circulation collection. A typical neighborhood branch can be expected to produce an annual circulation of 75,000 to 300,000 volumes with 45 to 50% of the book collection for adults. Minimum floor space for branches should be about 8,000 square feet and should serve about 30,000 persons. Each branch should be located three to four miles from any other library service agency. Since the book ordering, cataloging, and processing occur at the central library, practically all staff time and effort at the branches can be given to the general public.

The report, "Minimum Standards for Public Library Systems," also suggests locational characteristics for branch libraries. It states that the branch library should be located in a place to which residents come often, such as a shopping center or the community's business center. Although convenience for adults should be given priority, buildings should be so located that the greatest possible number of all age groups can reach the library frequently, conveniently, and safely. The distances between community libraries will vary, depending upon the density of population and on the habits and needs of transportation of the people in the areas to be served. In general, spacing between branches should be at least three miles. Larger branches can be four to five miles apart. Prior to locating new branch libraries in the future, the Municipality should conduct user surveys in order to identify the most convenient library sites.

These general locational principles are given further elaboration in the book, *Modern Branch Library*, which states that the following principles should be considered in locating branch libraries:

- Every effort should be made to locate branch libraries so that they are accessible to the population that they will serve initially and for at least the next 30 years.
- Economical planning calls for branches to serve from 25,000 to 35,000 people.
- Branches should be some distance from the central library, whose greater resources and material staff will draw users from a wide radius.
- A prominent, easily accessible location is required to attract a large number of people. This means a place where people naturally converge; i.e., in the heart of a shopping center or neighborhood business district, rather than in a remote location such as a park or a quiet street.
- The location may be expected to have a one mile radius of maximum attraction and a 2-3 mile radius of influence.
- In general, the spacing between branches should be at least three miles.
- The location should be on or near an important traffic intersection and on a well traveled thoroughfare.
- The site must be sized large enough for a suitable building and adequate parking. It is suggested a building of 9,000-10,000 square feet requires at least 12,000 square feet.
- Branches should be near sizable residential districts.

The aforementioned locational principles will be used as the basis for analyzing alternative branch library sites. They should also be used as the basis for branch locational decisions in this revision of the Library Plan.

5.2 Library Survey

A survey of library use was conducted during 1982. This survey provides the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of current library services and for determining the factors critical to the effective provision of library facilities. In many respects, this prescription orientation is the more essential of the two survey functions. The results of this survey should be linked to the previous description of the library system inventory and to the evaluation of alternative library systems that immediately follow in this chapter.

5.2.1 Methodology

The library survey was conducted by library personnel in the fall of 1982, and resulted in 681 valid responses. The methodology involved a telephone survey of randomly selected households within the Municipality of Anchorage. The random selection was based on a list derived from the telephone directory. The large sample size, which represents approximately 1.1% of all households (60,000 in 1980) in Anchorage, permits a high degree of confidence in interpreting the results of the survey. Although the results are accurate on a municipal level, care must be taken when interpreting the results on a neighborhood level. This is due to the low number of responses per neighborhood (e.g., only 8 persons were surveyed in Girdwood and 11 from Abbott Loop). This report will utilize neighborhood figures only when the results indicate a substantial divergence from the Municipality-wide results. Although the conclusions drawn from this information may be valid, the exact figures cannot be considered accurate.

The neighborhood boundaries used for the purpose of this survey are shown on Map 8. It should be noted that these boundaries do not correspond exactly with the Community Council boundaries and may, in fact, encompass more than one Community Council.

Although the survey contains some minor limitations, it does contain important, interesting results relative to

the types of people who frequent the library and their opinions concerning library services and convenience. For a more detailed description and evaluation of the survey results, see Appendix A.

5.2.2 Summary of Results

The following is a summary of the significant results derived from the library survey:

Library Services

- Respondents indicated a strong preference for children books and programs (98.5%), reference information (97.5%), and special services for the handicapped (95.9%).

Library Convenience

- Only 49% of the Muldoon residents said that the closest library was convenient to use, compared to 65% for the Municipality as a whole. Of those Muldoon residents claiming that it was inconvenient, 85% indicated that it was too far from home.
- Only 55% of the mid-town residents (Turnagain, Spenard, and Lake Otis neighborhoods) felt that their local branch was convenient to use.
- Approximately 77% of the South Anchorage residents felt that their branches were convenient to use.

Preferred Type of Location

- Most of the people responding to the survey preferred libraries located in shopping centers (50%) over a separate site (38%).

Library System Use

- The Municipal Library System plays an important part in the provision of library services within the Municipality with 74% of the population using it at least once a year compared with 41% who used the public school libraries and 38% who reported using the University Library on an annual basis.

- Most Anchorage residents (61%) used the Municipal Library System less than 8 times a year, and over one-fourth (26%) did not use the municipal libraries at all during the past year. On the other hand, 39% used the libraries more than 8 times a year with 24% reporting that they visited the libraries more than 12 times last year.

Branch Library Use

- The Loussac Library (22%) and the Samson-Diamond Library (20%) were the two most frequently used branches.
- Loussac attracts 70% of its patrons from areas outside of the downtown neighborhoods.
- Approximately 68% of the people surveyed who have used the Municipal Library System during the past year used the library closest to home most frequently.
- Muldoon residents comprise 65% of the Grandview Gardens patrons.
- The Samson-Diamond branch is most frequently used by 57% of the South Anchorage residents.

Factors Influencing Branch Use

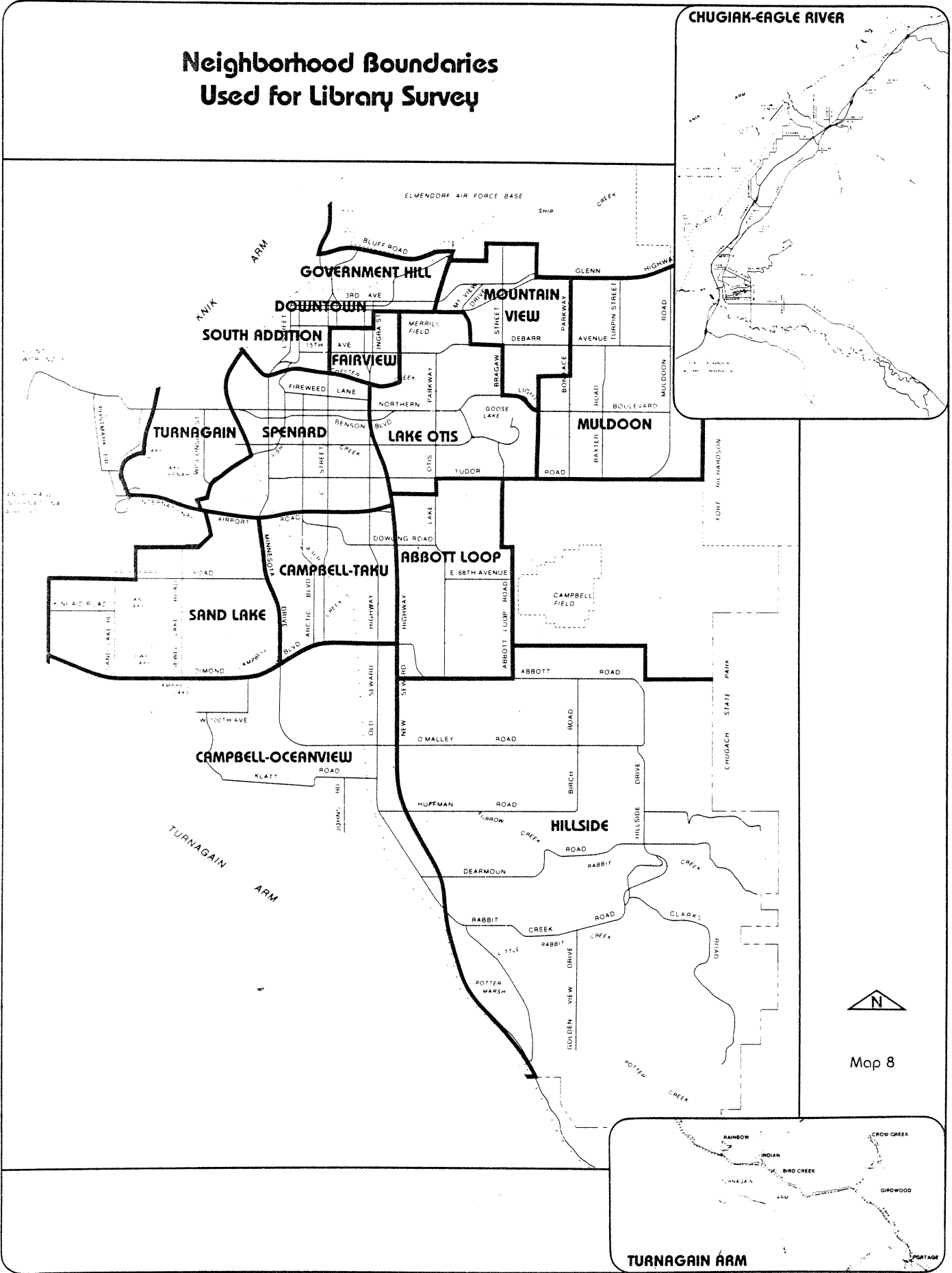
- Closeness to home (79%) and convenient access and good parking (69%) are the two most important factors influencing the choice of libraries to use.
- Less than one-half of those using the Loussac Library most frequently said that closeness to home was a reason why they used it.
- Convenience to shopping and other errands was indicated by 97% of the Samson-Diamond branch patrons as an important reason for using this branch.

Transportation

- Approximately 82% of the persons using the Municipal Library System traveled by automobile, 10% walked and 4% used the bus.

Neighborhood Boundaries Used for Library Survey

CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER



Map 8

- Walking was an important means of transportation to the libraries for residents of Fairview (22%), Mt. View (28%), and Downtown/South Addition/ Government Hill (36%).

Reasons for Not Using Library

- The majority (51%) of persons who reported that they do not use the library cited the lack of time as a reason.

Rate of Use

- 42% of those with over 16 years of education used the library over 12 times a year compared with 25% for the entire population over 25 years old.
- Of those persons living in Anchorage less than a year, 64% said that they did not use the Municipal Library System.

5.2.3 Implications for Library System Planning

The results of the library survey may prove to be very useful in the planning of library services for the Municipality of Anchorage, especially with regards to the need for and preferred location of future branch libraries. The popularity of shopping center locations is demonstrated in three ways by the survey results. First, one-half of those questioned said that they preferred branches located in shopping centers compared to 38% favoring branches located on separate sites. Second, 67% of those surveyed who reported using the Municipal Library System last year claimed that convenience to shopping and other errands was an important factor in their choice of branches to use. Third, branches located in shopping centers tended to be used more often than branches located elsewhere.

The need for a new branch library in the Muldoon neighborhood was also pointed out in the library survey. Only 49% of the Muldoon residents surveyed said that the library closest to home (i.e., Grandview Gardens or Mountain View) was convenient to use compared to 65% for the Municipality as a whole. Of those claiming it was inconvenient to use, 85% indicated that it was too far

from home (compared to 52% Municipality-wide,) 89% said that the location was inconvenient (compared to 65% Municipality-wide,) and 61% responded that it takes too long to get there (compared to 38% Municipality-wide). The construction or leasing of a new branch in the Muldoon neighborhood may have an impact on the Grandview Gardens branch since Muldoon residents comprise 65% of the Grandview Gardens patrons. Thus, a decrease in the use of the Grandview Gardens branch is expected if a new branch is opened in the Muldoon neighborhood.

The opening of the new Headquarters Library in the midtown area will have an impact on the rate of use of other branch libraries. For instance, the new Headquarters Library may have a significant impact on the use of the Spenard Library which is located less than one mile from the site of the proposed facility. According to the survey, Spenard branch patrons use this facility primarily due to its closeness to home (88% compared to 79% Municipality-wide) and due to its closeness to work (43% compared to 30% Municipality-wide). Since the Headquarters Library will be equally convenient to Spenard residents and workers, it is expected that many of the Spenard branch patrons will use the new facility when it is opened due to its larger selection of materials. This is true to a lesser extent with respect to the Sand Lake Library.

The impact of the new Headquarters Library on the Downtown branch cannot be accurately determined at this time. However, since the Downtown branch will be downgraded from a regional facility to a neighborhood facility serving the Downtown area, it is expected that its use will decrease. According to the library survey, 62% of those persons who use the Loussac Library most frequently said that a better selection of materials was an important factor in their choice of this library compared to 34% Municipality-wide. Thus, it appears that the Headquarters Library will attract Downtown branch patrons due to its superior selection of materials. On the other hand, nearly one-half (46%) of those people using

the Downtown branch most frequently said that closeness to their job was an important factor in their choice of these libraries compared to 30% Municipality-wide. Since the Downtown is expected to remain as an important employment center, people will continue to use this library since it is conveniently located in relation to their jobs.

The survey indicates that the Loussac Library (22%) and the Samson-Diamond Library (20%) were the two most frequently used branches. The Loussac Library currently serves as the regional branch for those people living in the Government Hill, Downtown, South Addition, Fairview, Mountain View, Muldoon, Turnagain, Spenard, and Lake Otis neighborhoods. The Samson-Diamond branch serves a similar purpose and attracts patrons from throughout the South Anchorage neighborhoods. The Gerrish, Eagle River, Mountain View, Grandview Gardens, Sand Lake, and Spenard branch libraries primarily attract patrons from their immediate neighborhoods. Thus, instead of having a system with a single main library and various branches, the Municipality, has, in effect, a system composed of two regional branches and various neighborhood branches.

The library survey points out the need for better outreach to new arrivals. The results indicate that persons who have resided in Anchorage for less than a year tend to use the Municipal Library System less frequently than others. Approximately 64% of this group did not use the system during the past year compared to 26% for the Municipality as a whole.

The demand for library services is greatest among those with over 16 years of education. Approximately 42% of this group reported using the Municipal Library System over 12 times last year compared to 25% for the entire population over 25 years old. Thus, it is predicted that areas with higher levels of education will have a higher demand for library services (O'Malley/Hillside neighborhood has 43% with over 16 years of education, Inlet View/Turnagain has 35% and Lake Otis has 34%).

In general, the library survey reveals the important role of the Municipal Library System in the provision of informational services to the people of Anchorage. Approximately 74% of the population used the system at least once last year, compared to 41% who used the public school libraries and 38% who reported using the University Library.

5.3 Evaluation of Facility/Service Alternatives

Alternate library systems were analyzed as a part of the report, "Description and Evaluation of Library System Alternatives," prepared by the Community Planning Department in September, 1982. The purpose of this analysis was to identify the major library system alternatives (physical facilities) for potential development over the next 10-20 years. The report specified a series of alternatives and assessed each against certain measurement standards. The purpose of this evaluation was to provide an indication of the various ways that the community library system could develop and to demonstrate the major tradeoffs (e.g., costs, service convenience levels and circulation levels) of the various approaches. These factors are essential to effective decision making for future library facilities, and form the basis for the recommendations contained in the next chapter.

5.3.1 Description of Alternatives

As indicated, the report identified and evaluated a range of alternatives. Table 16 describes the various alternatives in terms of the facilities provided by each. A range of library services is described under those alternatives in order to clarify major impacts and effects of the various strategies. (The various alternatives are identified below.)

- Alternative 1 - Existing System. This alternative tested for the feasibility of providing services using the current system over the next 10-20 years. This option includes four municipally owned facilities as well as four leased facilities.
- Alternative 2 - Neighborhood Library Emphasis. This approach involved a major expansion of the library system to include a head-

Table 16
CHARACTERISTICS OF ALTERNATIVES:
FACILITIES PROVIDED

	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 4
Branches				
Municipally Owned	Grandview Mt. View Headquarters Gerrish	Mt. View Grandview Headquarters (new) Girdwood Lake Otis Chugiak Spenard/ Turnagain	Headquarters (new) Girdwood	Headquarters (new) Eagle River Girdwood
Leased	Sand Lake Samson-Dimond Downtown Chugiak/ Eagle River	Downtown Sand Lake Samson-Dimond Eagle River (new) Muldoon Huffman Campbell Lake	Chugiak Eagle River Downtown (new) Muldoon Campbell Lake Huffman	

quarters facility as well as a major increase in neighborhood (branch) libraries. Under this alternative, there would be six municipally owned libraries and seven leased facilities. Both new branches as well as additional leased facilities could be provided throughout the Eagle River/Eklutna area and throughout the eastern and southern portions of the Anchorage Bowl.

- Alternative 3 - Regional/Selected Neighborhood Emphasis. This alternative tested for the capability of the regional headquarters library and a more limited number of neighborhood libraries (compared to Alternative 2) to provide satisfactory library service. In this option, the emphasis would be to provide a mixture of library services through neighborhood facilities and the headquarters library. This approach decreased the number of library facilities located in neighborhoods compared to the previous alternative, but attempted to site these facilities in more central locations relative to their service populations.

- Alternative 4 - Headquarters, Eagle River, Girdwood. This alternative tested for the feasibility of providing library services through single facilities at each of the major areas of urbanization: Eagle River, Turnagain, and the Anchorage Bowl.

5.3.2 Evaluation of Alternatives

Each of the various alternatives was evaluated against the performance criteria of cost, system capacity, and service convenience in the technical report. The following description is meant to provide an indication of the principal aspects of those characteristics. By no means should this evaluation be considered to be inclusive of all factors relevant to library system alternatives. The factors used in the evaluation are considered to be those characteristics normally found to be important in decision-making.

Costs

The components of cost were separated into lease, capital, and operational expenses in the technical report. These costs are related to whether the facilities are built by the Municipality or

involve the leasing of private space. Costs associated with the various alternatives are as follows:

*Alternative 1 - \$1,635,000

*Alternative 2 - \$3,665,000

*Alternative 3 - \$1,939,000

*Alternative 4 - \$500,000

The annual operation expenses of the Headquarters Library were not included in the cost estimates. However, the cost of operating the Headquarters Library is estimated by the library staff as \$6,111,910 per year. Debt service for the new structure is estimated to cost \$2,752,750 per year.

Considerable variation in system expenses accrue, dependent upon the construction of the headquarters library and, especially, the number of branch libraries. Not including the existing system (Alternative 1), the least cost approach was that of the regional alternative (Alternative 4). It was followed in cost effectiveness by a limited regional selected neighborhood emphasis (Alternative 3). The provision of additional neighborhood facilities (Alternative 2) is considerably more expensive at \$3.67 million, and would have considerably greater operating and capital costs.

System Capacity

To determine if services would be satisfactorily provided, the technical report developed an assessment of capacity. This criteria utilized the standard of 3.5 volumes per capita and applied it to the projected year 2000 municipal population. Based upon this criteria, approximately 1,110,000 volumes should be provided by the library system by the year 2000. Each of the system alternatives were then evaluated as to how this goal could be reached and to what degree it could be attained. It was assumed that the capacity of the headquarters library would be 345,500 volumes and the individual branch libraries, 30,000 volumes each. Based upon these criteria, estimates were then made of the amount of circulating materials required and provided under any particular alternative.

Table 17 analyzes the service circulation capacities of the various approaches. Of the various approaches, Alternative 2, which emphasizes neighborhood branches, is the most effective. This alternative could provide a 735,500 volume capacity and comes closest to achieving the volume goal of 1,110,000. Alternative 3 is the second most effective approach and can provide a 525,500 volume capacity. Alternative 4, which provides a 405,500 volume capacity, is not as effective in meeting the volume goal and ranks third. Alternative 1, the existing system, is the least effective alternative. This is due primarily to the fact that the new Headquarters Library is not included in the calculations. If the Headquarters capacity was included, Alternative 1 would be slightly more effective than Alternative 3.

It should also be considered that the number of total volumes is only one measure of library effectiveness. The number of unique titles available within the library system is indicative of the breadth of information offered. The addition of branch library collections, while increasing the total volume capacity, has little effect on the number of unique titles available, since branch collections for the most part duplicate materials in the Headquarters Library.

System Convenience

Convenience can be expressed in a number of ways. In this report, the various alternatives were related to driving time-distance. Obviously, as the number of branch library facilities of a particular type decreases. This reduction in driving time was thought to represent a benefit to the user.

Depending upon the number of branch libraries provided under a particular system alternative, the driving time to branch facilities can vary dramatically. The average driving distance to the four alternatives is identified in Table 18. For obvious reasons, that alternative involving a large number of branch facilities would tend to be the most convenient of the system alternatives. The second most effective approach would involve the selected develop-

**Table 17
SERVICE LEVELS**

Alternative 1: Existing	
1,110,000	Volume goal (3.5 volumes per capita)*
165,860	Neighborhood branches' capacity
98,125	Loussac's capacity
(846,015)	Additional volumes required to meet national standard of 3.5 volumes/capita
Alternative 2: Neighborhood	
1,110,000	Volume goal (3.5 volumes per capita)*
390,000	Neighborhood branches' capacity
345,500	Headquarters' capacity
(374,500)	Additional volumes required to meet national standard of 3.5 volumes/capita
Alternative 3: Mixed Regional and Neighborhood	
1,110,000	Volume goal (3.5 volumes per capita)*
180,000	Neighborhood branches' capacity
345,500	Headquarters' capacity
(584,500)	Additional volumes required to meet national standard of 3.5 volumes/capita
Alternative 4: Regional with Satellite	
1,110,000	Volume goal (3.5 volumes per capita)*
60,000	Neighborhood branches' capacity
345,500	Headquarters' capacity
(704,500)	Additional volumes required to meet national standard of 3.5 volumes/capita

*Volumes that will be needed by the year 2000.

**Table 18
AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE**

	Miles
Alternative 1	1.5
Alternative 2	0.8
Alternative 3	2.0
Alternative 4	3.5

ment of branch libraries and the least effective approach would be that involving a regionalization strategy.

5.3.3 Summary of Analysis of Alternative Future Library Systems

The technical report evaluated the various system alternatives against cost, service capacity, and service convenience criteria. Table 19 provides a comparison of the alternatives related to the factors mentioned above. As might be imagined, the alternatives vary appreciably in system effectiveness. A particular alternative may be most effective in terms of minimizing cost while another may be advantageous in terms of system convenience or system capacity. As indicated in Table 19, Alternative 4 is clearly desirable in terms of cost but is inadequate in terms of system capacity and branch service convenience. Alternative 1, while minimizing cost, is similarly inadequate rel-

ative to system capacity and to service convenience. Alternatives 2 and 3 seem to provide the best balance to library service provision, but each involve varying levels of practicability. The cost difference between Alternatives 2 and 3 is substantial, with Alternative 3 being \$2.2 million less expensive than Alternative 2. Alternatives 2 and 3 are generally similar in terms of system capacity, but Alternative 2 (which involves a larger number of branch facilities) is clearly superior in terms of minimum driving distance. It should be remembered, however, that both alternatives fall within the national standard for branch library location of a 2-3 mile radius of influence. Clearly, all alternatives are satisfactory relative to the criteria of convenience except for

Alternative 4.

Generally it was found that, based upon the aforementioned criteria, the most realistic approach to library expansion involves the centralization of library services in the three major areas of urbanization: Eagle River, the Anchorage Bowl, and Turnagain Arm; with regional branch libraries being provided throughout the remainder of the highly developed areas of Eagle River/Eklutna and the Anchorage Bowl for service populations of 40,000-60,000 (Alternative 3). It would seem, then, that the principal issues in facility planning for library systems should focus on the number and kind of branch libraries to be provided throughout the urbanizing areas of the Municipality.

**Table 19
SYSTEM ALTERNATIVES**

	Alternative 1 (Existing)	2 Alternative 2 (Neighborhood)	Alternative 3 (Mixed Regional and Neighborhood)	Alternative 4 (Regional w/ Satellite)
Cost	\$2,355,253	\$4,730,827	\$2,525,094	\$495,185
System Capacity	263,985* Volumes	735,500* Volumes	525,500* Volumes	405,500* Volumes
Service Convenience	1.5 miles**	0.8 miles**	2.0 miles**	3.5 miles**

*Branch library collections for the most part duplicate materials in the Headquarters collection. An increased number of volumes indicated by the addition of branch facilities does not represent a significant increase in the number of unique titles available within the library system.

**Average Driving Distance

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIBRARY PLAN

The purpose of this chapter is to specify the type and characteristics of the Municipal Library System required to serve the information and cultural needs of Anchorage residents over the next 10-15 years. Public library services are essential to a rapidly growing community, and perform an increasingly important role in our technologically oriented society.

Two factors will have an enormous impact upon the kind and location of public library facilities that are provided over the next decade. First, the demographic characteristics of Anchorage differ significantly from the "Lower 48" in that Anchorage's population is generally young, well educated, and relatively affluent. These characteristics, which are expected to become more predominant in the future, tend to lead to a higher demand for library services. Second, the population of Anchorage is rapidly shifting from the older, more developed areas north of Tudor Road to areas of South Anchorage.

This chapter describes the type of library system that is most appropriate for Anchorage and distinguishes between the roles that should be played by both the regional and branch libraries in the provision of information to the public. It also defines the relationship that should exist in the provision of information between and among the major library systems; i.e., the Municipal Library System, the Anchorage School District and the Consortium Library of the University. The latter facilities are important information providers in their own right, and it makes good sense to properly define the various roles of these facilities in order to avoid the duplication of services and ensure the proper focusing of limited sources. Finally, this chapter defines the major goals and policies of library system development, which will provide the basis for decision making regarding the development and location of future library systems within the Anchorage Bowl as well as in the rapidly developing areas of Eagle River, Chugiak, and Eklutna.

6.1 Definition of Library System Roles

The need for public libraries has traditionally rested upon the following set of assumptions that:

- There is a social value inherent in the provision of books and related materials to the public;

- Commercial channels do not adequately meet the social need to provide information;
- The media leaves gaps in information and cultural coverage;
- People do not have suitable alternative institutional sources of reading materials;
- People are self-motivated and will seek out and use the library.

It is apparent that the factors underlying these assumptions have changed in the last century. The public now has convenient access to extensive amounts of information; information is readily available in convenient multi-media form; and library services are now provided by a variety of institutions as well as by the public library. How, then, has the library adapted to these changes in assumptions and to what degree should the library redefine its role? These questions must be answered in the context of Anchorage's demographic characteristics, as well as the needs and interests of the people of this area.

Historically, the public library has responded to these changed conditions by, in part, a retention of its traditional clientele and, in part, by gradual adjustments to changing conditions. In terms of the former, the public library has provided information to the general public through professional, business, and popular cultural works, and to children and students through materials which stimulate recreational reading. The retention of its traditional clientele only partly explains the survival of the public library in changed times, however. Over the years, the institution itself has adjusted to new demands. A thrust to extend services through local neighborhood outlets is one such adjustment. The emergence of children's services is another adaptation. Ultimately, the attempt to retain patronage and to provide better, more extensive library services to other publics has resulted in a multipurpose institution. This multiplicity of purpose is both the source of a library's strength and its weakness, of its flexibility and its ambiguity.

The Anchorage Library is such a multipurpose institution. Its role is defined by what the community wishes of it, and what resources are provided by the public to support its operations. Based upon the results of

the library survey, it is apparent that several factors are important to the definition of the library's role in Anchorage:

- A strong preference for children's books and programs, reference information, and special services for the handicapped.
- The important role it performs in overall library services and the relatively high patronage rate: 74% of the population uses it at least once a year, compared to only 41% using the school library, and 38% who use the University Library.
- The significantly higher demand for library services among those with a college education: 42% of those with over 16 years of education use the library over 12 times a year, compared with 25% for the entire population over 25 years old.

It is appropriate for the library to retain a multi-faceted role in the provision of information and cultural resources to the Anchorage public. It is the principal institution relied upon to provide general reference, specialized collection, and general literature collections for all citizens of the Municipality. This traditional role must be expanded in the future to accommodate the development of informational technology and meet the needs of the increasing technological orientation of our society. It is also appropriate that the role be further expanded to include outreach activities for language and ethnic minorities and to develop specialized collections in certain fields of interest to Anchorage residents. Economic growth projections indicate an expanding service and administratively oriented workforce. Increasingly, the library system should adopt the role of a central resource of library materials for the south-central area of Alaska as well as provide a strong business and historical collection to complement other institutional collections.

6.2 Library System Recommendations

A variety of alternative library systems could be developed which fit within the previously discussed role statements. However, the type of system that should be developed for the Anchorage area is dependent upon the desires of community residents, the effectiveness of library service delivery, and cost considerations. In all communities, it is

necessary to balance the general need for facilities with the limited resources typically available from public funds to support this demand. Anchorage is no different in this respect. The Library Plan attempts to strike a balance between fiscal resources and public demand. It would be presumptuous, however, to assume that these recommendations will remain unchanged over time. The community is growing rapidly and our concepts of what is desirable and necessary in terms of information are changing as rapidly as our demographic mix and our informational technology. For this reason, it is important to recognize that these recommendations are general strategies for system development and both can and should be altered as conditions and events warrant.

6.2.1 General Library Strategy

The development of a library system having as its focus the Headquarters Regional Library, with a strong community branch system, is recommended as the most appropriate structure for the Municipal Library System. Based upon an evaluation of alternative library systems, and the competing demands for resources, the desire for library services can most effectively be met by this approach. This strategy emphasizes the development of the Headquarters Library as the centralized technical and administrative focus of the library system, and as the principal library depository and cultural center of the Municipality and Municipal Library System. It also emphasizes the creation of strong, regional branch libraries. The focus of regional branch library facilities should be to provide a diversified collection and easy proximity to the service population. Both factors are important to sustained branch library patronage. The library survey indicated a very substantial use of branch libraries by children and young adults, as a complement to their school library facilities. The branch library approach should be viewed as an attempt to provide convenient, accessible facilities at the center of the population areas they serve.

Regional Headquarters Library

Under this approach, the Regional Headquarters Library performs the role of a specialized technical, administra-

tive center, and is the principal cultural and informational resource center of the public library system. Its service policy would be that of a regional library facility; i.e., to provide an extensive collection augmented by technical and administrative services. The Headquarters Library should perform a support role to neighborhood library facilities through specialized and general library collections and through reference services. The Headquarters Library would, to a limited degree, also perform the services of a neighborhood branch facility for nearby residential areas. It can be anticipated, due to its central location and its projected heavy use, that the Headquarters Library will affect the attendance patterns of those existing libraries providing services to the Spenard, Sand Lake, and portions of the South Anchorage communities.

An important, related service of the Headquarters Library is to function as the Southcentral Alaska Regional Library. Its general collections should be accessible through the State Library System to the southcentral Alaskan communities. Its serves should be oriented to general reference and a general collection, as opposed to the more specialized, research services performed by the University Consortium Library.

Branch Libraries

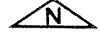
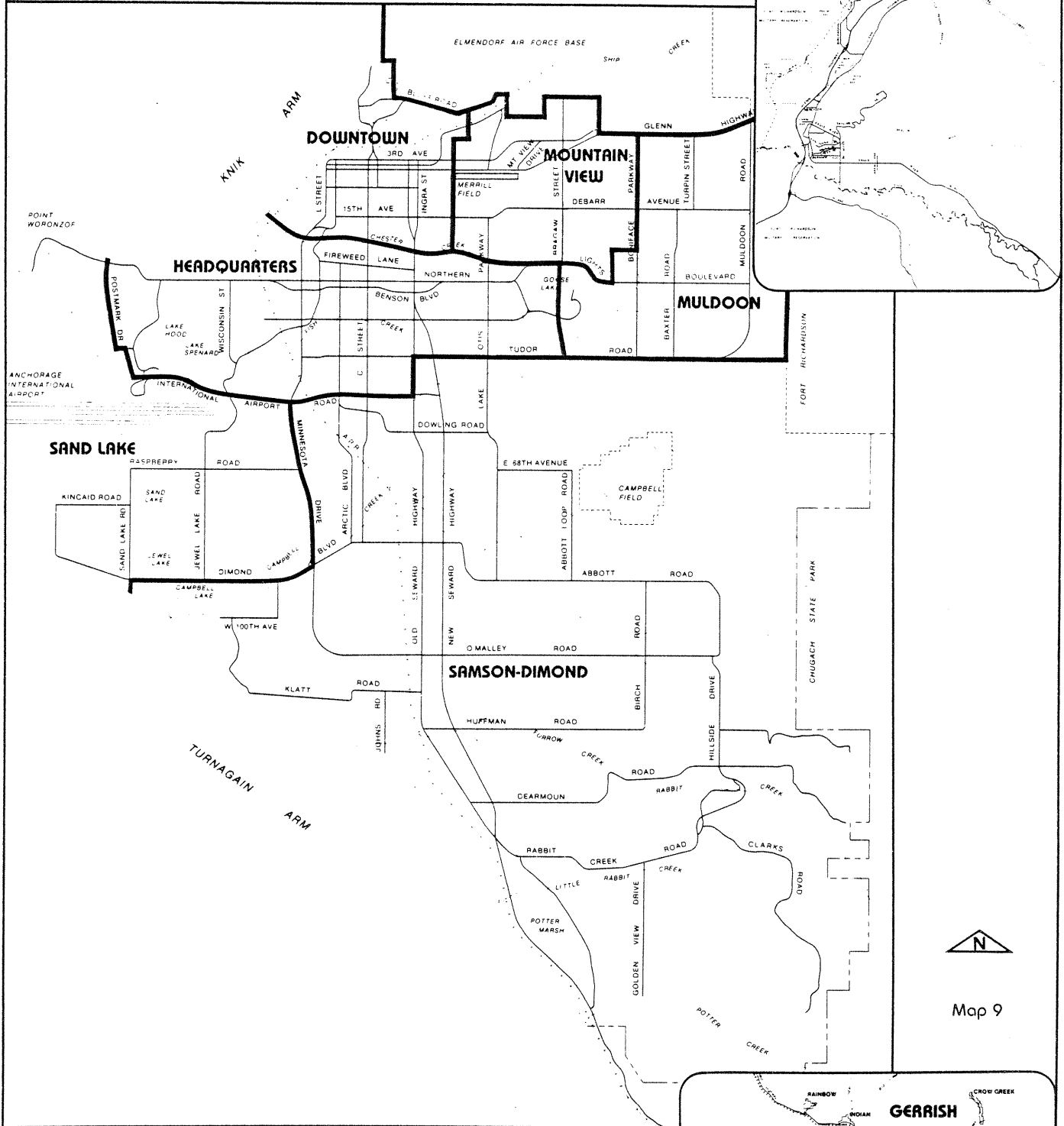
With both the rapid growth of the Anchorage area and the community's desire for library facilities within convenient driving and walking distance, the development of a strong branch library system makes sense. However, it is important that the branch system that is developed provide a strong collection and reference service, as well as a children's and young adults' collection, to an area having a sizable population. It is recommended that branch libraries, with the exception of the Downtown, Eagle River, and Girdwood branches, serve a population of no less than 30,000 and that these facilities occupy a minimum of 8,000 square feet. In addition, they should have diversified collections of sufficient size to include children's, general reference, and general adult sections. These should be viewed as minimum

requirements, and should be augmented by other collections and services as appropriate to the service area of the branch library. The provision of branch services is especially important for the more geographically remote areas (from the Anchorage Bowl) of the Eagle River/Eklutna and Turnagain Arm areas. However, areas within the Anchorage Bowl that are beyond 3 miles distance of the Headquarters Library should also be provided with branch library facilities if the above requirements are met.

Table 20 lists the service area population, both current and future (year 2000), of existing and proposed libraries. The service area boundaries (Map 9) were derived from an analysis of survey results and established neighborhood boundaries. As shown in the table, the service area population of the municipal libraries vary greatly, with the Gerrish Library in Girdwood currently serving the smallest population (827) and Samson-Diamond (39,586) and Grandview Gardens (41,384) serving the largest populations. This is largely the result of the proximity of the branch libraries. For example, the Downtown, Mountain View, Grandview Gardens, and Spenard libraries are located within only a few miles of each other. As a result, they draw upon service populations which would normally be attracted to other branches. More specifically, the Grandview Gardens Library, located within one mile of the Mountain View Library, cuts off a large portion of Mountain View's potential service area. The result can be seen in the relatively low circulation figures for Mountain View (55,984 in 1982). If the Grandview Gardens Library was deactivated, it is expected that the Mountain View Library's circulation would increase since its service area would then be allowed to expand. This assumes that patrons will usually visit the library closest to their homes. The ideal service area population, according to library planning literature, is approximately 30,000. Municipal branch libraries should not have service area populations significantly higher or lower than this figure. The Gerrish Library in Girdwood is an exception since it is isolated from the rest of Anchorage. At the present time, most municipal branch libraries do not meet this standard. However, this situation should be improved in the future with the addition of the proposed Muldoon library. It should also be noted that the Samson-Diamond

Neighborhood Branch Library Service Areas

CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER



Map 9

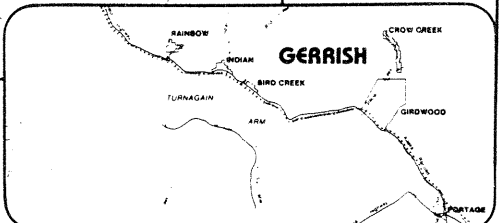


Table 20
CURRENT/PROPOSED LIBRARY FACILITIES

LIBRARY FACILITIES		POPULATION	SERVED
Current	Future	Current	Future (Year 2000)
Anchorage Bowl Downtown	Downtown	14,781*	17,489*
Mountain View	Mountain View	5,505	18,254
Grandview Gardens	Muldoon	41,384	55,021
Spenard	Discontinue	30,992	41,026**
Sand Lake	Sand Lake	11,113	28,028
Samson-Diamond	Samson-Diamond	39,586	96,135
Eagle River-Eklutna Eagle River	Eagle River	12,835	42,308
Turnagain Arm Girdwood	Girdwood	827	2,656

*The Downtown Library currently provides services to Downtown and the entire community. In the future services will probably be more limited, with areawide functions being performed by the Headquarters Library.

**The Headquarters Library will perform a branch library function for this facility.

branch, which currently serves a population of approximately 40,000 may, because of expected population growth, serve a population of approximately 96,000 by the year 2,000. Clearly, this is an exceedingly high population-to-facility service ratio. For this reason, an additional branch library in South Anchorage (or relocation of the existing facility) may be necessary by the late 1980's.

The military bases (Elmendorf A.F.B. and Fort Richardson) were not included in this analysis of neighborhood branch library needs since it is assumed that most of the

military personnel living on base use the base libraries. However, this should not be taken to mean that they will not have an impact on the demand for library services, nor that the library needs of the military are not important to the Municipality.

Table 21 provides a summary of the major recommendations affecting the current and proposed branch library facilities. The previous comments relating to the Headquarters Library, the Downtown branch, and the Samson-Diamond Library directly affect the recommendations of this table. A complete discussion of the various recommendations is now provided.

Table 21
BRANCH SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS AND PHASING SCHEDULE

Facility	Recommendation	Time Period
Downtown	Retain downtown facility to provide service to business/ governmental institutions and to immediate residential areas. Relocate to old Federal Building.	Relocate subsequent to opening of the Headquarters Library.
Mt. View	Continue current facility.	
Grandview Gardens	Discontinue current facility before opening of the new Muldoon Library, for which library resources from Grandview will be required.	
Muldoon	Establish a new Muldoon branch with exact location to be determined by user survey of locational preference(s). Facility should be located in shopping center	Within one year, select site and establish a new branch library.
Spenard	Discontinue Spenard branch immediately before the Headquarters Library becomes operational.	Discontinue the Spenard Library in 1985.
Samson-Diamond	Continue and increase the operations of this library as population growth occurs in the South Anchorage area.	By 1988, re-evaluate the location of this facility relative to developing residential patterns.
Chugiak-Eagle River	Continue and increase the operations of this library as population growth occurs.	Re-evaluate the location of this facility by 1988.
Gerrish	Continue and increase the operation of this library as population growth occurs in the Girdwood Valley.	
Sand Lake	Evaluate the continued use of Sand Lake Library after the Headquarters Library becomes operational.	By 1988, re-evaluate the location of the facility and the effects of Headquarters Library.

— **Downtown**

The Downtown branch should be continued but reoriented in its service policies. It should provide a standard collection for the immediate residential area as well as reference and related services to downtown business and governmental institutions. The current facility should be relocated to new space within the Old Federal Building. The relocation of this facility should occur in conjunction with the opening of the Headquarters Library facility, to provide an easy transition from the current Loussac location to the midtown facility.

— **Mountain View**

Because the current facility serves an identifiable service area and because it occupies a municipally owned structure, no changes are recommended to this branch.

— **Grandview Gardens**

The Grandview Gardens facility should be discontinued immediately before the opening of the new Muldoon Library in order to facilitate the transfer of materials. A Muldoon facility operating concurrently with the present Grandview Gardens Library would soon prove the latter to be redundant.

— **Muldoon**

A new Muldoon Library should be established that is more centrally located to most Muldoon residents. Surveys have indicated that the current facility (Grandview Gardens) is not particularly well situated to the majority of Muldoon Library users, and a strong preference for a new Muldoon facility has been identified. The location of this branch should be based upon the locational principles found on Page 51. This library should be established within one year and should utilize rental or lease space as soon as available.

— **Spenard**

The Spenard Library, occupying rental space in a small shopping center, will be discontinued immediately before the Headquarters Library becomes operational. The use of this facility, while quite satisfactory relative to the circulation levels of branch libraries, will be greatly affected by the operation of the new Headquarters Library. It is probable that the clientele now making use of the Spenard branch will be attracted to the Headquarters Library.

— **Samson-Dimond**

The circulation of this facility is the highest of any branch and even exceeds the circulation of Loussac and Eagle River. For this reason, and because the South Anchorage area is growing rapidly, the present facility should be both continued and expanded. However, metropolitan growth will increasingly shift to South Anchorage locations and the population projections contained in Table 20 indicate that the service level of this facility will increase from approximately 39,586 to 96,135 by the year 2000. These factors — geographic demographic shifts and the level of future population — may necessitate either (1) the relocation of this facility to a more centrally located shopping center if one is established of major size or (2) the establishment of an additional library at a shopping center south of Dimond Boulevard as growth in the southern portions of the Hillside increases. These demographic shifts should be carefully evaluated over the next five years, and both the location and size of this facility should also be reevaluated.

— **Chugiak-Eagle River**

Similar to South Anchorage, the Eagle River/Eklutna area is growing very rapidly. For this reason, the current facility should be continued and should be expanded as population growth occurs in this area. However, these residential growth patterns may shift eastward of the current Eagle River site, and it may be necessary, by approximately 1988, to re-evaluate the location of this facility relative to these patterns. But unless unexpectedly great population growth occurs in this area, it is not anticipated that a second facility (probably in Chugiak) would be necessary within the next 10-15 years.

— **Girdwood**

It is recommended that the current facility continue and be enlarged as the population increases in the Girdwood Valley. In addition, the extent of the circulation collection should be increased to more adequately reflect the needs of the residential population of the Girdwood Valley.

— **Sand Lake**

The opening of a new Headquarters Library in 1985 may have a significant impact on the Sand Lake Library's circulation. Therefore, it is recommended that the continued use of

the Sand Lake Library be reevaluated one year after the Headquarters Library becomes operational.

6.3 Summary of Recommendations

The development of the Municipal Library System should be viewed as a commitment by the Municipality to the provision of information and cultural resources to community residents. It is essential that the library's collection be responsive to the needs of the community and that facilities be developed both to serve specialized technical requirements as well as the general collections provided by branch libraries. The hierarchal organization of a regional library system complemented by strong neighborhood branches in developing community areas appears to be the most practicable method of providing library service to the Anchorage area. The establishment of branch libraries should be undertaken in a cautious manner to ensure their successful operation. They should be developed within major regional shopping centers at the center of the population they intend to serve and provide an extensive collection and reference service. The last tier of this hierarchy relates to facilities in the Eagle River/Eklutna and Girdwood areas. These areas, because of their remoteness from the Anchorage Bowl, will require strong branch facilities to serve their populations. Finally, municipal library services should be complemented by the children's and young adults' collections of the Anchorage School District and by the technical, specialized collections of the University Consortium Library. The two latter facilities should not be used as the principal vehicle of information provision to the Anchorage community, but as supplements to it.

The identification of library facility needs is only part of the answer to improved library service for the Anchorage community. The next section of goals and objectives identifies ways to improve the existing system. The military bases have not been included in the service areas since personnel primarily use base libraries. However, there will be an obvious impact.

6.4 Goals and Objectives of the Municipal Library System

The present library system does not fully meet the informational needs of the Municipality of Anchorage. Areas which need

improvement include access to services, awareness and use of libraries, collections and facilities. It is important that the decision making related to the development of the Municipal Library System in future years be guided by standard principles and criteria pertaining to library system development and operations. Lacking such guidance, decision making is apt to be inconsistent and not properly integrated with mid- and long-range facility requirements. As explained in the beginning of this plan, national standards exist by which the Anchorage Library services can be evaluated and assessed for change. These goals and standards must, however, be integrated with the needs and desires of community residents, results of the library survey which indicate the more specific aspects of these desires and needs, and with the overall facility recommendations for the development of library systems. The following goals and objectives are intended to serve as a guide to the library board and to the Municipality in its efforts to improve service throughout the metropolitan area consistent with the recommendations of the Library Plan.

6.4.1 Service Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives contained in this section reflect a conscious decision regarding the appropriate level of library service for the Municipality of Anchorage. The goals and objectives fall under three headings: access to services; awareness and use of libraries; and use of library services.

Access to Services

The distribution of branch libraries within the Municipality of Anchorage is largely the result of historical accident. As a result, service areas are sometimes overlapping. Other areas, such as Muldoon and the Hillside area, are underserved. The specific objectives contained in this section are designed to remedy this situation.

GOAL:

To provide equal access to library services to all municipal residents.

OBJECTIVE:

To provide a point of access to public library services within 1½ miles of most municipal residents.

GOAL:

To improve access to library services for special groups which cannot use regular library materials or facilities.

OBJECTIVE:

To provide handicapped access to all municipal libraries.

Awareness and Use of Libraries

The library survey, the results of which are contained in a previous chapter, revealed the need to improve services and outreach to certain subgroups of the population. These goals and objectives are designed to improve service to these subgroups.

GOAL:

To increase general awareness of the resources and services available to municipal residents.

OBJECTIVE:

To develop an aggressive publicity program aimed at new arrivals in order to make them aware of library locations and services.

OBJECTIVE:

To increase the awareness of the inter-library loan program and the reserve book program.

GOAL:

To improve service to population subgroups now underserved.

OBJECTIVE:

To increase the use of library services by senior citizens.

OBJECTIVE:

To increase the proportion of the less educated population using the library.

Use of Library Services

This section provides direction with regard to the type of library services provided at various branches. These goals and objectives generally reflect priorities as identified in the library survey as well as demographic information contained in the Community Profile chapter.

GOAL:

To increase library services to children in those sections of the Municipality where the number of children warrant it.

OBJECTIVE:

To maintain the high ratio of juvenile books to adult books in areas with a high proportion of children such as Sand Lake, Samson-Diamond, and Chugiak-Eagle River.

OBJECTIVE:

To provide a substantial proportion of juvenile books (between 2:1 and 1:1) in the new Muldoon Library.

GOAL:

To expand information services for municipal residents.

OBJECTIVE:

To maintain the current level of business related information materials at the Downtown branch after the Headquarters Library is opened.

OBJECTIVE:

To increase the number of volumes per capita to 3.5.

GOAL:

To provide appropriate services for the illiterate and functionally illiterate.

OBJECTIVE:

To provide a core collection of non-print materials suitable for persons with few or no literacy skills at outlets such as Mountain View, Downtown, and Chugiak-Eagle River which serve a population area with a higher than average proportion of adults having less than 12 years of school.

OBJECTIVE:

To provide an adequate collection of high interest, low vocabulary level materials at all outlets.

6.4.2 Resource Management Goals and Objectives

The Municipality of Anchorage, like all municipal governments, has limited resources to spend on the provision of library services. Therefore, it is important to effectively match collections to the needs and demands of the local communities as well as to improve the delivery of the existing collection. The location of new branch library facilities is another important ingredient in the effective provision of library services. The goals and objectives contained in this section address these issues.

Collections

GOAL:

To better match collections to the needs and demands of the local communities.

OBJECTIVE:

To increase the purchase of multiple copies of titles with heavy demand.

OBJECTIVE:

To obtain at least a 0.6 volume per capita replacement rate of the total collection.

GOAL:

To improve the delivery of materials to users.

OBJECTIVE:

To fill 50 percent of the title requests on demand from the local collection; to fill the remainder of requests (from local collection and other branch resources) within two to three weeks.

GOAL:

To automate the acquisitions, cataloging, and circulation functions.

OBJECTIVE:

To complete the automation of these functions within five years.

Staff

GOAL:

To enhance the employment situation in order to retain competent personnel.

OBJECTIVE:

To develop scheduled continuing education programs.

OBJECTIVE:

To evaluate, improve and add, as necessary, channels for staff communications, input, and feedback.

Facilities

GOAL:

To provide new branch library facilities in locations which serve the needs of the population.

OBJECTIVE:

To locate branch libraries on or near important traffic intersections and on well traveled thoroughfares.

OBJECTIVE:

To locate branch libraries as near as possible to the centers of their service populations.

OBJECTIVE:

To locate branch libraries in prominent, easily accessible locations where people naturally converge; i.e., in the heart of a shopping center or neighborhood business district, rather than in a remote location such as a park or a quiet street.

OBJECTIVE:

To maintain spacing between branches of at least three miles.

OBJECTIVE:

To locate branches in such a way as to serve approximately 30,000 people.

GOAL:

To develop and implement a set of physical standards for branch library facilities.

OBJECTIVE

To provide adequate parking for all library facilities.

OBJECTIVE:

To provide new branch libraries with a minimum of 8,000 square feet floor area.

OBJECTIVE:

To increase the size of the existing branch libraries to the minimum standard of 8,000 square feet.

OBJECTIVE:

To provide comfortable and convenient areas and pertinent equipment for use of materials within the library.

OBJECTIVE:

To provide prominently located and easily visible external signs identifying library facilities.

6.4.3 Administrative or Directional Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives contained in this section relate primarily to the implementation of this plan. It also considers the need for future planning efforts.

GOAL:
To secure understanding and support of the long range plan.

OBJECTIVE:
To develop awareness and support for planning goals by the community and local leaders.

OBJECTIVE:
To provide staff orientation with regard to the new plan.

GOAL:
To implement continuous planning.

OBJECTIVE:
To update the Library Plan once every five years.

GOAL:
To create a strong and financially secure library system.

OBJECTIVE:
To secure a funding base adequate to implement the goals and objectives of the Library Plan.

OBJECTIVE:
Funding should be adequate to utilize fully all branch libraries.

GOAL:
To continue and further develop cooperation with all types of libraries.

OBJECTIVE:
To increase cooperation and eliminate unnecessary duplication within the Municipality and Regional Library System for maximum effectiveness, economy and service.

Appendix A

LIBRARY SURVEY — TECHNICAL REPORT

1.0 Introduction

Although the survey contains some minor limitations, it contains important, interesting results relative to the types of people who frequent the library and their opinions concerning library services and conveniences.

The results of the library survey may prove to be very useful in the planning of library services for the Municipality of Anchorage, especially with regards to the need for and preferred location of future branch libraries. The survey also reveals valuable information on how the Municipal Library System works; that is, who uses what library and why. As a result, predictions can be made concerning the effect of new branches on the existing system and the resultant redistribution of patrons. The results of the survey provide indications as to the type and amount of preferred library services. They also provide insight into the public's preference for library location and an indication as to those locational factors affecting library use. Each of these considerations are important to effective library use and therefore are important to library planning.

2.0 Methodology

The library survey was conducted by library personnel in the fall of 1982, and resulted in 681 valid responses. The methodology involved a telephone survey of randomly selected households within the Municipality of Anchorage. The random selection was based on a list derived from the telephone directory. The large sample size, which represents approximately 1.1% of all households (60,000 in 1980) in Anchorage, permits a high degree of confidence in interpreting the results of the survey. Although the results are accurate on a municipal level, care must be taken when interpreting the results on a neighborhood level. This is due to the low number of responses per neighborhood (e.g., only 8 persons were surveyed in Girdwood and 11 from Abbott Loop). This report utilizes neighborhood figures only when the results indicate a substantial divergence from the Municipal-wide results. Although the conclusions drawn from this information may be valid, the exact figures cannot be considered accurate.

The neighborhood boundaries used for the purpose of this survey are shown on Map 8. It should be noted that these boundaries do not correspond exactly with the Community Council boundaries and may, in fact, encompass more than one Community Council.

3.0 Library Services

In order to determine what library services residents of Anchorage thought that branch libraries should provide, the survey asked respondents to indicate their preference from a given list. The respondents were free to choose more than one preference. The results are listed below:

Service	Percentage Desiring Service
Children's books and programs	98.5%
Reference information	97.5%
Special services for the handicapped	95.9%
Services for institutions and the homebound	88.7%
Xeroxing and typing facilities	81.2%
Lending of records and tapes	77.6%
Library operations on Sunday	71.0%
Special events	70.5%
Lending of films	67.4%
Providing meeting rooms for community	59.9%

Survey respondents expressed strong preferences for children's books and programs, reference information, and special services for the handicapped. However, a clear majority indicated that they felt that branch libraries should provide all of the services listed above. The preference for these services did not vary significantly among respondents from different neighborhoods.

4.0 Library Convenience

When asked if the library closest to their home was easy to get to, the respondents' answers varied greatly depending upon which neighborhood they lived in. Only 49% of the Muldoon residents said that the closest library was convenient to use, compared to 65% for the Municipality as a whole. South Anchorage residents, as a whole, felt that their branch (Samson-Diamond) was convenient to use (77%). Only 55% of the mid-town residents (i.e., Turnagain, Spenard, and Lake Otis), found that their local branch library (Spenard) is easy to

use. The construction of the new Headquarters Library on 36th Avenue between 'A' Street and Denali may help to remedy this situation.

When asked why they felt their local library was not easy to get to, persons surveyed answered in the following manner:

Reasons Library Not Easy To Get To*	Percentage
Location inconvenient	65.0%
Too far from home	51.9%
Hours inconvenient	38.2%
Takes too long to get there	37.5%
No transportation	17.0%
Physical problems	2.6%

* Respondents were allowed to choose more than one.

Of those who said that the library was not easy to get to, 89% of the Muldoon residents said that this was due to the inconvenient location of the existing libraries. Moreover, 85% of the Muldoon residents indicated that the nearest branch was too far from home. This is not a surprising result, since Grandview Gardens, the nearest branch, is located on Debarr Road and Bragaw Street, a four to five mile trip for some Muldoon residents.

5.0 Preferred Type of Location

Most of the people responding to the survey preferred shopping centers (50%) over a separate site (38%) for libraries. Respondents also seemed to feel that libraries located in shopping centers served their children best. Approximately 48% of the Muldoon residents surveyed preferred a shopping center site compared to 41% who preferred a separate site.

6.0 Other Libraries Used

The Municipal Library System is used much more often than other libraries within the Anchorage area. While 74% of the respondents used at least one of the municipal libraries during the past year, only 41% used the public school library, 38% used the University Library, 14% used the Alaska Resources Library, and 11% used the library located at the military base.

Type of Library Used*	Percent
Municipal Library System	74%
Public School Library	41%
University Library	38%
Alaska Resources Library	14%
Military Base Library	11%
Other Library	7%

* Respondents were free to choose more than one.

7.0 Most Frequently Used Branch

When asked which branch library do you use most frequently, the following results were obtained from the respondents:

Library	Percent Using That Branch Most Frequently
Loussac	21.7%
Samson-Diamond	20.1%
Spenard	11.7%
Grandview Gardens	11.3%
Chugiak-Eagle River	10.7%
Mountain View	10.1%
Sand Lake	8.0%
Gerrish	1.2%
Don't Know	5.2%
Total:	100%

The results show that Loussac is the most frequently used library. This result is somewhat surprising since Loussac ranks fourth in terms of circulation. This may indicate that rather than using Loussac as a lending library, patrons are using it instead as a reference library or reading room. The popularity of the Samson-Diamond branch stems partly from its large service area which includes the Hillside, Abbott Loop, Campbell-Taku and Sand Lake neighborhoods. On the other hand, the small number of persons using the Mountain View, Sand Lake and Gerrish branch libraries may be the result of their small service areas. The service population of the Gerrish Library, which includes the entire Turnagain Arm, was only 875 in 1980. Many patrons who might normally use the Sand Lake Library may be using the Samson-Diamond branch instead, due to its convenience to shopping and other errands. The Mountain View Library competes for patrons with other nearby libraries such as Loussac and Grandview Gardens.

8.0 Library Service Areas

A breakdown of Loussac Library patrons by neighborhood reveals that this branch attracts users from the entire Municipality (see Table on page A-6). Only 30% of its patrons are from the surrounding neighborhoods (i.e., South Addition, Downtown, Fairview and Government Hill). The remainder are from other areas of the Municipality. The large number of persons using the Loussac Library from outside the downtown neighborhoods is probably due to its function as a Headquarters Library.

The Samson-Diamond branch, in effect, acts as a regional library for South Anchorage. This branch draws its patrons most heavily from the Hillside neighborhood (35%). But it also attracts a large

number of its patrons from Sand Lake (10%), Campbell-Oceanview (13%), Abbott Loop (8%) and Campbell-Taku (8%).

The rest of the branches exhibit the characteristics of neighborhood libraries and draw the majority of their patrons from the immediate vicinity. For example, the Sand Lake Library draws 73% of its patrons from the Sand Lake neighborhood, the Chugiak-Eagle River branch draws 93% of its patrons from Eagle River, the Gerrish branch attracts 100% of its patrons from the Turnagain area, and the Grandview Branch draws 65% of its patrons from the Muldoon neighborhood. The Spenard Library draws most of its patrons from the mid-town area (e.i., 22% from Turnagain, 42% from Spenard, 7% from Lake Otis, and 9% from Fairview). The opening of the new Headquarters Library on 36th Avenue between "A" Street and Denali could result in a significant reduction of patrons utilizing the Spenard branch, since the new library would presumably act as a neighborhood library for the mid-town area.

9.0 Factors Influencing Branch Use

One of the questions in the survey involved the reasons why the respondent used a particular branch most frequently. The results were as follows:

Reasons For Using Particular Branch*	Percentage
Closest to home	79.0%
Convenient access and good parking	69.0%
Convenient to shopping and other errands	67.0%
Better staff	37.0%
Better selection of materials	34.0%
Closest to job	30.0%
Other	30.0%

* Respondents were free to choose more than one.

Closeness to home and convenience are the most important factors influencing the choice of libraries to use. The results differ, however, when each branch library is examined independently. For example, less than one-half of those who answered that they use the Loussac Library most frequently said that closeness to home was a reason why they used it, compared to 79% of the entire survey sample. On the other hand, frequent users of the Loussac branch answered that closeness to job (46%) and a better selection of materials (62%) were reasons why they used it. These percentages

are significantly higher than the figures for the entire Municipality. This result confirms other data which suggests that the Loussac Library serves a different function from the other branch libraries and that the existence of a large collection of reference materials located at Loussac may be an important reason why people use it. This result would seem to indicate that the use of the Loussac Library will decline after the Headquarters Library is completed and its function as a reference library is transferred to the new facility. However, the fact that so many people use the library because it is close to their place of work would tend to mitigate this effect as long as the downtown area remains as a major employment center.

Convenient access and good parking was cited by 69% of the library patrons surveyed as a reason why they used a particular branch more frequently than others. As might be expected, only 30% of the Loussac Library patrons gave this as a reason. Another commonly cited reason for using a particular branch involved its convenience to shopping and other errands. Samson-Diamond branch patrons, in particular, felt that this was an important factor influencing their choice of branches to use (97% of those surveyed listed this reason as compared to 67% for the Municipality as a whole).

10.0 Transportation

The majority of persons surveyed (82%) reported that they used a car when traveling to the library. Only 10% said that they walked while 4% used the bus system. Walking to the library is an important alternative means of transportation to the residents of the Fairview (22%), Mt. View (28%), and Downtown/South Addition/Government Hill (36%) neighborhoods. These results may be due to one or two factors. Higher densities in these areas may allow more people to live within walking distance of the library. Since these neighborhoods have a higher percentage of persons with incomes below the poverty level, walking or taking the bus may be the only option available to them.

The bus does not appear to be an important means of transportation to libraries. The reason for this is unknown; however, additional research should be conducted to determine if the libraries are adequately served by the municipal bus system.

11.0 Reasons For Not Using Library

When asked why they did not use the Municipal Library System, the respondents answered in the following manner:

Reasons For Not Using Library*	Percentage
Lack of time	51.0%
Use other library	43.0%
Location inconvenient	32.0%
Reading is not pastime	25.0%
Hours inconvenient	22.0%
Parking inconvenient	20.0%
Doesn't have what I like or need	17.0%

* Respondents were allowed to choose more than one.

The majority of persons who reported that they do not use the library cited the lack of time as a reason. This does not reflect upon the quality of the services provided, rather it indicates that most persons not using the library have other higher priorities for the use of their time. Approximately 43% indicated that their informational needs are met through the use of other libraries (i.e., the public school libraries, University Library, etc.) A smaller proportion indicated that an inconvenient location was a factor in not using the library (32%). Very few persons claimed that the library doesn't have what they need or like as a reason for not using the library (17%).

12.0 Ratio of Use

The survey indicates that the typical Anchorage resident uses the Municipal Library System approximately 12.6 times a year. This figure, however, is distorted somewhat by those who reported visiting the library over 12 times a year (the maximum number of visits was 97). Most Anchorage residents (61%) used the library system less than 8 times a year, and over one-fourth (26%) did not visit the library at all during the past year.

Age does not appear to be a factor useful in predicting the number of times a person will use the library. The only exception involves persons over 60 years old, 33% of which reported that they did not use the library system during the past year compared with 26% for the population as a whole. This figure could reflect the number of elderly persons who have physical difficulties in reaching the library.

On the other hand, years of education was an important factor in determining the rate of library use. This is especially true for those with 16 years of education or more. Approximately 42% of this group reported using the library over 12 times last

year compared with 25% for the entire population over 25 years old. This group also contained fewer persons who never visited the library (7% compared to 24%).

Another important factor in determining the rate of library use was the number of years of residency in the Municipality. Of those who answered that they have lived in town for less than a year, 64% said that they did not use the Municipal Library System. Furthermore, 32% of those living in Anchorage for one to two years said that they had not used the library during the past year, compared to 27% for all residents. This may indicate the need for a public information campaign aimed at new Anchorage residents.

13.0 Conclusions

The Municipal Library System plays an important part in provision of informational services to the people of Anchorage. Approximately 74% of the population used the system at least once last year, compared with 41% who used the public school libraries and 38% who reported using the University Library.

The Loussac Library currently serves as the regional branch for those people living in the Government Hill, Downtown, South Addition, Fairview, Mountain View, Muldoon, Turnagain, Spenard, and Lake Otis neighborhoods. The Samson-Diamond branch serves a similar purpose for the persons living in the South Anchorage neighborhoods. These branches have the greatest attraction for persons living outside of the immediate neighborhoods and have similar percentages of persons who use them most frequently. Thus, instead of having a system with a single main library and various branches, the Municipality has, in effect, a system composed of two regional branches and various neighborhood branches.

The residents of Girdwood and Eagle River depend upon their branch libraries more heavily than residents of other neighborhoods (75% of the Girdwood residents surveyed reported that they used the local branch most frequently while 93% of the Eagle River residents said that they used their local branch most frequently).

The Library Survey also points out a need for a new branch library in the Muldoon neighborhood. Only 49% of the Muldoon residents said that the closest library was convenient to use. Of those claiming it was inconvenient to use, 85% indicated that it was too far from home, and 89% said that the location was inconvenient. The construction or leasing of a new branch in the Muldoon neighborhood may have an impact on the Grandview Gardens branch since Muldoon residents com-

prise 65% of the Grandview Gardens' patrons. A decrease in the use of the Grandview Gardens branch is expected if a new branch is opened in the Muldoon neighborhood.

The only other neighborhood which expressed a significantly higher than average dissatisfaction with library convenience was the Turnagain neighborhood. Approximately 21% of the Turnagain residents said that the closest library was not convenient to use. (In this case the closest library is the Spenard branch). Of those claiming it was inconvenient to use 78% indicated that it was too far from home. These results may indicate the need for a new branch in the Turnagain neighborhood.

The impact of the new Headquarters Library on the Loussac Library cannot be accurately determined at this time. However, since the Loussac Library will be downgraded from a regional facility to a neighborhood branch serving the downtown area, it is expected that its use will decrease. According to the library survey, 62% of those persons who use the Loussac Library most frequently said that a better selection of materials was an important factor in their choice of this library compared to 34% Municipality-wide. Thus, it appears that the Headquarters Library will attract Loussac Library patrons due to its superior selection of materials. On the other hand, nearly one-half (46%) of those people using the Loussac Library most frequently said that closeness to their job was an important factor in their choice of these libraries compared to 30% Municipality-wide. Since the Downtown is expected to remain as an important employment center, people will continue to use this library since it is conveniently located in relation to their jobs.

The popularity of branches located in shopping centers is underscored by the survey results. One-half of those questioned said that they preferred branches located in shopping centers compared to 38% favoring branches located on separate sites. Furthermore, 67% claimed that convenience to shopping and other errands was an important factor in their choice of branches to use. (97% of those using the Samson-Diamond branch, located in the Diamond Mall Shopping Center, said that its location in a shopping center was a factor influencing their use of this branch). In addition, Eagle River residents also seem to favor the location of their branch library in the Eagle River Shopping Center. (96% cited convenience to shopping and other errands as an important factor in their frequent use of this branch).

The importance of children's books and programs as a function of branch libraries is underscored by the fact that 98.5% of those surveyed said that branch libraries should provide these services.

The demand for library services is greatest among those with over 16 years of education. Approximately 42 percent of this group reported using the library over 12 times last year compared to 25% for the entire population over 25 years old. Thus, it is predicted that areas with higher levels of education will have a higher demand for library services (O'Malley/Hillside neighborhood has 43% with over 16 years of education, Inlet View/Turnagain has 35% and Lake Otis has 34%).

Persons who have resided in Anchorage for less than a year tend to use the Municipal Library System less frequently than others. Approximately 64% of this group did not use the system during the past year compared to 26% for the Municipality as a whole. This may indicate the need for better outreach to new arrivals.

MOST FREQUENTLY USED BRANCH BY AREA OF RESIDENCE

AREA OF RESIDENCE

Library Used	Downtown	S. Addition	Fairview	Mt. View	Turnagain	Spenard	Lake Otis	Muldoon	Sand Lake	Campbell-Oceanview	Abbot Loop	Hillside	Campbell-Taku	Girdwood	Eagle River
Most Frequently	S. Addition	Govt. Hill	Fairview	Mt. View	Turnagain	Spenard	Lake Otis	Muldoon	Sand Lake	Campbell-Oceanview	Abbot Loop	Hillside	Campbell-Taku	Girdwood	Eagle River
Loussac	24%		7%	2%	13%	17%	10%	14%	8%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Grandview															
Gardens	2%		4%	7%	0%	2%	16%	65%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Mt. View	0%		2%	47%	0%	2%	8%	39%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Samson-Dimond	0%		2%	3%	3%	6%	7%	5%	10%	13%	8%	35%	8%	1%	0%
Sand Lake	0%		0%	0%	3%	10%	9%	5%	73%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Spenard	5%		9%	2%	22%	42%	7%	9%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Chugiak-Eagle River	0%		0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	2%	93%
Girdwood	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%

Appendix B BRANCH LIBRARY HISTORY

1.0 Z.J. Loussac Public Library

1916 - First library in Anchorage located in the Parish House of the All Saints Episcopal Church. The Rector, Reverend Mr. E.W. Hughes, acted as librarian.

1917 - Anchorage Women's Club took over the responsibility of maintaining the public library.

1922 - Anchorage Public Library Association, a group of interested citizens, organized to supervise the library.

1929 - Territorial legislature provided \$150.00 annually to locally incorporated library associations. Mary Wever, a mainstay of the library movement until 1945, immediately incorporated the Anchorage Association.

1945 - City assumed total responsibility for library with the Library Board appointed by the City Council.

1953 - Voters approved a \$350,000 bond issue for library construction which the Loussac Foundation underwrote.

1979 - Voters approved a \$14.2 million bond issue to plan, design, equip and construct a new Headquarters Library.

1981 - The Z.J. Loussac Public Library was relocated on an interim basis to 524 W. 6th Avenue.

2.0 Spenard Library

1959 - The Spenard Utility District, the existing governing body in Spenard, appointed Nola Andress to head a Committee to investigate the possibility of a local library.

1960 - A library was established in Spenard with Nola Andress appointed as part-time volunteer librarian. Space to house the facility was donated by the Spenard Public Utility District and was located on the corner of 29th and Spenard.

1965 - The library was moved to Northern Lights, west of 'C' Street.

1968 - The Spenard Library was moved to its present location in the B&J Center on 'C' and Northern Lights.

1978 - In 1978, the Municipality placed a divider on 'C' Street and sealed off one of the driveways, thus reducing accessibility to the library. This fact, coupled with the opening of the Samson-Diamond

Library, has led to a serious reduction in circulated materials. Also, the development of the business district in and around the Spenard Library led to a shift in clientele and patron requests.

3.0 Chugiak-Eagle River Library

1965 - Chugiak Library was opened April 21, 1965 and was followed by the opening of the Eagle River Library May 1, 1965. Both the Eagle River and Chugiak Libraries were begun under the Rural Library Act.

1966 - Eagle River Library moved into the Eagle River Shopping Center.

1969 - The Eagle River and Chugiak libraries combined to form the Chugiak-Eagle River Library in order to serve both communities.

1970, 1972-1976 - The walls were removed in order to allow for further expansion.

1981 - Additional expansion into former Carr's area.

Since opening in 1965, circulation statistics have never leveled off, but have shown an increase every year.

4.0 Girdwood Library

1965 - Girdwood Library opened with the assistance of a Federal Library Services and Construction Act rural area library grant. The library was located in the original Girdwood two-room school building which served as a combination Library, City Hall and Council Chambers.

1979 - The Anchorage School Board approved the recommendation to incorporate space in the Girdwood School design for the library.

1981 - The Girdwood Library moved into the new joint facility.

1982 - Facility renamed Scott and Wesley Gerrish Library.

5.0 Grandview Gardens Library

1967 - Grandview Gardens Library was opened to the public on April 14th. Its construction and acquisition were made possible by a City of Anchorage bond issue and Federal funds.

1967 - The large addition which currently holds the public services area was constructed.

1981 - The north end of the building, which had been used as a public meeting room, was remodeled to house the Technical Services section after the Loussac Library was demolished.

6.0 Sand Lake Library

1973 - The Sand Lake Library opened its doors to the public.

1979 - The library was nearly lost in a fire which destroyed the Rexall Drug/True Value Hardware Store next door. The library remained undamaged, saved by a double fire wall.

1981 - Sand Lake Library was expanded and remodeled.

7.0 Mountain View Library

1973 - The Mountain View Library was opened to the public. The construction was financed by Federal grant funds and City of Anchorage bond funds.

1978 - Library was expanded to include a community meeting room. The addition was funded by a grant from the Economic Development Administration.

1973-Present - Due to its location on the north side of the Glenn Highway, Mountain View Library has never enjoyed a large circulation which would fully utilize the collection. Most of the programs and social functions are well attended, however, and the regular borrowers are faithful.

8.0 Samson-Dimond Library

1977 - The Samson-Dimond branch was opened to serve the south Anchorage community. The location was the subject of considerable controversy with keen competition between the Huffman Business Park and the Dimond Center. The library was named for Irene Griffith Samson, Anchorage librarian from 1946-1971.

1982 - The library relocated to a 10,200 square foot space in an addition to the Dimond Center. This move provided needed collection space, a meeting room for library programs and public use, improved staff work space and adequate floor load support missing from the original facility.

1977-1982 - Circulation increased from 7,000 per month to a Municipal Library System record of 17,563.

