



## Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920

By Abigail A. Van Slyck

Download now

Read Online ➔

**Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920** By Abigail A. Van Slyck

Familiar landmarks in hundreds of American towns, Carnegie libraries today seem far from controversial. In *Free to All*, however, Abigail A. Van Slyck shows that the classical façades and symmetrical plans of these buildings often mask a complex and contentious history.

"The whole story is told here in this book. Carnegie's wishes, the conflicts among local groups, the architecture, development of female librarians. It's a rich and marvelous story, lovingly told."—Alicia Browne, *Journal of American Culture*

"This well-written and extensively researched work is a welcome addition to the history of architecture, librarianship, and philanthropy."—Joanne Passet, *Journal of American History*

"Van Slyck's book is a tremendous contribution for its keenness of scholarship and good writing and also for its perceptive look at a familiar but misunderstood icon of the American townscape."—Howard Wight Marshall, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*

"[Van Slyck's] reading of the cultural coding implicit in the architectural design of the library makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the limitations of the doctrine 'free to all.'"—*Virginia Quarterly Review*

↓ [Download Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Cultu ...pdf](#)

# Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920

By Abigail A. Van Slyck

**Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920** By Abigail A. Van Slyck

Familiar landmarks in hundreds of American towns, Carnegie libraries today seem far from controversial. In *Free to All*, however, Abigail A. Van Slyck shows that the classical façades and symmetrical plans of these buildings often mask a complex and contentious history.

"The whole story is told here in this book. Carnegie's wishes, the conflicts among local groups, the architecture, development of female librarians. It's a rich and marvelous story, lovingly told."—Alicia Browne, *Journal of American Culture*

"This well-written and extensively researched work is a welcome addition to the history of architecture, librarianship, and philanthropy."—Joanne Passet, *Journal of American History*

"Van Slyck's book is a tremendous contribution for its keenness of scholarship and good writing and also for its perceptive look at a familiar but misunderstood icon of the American townscape."—Howard Wight Marshall, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*

"[Van Slyck's] reading of the cultural coding implicit in the architectural design of the library makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the limitations of the doctrine 'free to all.'"—*Virginia Quarterly Review*

**Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920** By Abigail A. Van Slyck Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #504454 in Books
- Published on: 1998-07-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.38" h x .80" w x 6.63" l, 1.25 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 294 pages

 [Download Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Cultu ...pdf](#)

## **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

This history of the Carnegie libraries was written by an assistant professor of architecture, art history, and women's studies at the University of Arizona. A revision of the author's Ph.D. dissertation in architecture at the University of California at Berkeley, the work examines the funding, design, staffing, and use of monumental urban central libraries and more functional urban branch libraries and small-town libraries. This is interpreted in the context of the professionalization of both architecture and librarianship and of the role of class in the large urban areas and of gender in the small towns. Van Slyck's study is based on extensive archival research concentrating primarily on Carnegie libraries in 13 cities and towns in 11 states and includes numerous illustrations. This broadly conceived work makes a contribution not only to architectural and library history but to social history as well. ?Thomas F. O'Connor, Manhattan Coll. Libs., New York  
Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From the Back Cover

Familiar Landmarks in hundreds of American towns, Carnegie libraries have shaped the public library experience of generations of Americans and today seen far from controversial. In *Free to All*, however, Abigail Van Slyck shows that the classical facades and symmetrical plans of these buildings often mask the complex and contentious circumstances of their construction and use. *Free to All* is the first comprehensive social and architectural history of the Carnegie library phenomenon, an unprecedented program of philanthropy that helped erect over 1600 public library buildings in the United States. Van Slyck skillfully untangles the overlapping and conflicting motives of the many people involved in erecting, staffing, and using the libraries: Andrew Carnegie himself; small-town civic boosters avid for new investment; metropolitan library trustees anxious to maintain the elite character of urban libraries; architects reacting to increased professional specialization; a growing number of female librarians; and the children and adults, frequently immigrants, who came to borrow books.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Ernest Baker:**

The book *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why must we leave a good thing like a book *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920*? Some of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim this book can give many details for us. It is absolutely appropriate. Right now, try to closer with the book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, you could give for each other; you could share all of these. Book *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920* has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can look the enormous world by open up and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

**Horace Godbolt:**

The e-book untitled *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920* is the book that

recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to you actually. The language that article author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of research when write the book, and so the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

**Stephanie Carlton:**

The reason why? Because this Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will distress you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such incredible way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

**Donna Young:**

Do you have something that that suits you such as book? The guide lovers usually prefer to choose book like comic, short story and the biggest you are novel. Now, why not attempting Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 that give your satisfaction preference will be satisfied by means of reading this book. Reading addiction all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world considerably better then how they react toward the world. It can't be claimed constantly that reading addiction only for the geeky person but for all of you who wants to always be success person. So , for all you who want to start looking at as your good habit, it is possible to pick Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 become your personal starter.

**Download and Read Online Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 By Abigail A. Van Slyck  
#8EHQJFN6503**

## **Read Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 By Abigail A. Van Slyck for online ebook**

Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 By Abigail A. Van Slyck Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 By Abigail A. Van Slyck books to read online.

### **Online Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 By Abigail A. Van Slyck ebook PDF download**

**Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 By Abigail A. Van Slyck Doc**

**Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 By Abigail A. Van Slyck Mobipocket**

**Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920 By Abigail A. Van Slyck EPub**