

Chicago Public Library: Harold Washington Library Center

Location: 400 S. State St. Chicago, IL 60605

Hours: <http://www.chipublib.org/branch/details/library/harold-washington/>

- As of October 2013, admission is free every day that the library is open. A library card is needed to use computers and check out materials.

Online Catalog: <http://www.chipublib.org/search/catalog/>

Online Tour: <http://www.chipublib.org/branch/details/library/harold-washington/p/TourIndex/>

Keep in mind that exhibitions are subject to change at the discretion of the curators.

Questions for the exterior

1. Examine the exterior of the Harold Washington Library Center. Can you identify any elements of the architectural design with previous architectural traditions?

What architectural influences do you observe in the exterior? Where?

What changes did the architects make from those historical influences?

2. Ancient Greek temple architecture tended to be built with sides that followed an $x : 2x+1$ ratio. If a short side of the temple had a width of six units, calculate how many units long the other side would be:

Demonstrate use of appropriate calculations to determine whether that ratio is evident in the exterior of the Harold Washington Library.

If so, where do you see evidence of that ratio? If not, how do you know?

Explain the steps one must take to answer this question.

Questions for the interior

3. Describe two works of art and the different messages they convey about learning. Identify the first artist name, title, and date:

Identify the second artist name, title, and date:

Where in the library was each of these works located? (What floor? What sections of the library or subject areas were located around it?)

Do they describe different types or subjects of learning? Different approaches to learning?

What details in each image contribute most to your understanding?

4. What was your favorite book when you were young? Do you remember the complete title, author, or keyword?

Using any of that information, locate it using the library catalog:

<http://www.chipublib.org/search/catalog/>

What is its call number?

What was the best book you read in the last four years? Do you remember the complete title, author, or keyword?

Using any of that information, locate it using the library catalog:

<http://www.chipublib.org/search/catalog/>

What is its call number?

Go to the floor and section where either of those books (your childhood favorite or recent favorite) is kept. Look in the same row/general vicinity as that book for another book that looks interesting to you. What is the author name, title, and call number of this new book?

What aspect(s) of the new book grabbed your attention first?

What information can you use to help decide whether or not to read a particular book?

5. What was the theme of the Exhibit(s) in the Special Collections section of the Library (first floor: Congress Corridor; and ninth floor)?

Did you notice any decisions that the curators made about how to arrange or group objects in these displays? Did they use these objects to tell a particular story?

Would you recommend a different configuration for the objects? If so, what would it be, and how might that alter the message conveyed to the visitor?

6. Of the artworks or historical artifacts you saw in the library today, which was your favorite, and why?

Identify the artist name, title, and date:

What did you like about this work of art or artifact? How did it make you feel, and what did it make you think or wonder? Did the creator of this work do anything that you found particularly new or innovative?

7. Of the artworks or historical artifacts you saw in the library today, which was most difficult to understand or appreciate, and why?

Identify the artist name, title, and date:

8. Did you feel like you got more out of just looking at objects, reading text about them (either on the label next to the object or elsewhere on the walls), or a combination? Why?

How can you adapt your study routine and approach to normal class work to take advantage of what you learned about your learning style and preferences today?

9. Find a librarian and ask him/her for assistance in finding resources about your favorite subject. Where did they direct you to go?

What types of resources did they suggest?

Questions to begin during your field trip and continue working on after you leave (it may help to take photographs—without flash—if photography is allowed in the library spaces)

10. Attend a Digital Toolbox workshop, or familiarize yourself with the software at home (<http://cplmakerlab.wordpress.com/2013/07/19/meet-the-free-software/>) and plan something to make using the Maker Lab (3rd floor—Innovation Workshop) laser cutter, vinyl cutter, Shapeoko milling machine, and MakerBot 3D printers.

What functional purpose (if any) does your creation serve?

What aesthetic and/or symbolic function does it serve?

11. Imagine that you are a figure (human, animal, god—be creative!) in one of the works of art located in the library galleries. Write a journal entry (at least 7 complete sentences) describing a day in your life.

In it, describe what you think, feel, and also what your senses (sight, sound, taste, smell, touch) convey to you.

After you write your journal entry, underline at least two passages and explain how those passages are supported by the details you observe in the work of art or by what you know about the historical context.

How would another figure in the artwork view your character's life? What similarities and differences would you expect between your character's self-concept and an outsider's judgment of that figure?

12. Visit the Winter Garden on the 9th floor. Write a journal entry (at least 7 complete sentences) describing an event that you can imagine taking place here. It can take place in the past, present, or future.

In it, describe who you are and the action taking place, but also take care to describe this setting.

After you write your journal entry, underline at least two passages and explain how those passages are supported by the details you observe in the Winter Garden.

13. Who is Harold Washington? Use library resources to research him. What did you learn?

Why do you think this library and our college are both named after him?

If he asked you to recommend a book written since his death, what would you recommend, and why?

Based on what you know of Harold Washington, would he enjoy your book selection? Why or why not?

What is one thing you think Harold Washington would be happy to see if he were alive today? What is one thing you think would make him sad to see if he were alive today?