THE EVOLUTION OF READING SPACES

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Abstract: *This article talks about how reading places have changed over time, from ancient times to the digital age. It shows how these spaces have affected reading and how people think about literacy.*

Initially, reading was confined to sacred spaces and communal gatherings, where oral traditions dominated. With the advent of the printing press in the 15th century, personal reading spaces began to emerge, leading to the proliferation of private libraries and bookstores. The establishment of public libraries in the 19th century marked a significant shift, democratizing access to literature and fostering community engagement.

Keywords *:Evolution of Reading Spaces,Literacy ,Ancient Reading Practices,Printing Press , Private Libraries ,Public Libraries ,Digital Age ,Access to Literature*

Introduction:

The act of reading has undergone a remarkable transformation throughout history, shaped by the evolution of reading spaces that reflect cultural, technological, and societal changes. From the sacred spaces of ancient civilizations, where oral traditions were the primary means of storytelling, to the emergence of personal reading environments made possible by the printing press in the 15th century, the way individuals engage with texts has continuously evolved. The

establishment of public libraries in the 19th century further revolutionized access to literature, fostering a sense of community and democratizing knowledge. In recent decades, the rise of digital technology has redefined reading spaces once again, introducing new challenges and opportunities for readers in an increasingly interconnected world. This article delves into the historical progression of reading spaces, examining their impact on literacy and the collective understanding of reading in various contexts.

The scientists explained this theme and had found any informations. "The places in which readers engaged with texts are of particular importance to anyone interested in the history of reading, because readers don't just engage with the object being read, they also take note of the context in which it is encountered. Indeed, the sights, sounds and even the smells of the places in which texts are read may have a profound effect upon how readers make sense of them. The UK RED site contains a great deal of information about where reading experiences took place. The period 1750-1850, with which this short introduction to investigating reading places is concerned, saw a great expansion in the number of venues for reading – from the increasing number of homes that included a room called 'the library', through to the opening of the first 'free' public libraries, which often included 'reading rooms'.Subscription libraries and book clubs, which usually charged members for access, became increasingly popular with middle-class readers during the late eighteenth century. Entries in RED for the Rev Benjamin Newton show that his membership of the Bedale Book Club often involved him in lively 'disputes' after dinner, such as that over the 'spelling of experience' which took recourse to the Bible to resolve (Stephen Colclough). There has been a great deal of discussion surrounding the development of school library learning environments. Much of the recent literature and the research results indicate the need for more open flexible learning spaces, which can respond to the needs of the individual learner, and the links between well-designed spaces and student achievement (Hill, 2002; Harbutt, 2006; Lackney, 2003; Nair & Fielding, 2005). Shibsted sees the school library's role in this century as "a place for collaboration, performance, creativity, interactivity

and exploration" (2005, p. 26). The impact of Information Communication Technologies (ICT), changing workplaces, the recognition of different learning styles and greater autonomy in learning have all influenced current thinking about education and have been taken up by those rewriting curriculum documentation to reflect current needs (Susan La Marca)

As time has gone on and ICT have been better understood and better utilized throughout the whole school environment, the nature of reading spaces has been rethought. There are clear links between learning and student achievement and pleasure reading (La Marca, 2004). This and the enjoyment students find in reading for pleasure are important reasons to spend time and effort on creating an effective reading space in a school library. This paper aims to identify the factors that impact upon the planning and creation of a school library reading space.

Over hundreds of years, reading has changed a lot, which has affected how people interact with words and information.In ancient times, reading was primarily an oral tradition, with stories and knowledge passed down through generations in communal settings. The invention of the printing press in the 15th century marked a revolutionary shift, making books more accessible and fostering a culture of personal reading. This led to the establishment of private libraries and an increase in literacy rates. The 19th century saw the rise of public libraries, further democratizing access to literature and encouraging community engagement. As technology advanced, the 20th century introduced multimedia formats and digital platforms, expanding the ways people consume written content.

The internet and digital media have transformed our interaction with physical books and reading environments overall.If in the past books occupied large and luxurious libraries, nowadays it is possible to integrate reading spaces at different scales and programs, ensuring that this habit continues to exist in a more accessible way.

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