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NORTH BRANFORD LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

V.F. North Branford Library P.O. Box 258
NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT



Our survey was compiled by Elizabeth Lufkin, Mary Bigelow, and Suzanne Maiorano, and Bill Conniff. The first nine questions were taken from a 1975 survey, the remaining eight were drawn up to determine how the townspeople use their library system and if they feel we need to expand the present system, build a centralized library to meet their needs, or if they are satisfied with the present system.

We printed 2,000 surveys; 1310 were distributed, 300 were placed in each library and the rest were distributed through neighborhood captains - 150 in Northford, 560 in North Branford. A total of 450 to Northford, 860 to North Branford. North Branford returned 226 (236 people responded, more than 1 person filled out some surveys.). Northford returned 165 (175 people responded). Total responses - 411.

In general, the survey was filled out primarily by women, (Northford, 125 females to 42 males; North Branford 178 females to 55 males). Eleven people did not fill out the question of sex at all.

In response to question 6 - "How often do you use the North Branford library?" Northford responded 83 - "never" and 23 answered "almost never;" for a total of 106. Only 45 answered that they use the North Branford library from once a week to more than once or twice a year. 24 did not answer the question. In North Branford, 33 answered "almost never" - 22 or never - 11. Only 1 did not answer the question. 201 used the library from "once a week or more to "once or twice a year".

In response to question 7 - "How often do you use the Northford Library" - In North Branford 205 responded "never" or "almost never", 27 used it "once a week or more" to "once or twice a year", and 7 did not answer. Northford had 16 respond "never" or almost never:, 2 did not respond on that question and 108 answered "once a week or more to once or twice a year".

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2.

In general, each town uses it's own library and does not travel to the other.

In response to question 9 - "How do you get to the library" the answers from North Branford and Northford was over-whelmingly by car". North Branford 198 car, walk 21, walk and car 15 and 1 bike. Northford 171 car, 7 walk and car - 4 did not answer.

Question 10 - "What other libraries do you use " found North Branford with 67 using Branford, 13 using either Wallingford, East Haven or North Haven and 84 answered "other: ranging from New Haven, Hamden, Yale, Southern, New Haven College, SNET, Quinnipiac, etc. In Northford 128 used other libraries, predominantly North Haven - 48 and "other" - 50 with the same range of libraries. 47 did not answer.

The most given reason for using another library was "Better selection or availability or materials" 68 in Northford out of 161 responses and 81 in North Branford out of 131 responses. In Northford the second most given reason was convenience (41) followed closely by hours (35). In North Branford, the second was convenience (17) followed by location (14). 105 did not answer in North Branford. Between Northford and North Branford, 149 used other libraries because of better selection or availability or materials out of 290 answering that is better than half.

In North Branford, 51 thought the present libraries should be expanded while 90 said no. 62 were undecided and 16 had no opinion, and 17 did not answer. In Northford, 35 favored expansion 81 said no, 39 were undecided, 4 had no opinion and 7 did not answer. Total - 86 yes - 171 no 101 undecided.



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3.

On the question of a centralized library, the differences were more pronounced. Northford- yes, 43 - no 87 - 39 undecided 8 - no opinion and 4 no answer, while in North Branford 103 were in favor, 76 said no, 44 were undecided, 8 had no opinion and 4 did not answer.

In total there were 146 in favor of centralizing, 162 against and a significant 83 undecided.

The question of location found North Branford almost equally divided between Rte. 80 and Totoket Valley Park. - 86 to 87. Northford, on the other hand was overwhelmingly in favor of Totoket Valley Park - 92 to 12 for Rte. 80. 39 surveys favored another location in North Branford, 22 in Northford with alternatives ranging from Rte 139 (1) to something close to the High School. Nothing definitive was presented.

In answer to question 15 - "What is your major objection to a centralized library"? Northford found location their major objection (85) and cost their second objection with 75. 59 felt the existing libraries were adequate. 4 had no opinion and 29 did not respond. In North Branford, the major objection was cost (94) and location was second with 76. 47 felt the existing libraries were adequate, 25 had no opinion and 82 did not respond.

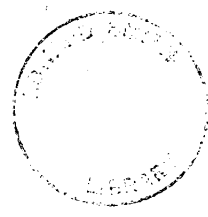
In total, 169 objected to the cost and 161 objected to the location. 106 felt the existing libraries were adequate.

Northford replied they would use a centralized library the same (74) less (54) and more 36. 8 did not answer. North Branford replied they would use it the same 113, more 86 and less 47. 10 did not answer.

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4.

Of those replying the same or less who never or almost never use the libraries, the number was insignificant in both ends of town (11) at Northford and (24) North Branford. Those same people who almost never use or never use the library would use it by 9 in North Branford and 4 in Northford. The differences are insignificant in both cases.

For both sections, 137 would use it the same - 101 less and 122 more. Of the 411 responses received - 309 would use it - centralized library - more or the same as they are using their libraries now.

In conclusion, from the data received, we find that the question of a centralized library is still very much an open question. The number of undecided responses could conceivably sway the answer either way.

As to location, Totoket is leading about 2 to 1 over Rte. 80. The major objections were almost equally divided between cost and location. In general, both North Branford and Northford were against expanding the present libraries 2 to 1, although there was a large number of people undecided (101).

Because the number of people who use other libraries (149) for better selection or availability of materials, it would appear our present system does not fully meet the needs of the town. One centralized library would combine all of the materials now divided between the two and allow greater selection and availability to all townspeople and provide room for further expansion of the collection.