

## FOREWORD

When Terry Ballard invited me to write the foreword to his new book, *Fifty Specialty Libraries in New York City*, I knew I would be reflecting on Terry as a personality, not just the organization and writing of the book. In the 20-plus years I have known Terry, from the first time I met him at a Library and Information Technology Association conference, I could not imagine any time with him that would not be unique, joyful, and educational. When he came to my library school research methods class as a guest lecturer, he inspired my students to do some of their most creative work. This was especially true following the lecture based on his book *Google This*.

His approach to life and to this book is positive and inquisitive. Unlike most library directories, this one has a personal approach as well as a careful evaluation of each library. The pronoun “I” is used often. If you want a quick description of a library, this is not it. Instead, you will experience Terry’s eye-opening, thorough inspection and assessment of each library. Before you visit, you will know if this is a library you will like. Feeling and tone are as much a part of each description as is the size of the collection or the number of rooms in the library.

The libraries were selected after an examination of directories and a search of the Internet as well as from the author’s own knowledge of libraries. Of the 50 libraries, some are part of larger institutions such as The Berg Collection at The New York Public Library, while others are smaller and/or freestanding libraries such as the Kristine Mann Library, a library devoted to the works of Carl Jung.

If you like the author’s approach, each entry will be a delight to read, whether or not you visit the library. The detailed descriptions are enhanced by photographs taken by Terry, for whom photography is a serious avocation, and include information such as the extensive history of each library. The descriptions all follow a similar pattern, beginning with directions on how to find the library, not always easy in a city like New York. Terry’s sense of openness, discovery, and good humor infuses each library description. His keen observation skills are evident in all entries. After reading this book, you will feel like you have been in each library and need to visit only to see how closely your observations match Terry’s. You will also have a good notion of whether a specific library is likely to be useful for your own research.

This book is perfect for the armchair library traveler, the library visitor, and the researcher of special subjects. I have not seen another book like it

and doubt I ever will. So, read, visit, enjoy, and find the information you desire in one or more of these very special libraries.

—by Pauline Rothstein, a New York-based library consultant and  
previous academic library director