

Libraries

Sought out, fought over, championed, praised,
long after Alexandria burned,
with priests surprised, and kings amazed;
thus from the old estates we learned

the joy of seas of ordered books
awaiting readers in calm rooms:
the golden fact, the tale's soft hooks;
that peace when understanding blooms.

So read it, see it, hear it, print it,
download it, knit it, click it, sing it,
display it proudly on a plaque:

each borrowing and bringing back
shows something learnt, and someone cared.
A library is knowledge shared.

James Manlow

Poet Laureate for Bournemouth

A poem in celebration of National Libraries Day 2015

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