

How to enjoy yourself at the library

Well, there are of course several methods to make sure that you get the most out of your visits to the library. But first it is important to choose the right library. My own humble opinion is that you should always choose a rather large library, because experience has told me the larger the better, and more important – more enjoying. This is how to do it. You bring your sousaphone into the library and walk past the librarian, just as if it isn't strange at all to bring a sousaphone to the library. If you haven't got a sousaphone, you might use a tuba or in exceptional cases a trombone. The important thing is that the instrument chosen must have a deep and piercing sound. A friend of mine once tried to use an ocarina with no success at all. Anyway, you have now brought your sousaphone (or whatever instrument you've chosen) past the librarian. Now, walk into a part of the library where lots of people are sitting and reading – if the library's got a special reading room, where absolute silence is required, walk into that room. Remember, to get the best effect, make sure that there are lots of people in there. Sit down on a chair in the middle of the room you've chosen, and start playing the sousaphone. Do not just play any false notes. Make an effort to deliver a fine piece of lovely music. What repertoire you choose is up to you and your personal taste, but I personally prefer to play something solemn and well known, like for instance "The Star Spangled Banner". If on the other hand, the weather outside is grey and rainy, I might play a popular ditty like "Oh By Jingo". What you choose to play is as I said before up to you. You'll find that your audience doesn't expect a live music performance in the library. Some of your listeners might start pointing at the "silence" signs on the walls, but don't let that stop you. Give your audience what they most of all want. You'll also find that the librarian will start approaching you with a threatening look in his or her face, but don't let that alarm you. Librarians are not by nature violent people (that's why they became librarians) and they will probably not be able to hurt you, unless, of course, they use some kind of weapon. Once a librarian tried to hit me in the head with Encyclopedia Britannica, and that did somewhat make the experience a bit less enjoyable. But, if you're careful and have prepared in advance, you'll have many lovely visits to library to look forward to in the future. Good luck.

Written by Björn Jakobsson in 2005

