



Naperville Public Library Fact Sheet

Vision Statement: Naperville Public Library - Naperville's Neighborhood of Knowledge - is our community's top stop for equitable access to knowledge and information delivered by professional and welcoming staff in a network of state of the art libraries and in a 24/7 electronic universe."

Mission Statement: The Naperville Public Library supports all residents of Naperville in their lifelong pursuit of learning, enjoyment, and inspiration by providing excellence in public library services, resources, and programs.

History: On September 22, 1898, 67 years after Joseph and John Naper and their families and friends formed Naper Settlement in 1831, Nichols Library opened its doors to serve Naperville's 2,200 residents. Thanks to the monetary gift from Professor James Nichols, the City of Naperville purchased the land, hired the architect, built and furnished the library. The Women's Club provided the 500-volume opening day collection and residents immediately donated another 200 books. A dream was fulfilled at 110 S. Washington Street.

Today, the Naperville Public Library serves Naperville residents at three full-service buildings – the Nichols, Naper Boulevard and 95th Street Libraries. The Library's fourth "site" is its website at www.naperville-lib.info.

The Nichols Library first opened on September 22, 1898. In 1961 an addition was built to the south of the original structure. By the 1980s, the Library was at capacity. Ten thousand books, as well as some artwork and records, were stored offsite. A new library was needed to meet patron needs. The City acquired the property at 200 W. Jefferson Avenue, and the new Nichols Library opened on March 11, 1986. The \$6 million, 63,300 square foot facility was almost 5 times the size of the former library. On opening day it had 143,191 books, CD, audio-visual materials, periodicals, and other items with which to serve the 67,371-member community. Through the '80s, as Naperville doubled its population, the Library's usage continued to soar. By 1990 circulation reached 943,355 – just short of one million items through one facility!

On December 29, 1992 the Naper Boulevard Library, a 32,000 square foot facility, opened on the upper of its two floors. In its first year, it had acquired 52,113 books, videos, and CDs and answered 36,000 reference questions. Within only 3 years Naper Boulevard expanded to the lower level. In 1996, for lack of space, Nichols under went a major renovation and relocated the

administrative offices to Naper Boulevard. As predicted, both libraries, like the geography surrounding them, also began to fill to capacity and struggle with the volume of traffic. In 1998, at the 100 year mark, Naperville Public Library served a population of 118,835, circulated almost 2 million items, and housed about 450,000 volumes between the two facilities. They served almost 1,000,000 visitors in one year.

On the Library's behalf the City Council negotiated with the Park District for a 6.5-acre parcel in the growing southwest sector. On April 28, 2002, ground was broken for the construction of a 73,000 square foot building. The \$15.8 million structure opened for business on September 21, 2003, one day short of 105 years, since the first Nichols Library opened its doors. Staying true to the business teachings of its original benefactor, the building opened on time and \$100,000 under budget.

Under the leadership of the Board and the Director, the Naperville Public Library constantly strives to interpret and meet the community's increasingly diverse needs. Naperville residents place significant value on their public library. Today, cardholders access the library 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Materials can be located and reserved online via home computer and renewed via telephone. In fiscal year 2003 nearly 3,000,000 items were checked out of the two facilities. It took 100 years to reach an annual circulation of 1,000,000. It took only 8 more years to reach 2,000,000 and only 5 more to reach 3,000,000. By 2010, circulation had increased to 5,000,000. More than a collection of books and periodicals, the Library is now a multi-faceted resource center that gleans and disseminates information in a wide variety of formats. In addition to materials found in the computerized catalog, a large network of databases and public access to the Internet are available. While residents continue to view the library as a physical place, Naperville's Neighborhood of Knowledge, expands the definition of "place" to providing equitable service according to individual needs.

Locations

Nichols Library ([driving directions](#))

200 W. Jefferson Ave., downtown Naperville

The building occupies the entire block bounded by Jefferson Avenue on the north; Jackson Avenue on the south; Webster Street on the east and Eagle Street on the west.

Naper Boulevard Library ([driving directions](#))

2035 S. Naper Boulevard, southeast Naperville

95th Street Library ([driving directions](#))

3015 Cedar Glade Dr., southwest Naperville

Virtual Library

www.naperville-lib.info

Hours

Library hours are:

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00. – 5:00 p.m.

Contact Us

1.630.961.4100, general phone number

[Phone directory](#)

[Online contacts](#)

Library Collection

The Naperville Public Library's holdings include books, magazines, newspapers, large type books, CDs, DVDs, books on CD, eBooks, downloadable collection of audiobooks, eAudiobooks, music and videos; subscription databases, and Blu-ray discs.

Specialized collections include:

[Naperville Heritage Digital Collection](#), full-text information about Naperville's history from primary source materials.

[Naperville Sun Index database](#), more than 35,000 citations to major articles appearing in the *Naperville Sun* from 1935 through much of 2006, with the majority covering the period of 1975 – 2006.