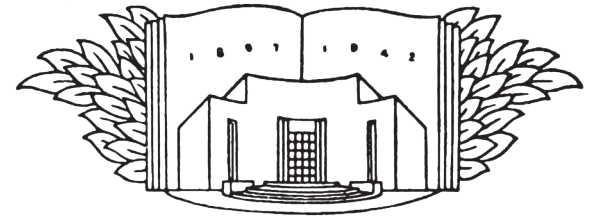


A LOOK INSIDE CENTRAL LIBRARY



OUR HISTORY



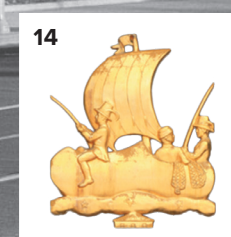
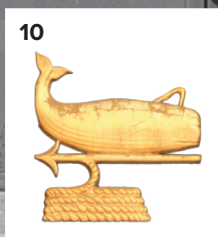
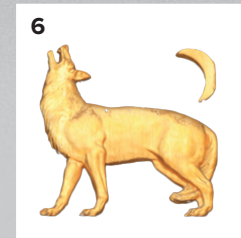
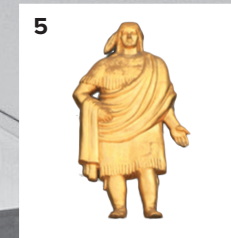
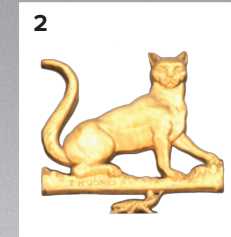
With its breathtaking façade, sweeping grand lobby and vast contemporary and historical collections, Central Library is a Brooklyn icon. The building's history dates to 1898, when the Brooklyn Park Commission was authorized to select a location for the library. In 1912, ground was broken on architect Raymond F. Almirall's imposing Beaux-Arts design, but construction slowed and eventually ceased as the nation and the borough endured economic difficulties brought on by World War One and the Great Depression. A single unfinished wing sat empty on Flatbush Avenue for more than two decades, until construction resumed on a redesigned Central Library in 1935. The building finally opened to the public on February 1, 1941.

At 352,000 square feet, with a circulation of more than 1.7 million materials and an annual door count of 1.3 million visits, Central is Brooklyn's home library, one of New York City's foremost cultural, civic and educational institutions.

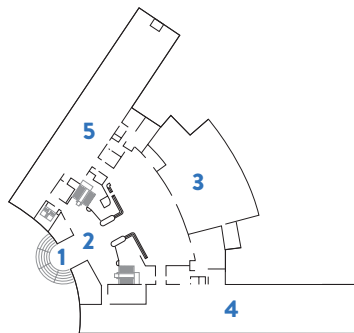
Designed to resemble an open book, Central Library is clad in limestone with impressive Art Deco detailing by sculptors Thomas Hudson Jones and Carl P. Jennewein. Perhaps the building's most striking feature is its 50-foot-high entry portico, set into a concave façade that reflects the elliptical configuration of Grand Army Plaza. The dramatic entrance is adorned by fifteen bronze sculptures of famous characters and personages from American literature, framed by columns with a series of gilded bas-reliefs depicting the evolution of art and science.

THE ENTRANCE

1. **Hester Prynne** from *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
2. **Archy & Mehitabel** from stories by Don Marquis
3. **Meg** from *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
4. **Babe the Blue Ox** from *The Legend of Paul Bunyan*
5. **Hiawatha** from the poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
6. **White Fang** from the novel by Jack London
7. **Rip Van Winkle** from the story by Washington Irving
8. **Brer Rabbit** from *Tales of Uncle Remus* by Joel Chandler Harris
9. **Natty Bumppo** from *Leatherstocking Tales* by James Fenimore Cooper
10. **Moby Dick** from the novel by Herman Melville
11. **Walt Whitman**
12. **The Raven** from the poem by Edgar Allen Poe
13. **Tom Sawyer** from the novels of Mark Twain
14. **Wynken, Blynken and Nod** from the poem by Eugene Fields
15. **Richard Henry Dana, Jr.**, author of *Two Years Before the Mast*



FIRST FLOOR



1

FOYER

The foyer hosts a passport office, idNYC registration center and a pair of exhibition display cases. The imposing zinc eagle perched above the foyer is the only survivor of four statues that once watched over the headquarters of *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.



2

GRAND LOBBY

Once home to card catalogues and a pneumatic tube system for the retrieval of books from the basement, today the Grand Lobby is a community gathering space anchored by Emma's Torch, a non-profit restaurant that provides culinary training to refugees and survivors of human trafficking.



3

INFORMATION COMMONS

The Shelby White and Leon Levy Information Commons is one of the borough's most popular destinations for freelancers, students, jobseekers and lifelong learners. It offers a recording studio and seven meeting rooms that can be reserved for free by the public, as well as a 36-seat digital training lab and 25 computer workstations loaded with sophisticated design software and other resources.



4

LANGUAGES, LITERATURE & FICTION

Novels, poetry, plays and a wall lined with photographs of celebrated Brooklyn authors.

Dewey ranges:
000
400
800
FIC

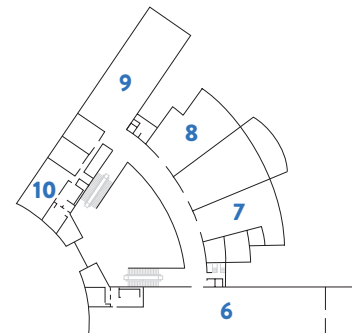


5

YOUTH WING

Home to Central Library's collection of books for children and young adults, with programming space and a teen tech loft. Until 1955, this was the only space in the library that permitted children.

SECOND FLOOR



6

SOCIETY, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Science, mathematics, medicine, business, philosophy.

Dewey ranges:
100
300
500
600

7

ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Since 1977, the Central Library Learning Center has provided small group instruction and learning resources to adults looking to improve their reading and writing skills. It also offers English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Pre-High School Equivalency Pre-HSE) classes.

8

THE BROOKLYN COLLECTION

The Brooklyn Collection is BPL's local history division, providing a range of information and services about all things Brooklyn. Its rich collection of research materials and archival documents includes maps, historic Brooklyn images and the full 1841-1955 run of *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.



9

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY & RELIGION

Famous and forgotten figures, antiquities, travel.

Dewey ranges:
200
900



10

BUSINESS & CAREER CENTER

The Business & Career Center serves job seekers, entrepreneurs, and those seeking to achieve their educational and financial goals through collections, referrals, programs and one on one



THIRD FLOOR



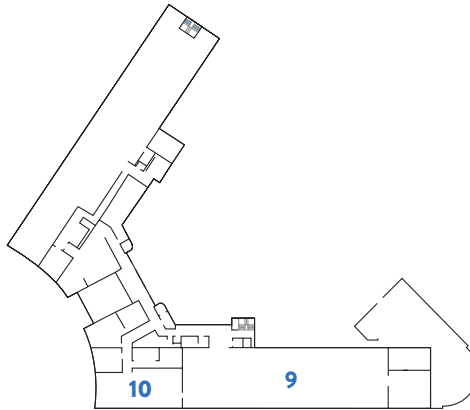
9

ART, MUSIC, MEDIA & SPORTS

Includes BPL's extensive collection of musical scores and orchestral arrangements. The untitled mural near the entrance is a Works Progress Administration piece originally commissioned for the headquarters of WNYC. This space was occupied by the Cataloging Department until the 1970s.

Dewey ranges:

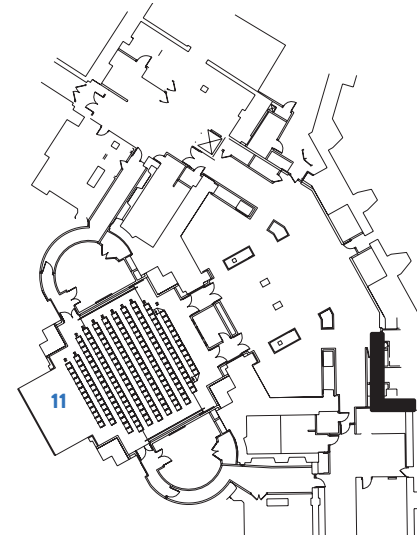
391
700



10

COMPUTER CENTER

Fifty public computers, each reservable with a Library Card. This area housed a staff cafeteria until the 1970s.



LOWER LEVEL

11

DR. S. STEVAN DWECK CULTURAL CENTER

Acoustically well balanced with unobstructed sightlines, the Dweck Center's 189-seat auditorium is an intimate, comfortable space for public programs. The Dweck opened in 2007 in a space that had been planned for an auditorium since 1911; the area housed the library's "furniture morgue" for many years. Today it hosts author talks, film screenings, live music and lively public affairs forums.





VISITING BPL

CENTRAL LIBRARY

10 Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11238
718.230.2100
www.bklynlibrary.org

HOURS

Mon-Thu	9:00 am—9:00 pm
Fri-Sat	9:00 am—6:00 pm
Sun	1:00 pm—5:00 pm

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Subway:

2, 3 to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum or Grand Army Plaza; B, Q to 7 Av.

Bus:

B41 to Flatbush Av/Grand Army Plz.

PARKING

Street parking is available on Flatbush Avenue or Eastern Parkway; the Library does not have a public lot.

ACCESSIBILITY

Central Library is accessible to mobility-impaired visitors. Please call in advance, 718.230.2100, or check with a security officer upon arrival for more information.



Brooklyn Public Library



bklynlibrary.tumblr.com



@BKLYNlibrary



@bklynlibrary

VISIT OUR BRANCHES

Brooklyn Public Library is the nation's fifth-largest library system, with 60 branches serving the borough's 2.5 million residents. Now that you've toured Central Library, be sure to check out bklynlibrary.org for our systemwide hours and locations.