



SAN LEANDRO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrating 100 years of Community Service

1906-2006



First official librarian. On January 31, 1906, the Library Board of Trustees appointed Mary Brown as San Leandro's first official librarian. Her starting salary was \$12.50 a month. She served San Leandro from 1906 to 1938.



First free public library in San Leandro. This library was established in January 1906 and was originally located at the old city hall on Davis Street. After the 1906 earthquake, the library was re-located to this building so that a relief headquarters could be established at City Hall for earthquake refugees. The San Leandro Free Library occupied a room in this building (the Gorman Building) which was located at 1305 East 14th Street.



First library on current site. In 1907 plans were made to construct a library building. Library Trustee Talcott P. Cary donated the 3.5-acre plot and wealthy steel magnate Andrew Carnegie donated \$10,000 towards its construction. William H. Weeks, an architect famous for designing Carnegie libraries, was selected. The library's dedication ceremony was held on May 14, 1909.



Second library on current site. The old Carnegie library was demolished to make way for a new 1 ½-story library building. The architect was Francis Joseph McCarthy. The new library, when dedicated on January 15, 1961, was over 44,660 square feet and had a capacity for 120,000 books. Its features included two garden courts, a lecture hall and several meeting rooms and an art studio.



The library today. Retrofitting and renovating of the 1961 main library began in 1997. It was expanded to a two-story building and 75,000 square feet. Its grand opening was on December 16, 2000. Its impressive features include 75 public computers, an electronic learning center, lecture hall, art gallery and six meeting rooms as well as a gift shop, café and book store. There are currently over 219,000 books in its collection. The library serves an average of 50,000 patrons a month.

San Leandro Public Library
300 Estudillo Avenue • San Leandro, CA 94577