

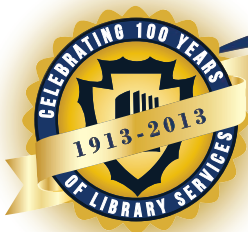


San Bernardino County
**LIBRARY
CENTENNIAL**

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LIBRARY
CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE**

1913-2013





San Bernardino County

**LIBRARY
CENTENNIAL**



Greetings County Residents!

The Library's Centennial is a significant milestone in services for San Bernardino County. It demonstrates a commitment to education and free access to information for all those who call San Bernardino County home. Established in 1913, the past 100 years has seen some monumental changes in every major area of life and culture. Yet 100 years after being established, the San Bernardino County Library (SBCL) system is stronger than it has ever been.

As a visual demonstration of that strength, this year SBCL opened its 32nd branch, the Baker Family Learning Center in the Muscoy area. A joint-use project between the County's Preschool Services Department and SBCL is yet another example of the ingenuity and collaborative spirit that has caused SBCL to thrive despite the ups and downs in the economy and technological trends. As in all cases, we owe much to those who pioneered and paved the path before us. In their care SBCL has grown from a few small libraries stored away in post offices and backrooms to a dynamic network of state-of-the-art library facilities that are among the best in the state and nation. As the seventh County Librarian, it is with a sense of great privilege that I pay special honor to those who invested so much to bring us to where we are today; Caroline S. Waters 1913-1942, Carma Zimmerman 1942-1945, Helen Traver 1957-1974, Barbara Anderson 1974-1994, and Edward Kiczynski 1994-2010.

As we move forward to set the stage for the next 100 years, SBCL is investing to expand its broadband network which serves as the backbone for providing fast and reliable internet service to our libraries. This will include adding wifi capacity at almost all locations, computer hardware and software upgrades, restoring the library's material budget to appropriate levels and adding high-demand items to the collection, including an expanded digital book collection. In addition to these priorities, SBCL will continue to offer and expand the various learning classes and events for children, teens, and adults. The County Library team is very excited to serve and build a library system that meets the demands for today and looks to be prepared for the future. Thank you for your use and support of the County Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonard X. Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Leonard X. Hernandez
County Librarian

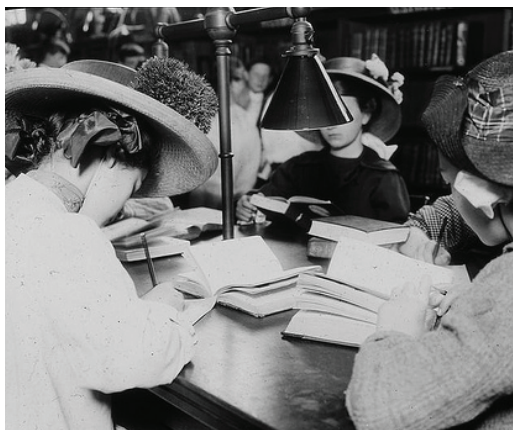
Pioneering Library Service in San Bernardino County: 1913-1940

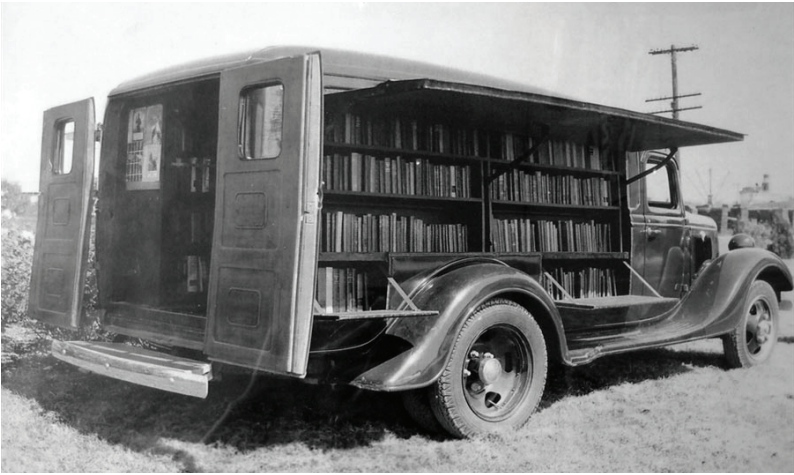
Until 1913, libraries in San Bernardino County were comprised mostly of small community repositories filled with material donations and run by volunteers. In 1913, Harriett G. Eddy, the State Library Organizer working for the California State Librarian, J.L. Gillis, was dispatched to San Bernardino County to evaluate, propose, and promote a plan for a countywide free library system. After much diligence, perseverance, and with the support of the merchants of the San Bernardino County communities, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution establishing a County Free Library on July 14, 1913.



In 1914, the San Bernardino County Free Library flourished with the opening of 11 branches. Many of the newly created branches were housed in established businesses, club houses, private residences, and school houses. The first branches opened in February and March of 1914, and included:

1. Highland Branch
2. Yucaipa Branch
3. Rialto Branch
4. Bloomington
5. Cucamonga
6. Devore:
7. Barstow
8. Daggett
9. Victorville
10. Lucerne
11. Ludlow
12. Upland





Following successful formation of the San Bernardino Free Library and the establishment of the inaugural branches, the climate of the country was drastically changed by the onslaught of World War I. During World War I, The County Library served as the major outlet for the distribution of all war affiliated information. The next thirty years of the County Free Library would be filled with struggles, perseverance, fortitude and a determination to provide constituents with access to information.

The beginning of library service in San Bernardino County was burdened not only by the impact of two world wars and the Great Depression, but also with serving an enormous geographic area while utilizing minimal fiscal support for staff and equipment. Various and sometimes unusual modes of transportation were utilized to access and connect to



the County's outlying libraries including streetcar, passenger freight train, hand car, and, later, the modern motor vehicle.

The San Bernardino County Library pioneered free library service and had many accomplishments despite what at the time seemed to be insurmountable obstacles. Throughout the first thirty years of service many branches were established, organized, and supported with the help of dedicated staff and supportive communities. Collections were organized and expanded to include materials supporting popular, vocational, children's, educational, music, and local history interests. Programming for children of all ages was established as well as the Summer Reading Club. Against all odds, with the support of the constituents of San Bernardino County and the dedication of the pioneering staff hired to supervise and provide service, the San Bernardino County Library set the pace for establishing the County Free Library as a valued and necessary foundation for the great geographic center of Southern California.



Modern Expansion: 1940-1990

The end of the Second World War meant the end of an era and the beginning of the journey into a world recovering from the largest and most modern conflict ever experienced. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of San Bernardino County rose from 161,108 in 1940, to 281,642 in 1950. This trend of exponential growth would continue through the next several decades. It heralded unprecedented changes for



the County and for the library system which served this growing and dynamic populace.

The great geographical span of San Bernardino County continued to provide challenges to librarians eager to promote literacy and

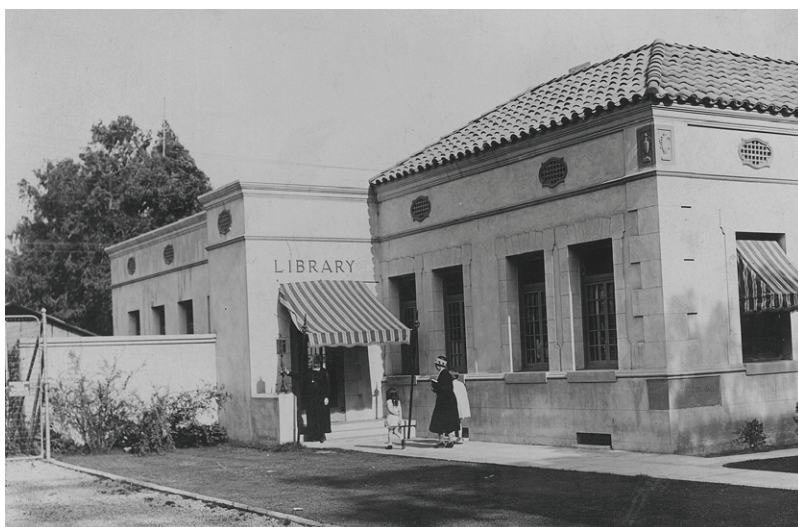
lifelong learning with far-spread constituents. In 1947, to meet these challenges and reach out to areas not yet served by a permanent library, a station wagon was purchased and outfitted with shelving by the County Maintenance Department to hold 500 children's books and a shelf of adult titles. During its first summer in service, the "book wagon" and accompanying staff made 88 stops, registered 415 borrowers, and facilitated 2,861 book checkouts. In 1958, a new bookmobile was put into service to reach the valley and desert areas. It was joined in 1961 by a second vehicle and then again by a third in 1965. These bookmobiles, nicknamed Pack Rat, Valley Vagabond, and Road Runner, together served an area stretching from Needles and camps along the Colorado River, to Wrightwood and Barstow.

By 1960, the County population rose to 503,591, nearly doubling that of 1950. In response to the growing population and the corresponding growing need for library services, projects were undertaken to ensure that existing libraries could meet the needs of their service populations and new libraries could be built to serve formerly library-devoid areas. The 1960's saw the consolidation of small libraries, such as Cucamonga and Alta Loma branches into larger facilities. Other branches, such as Big Bear Lake, Fontana, Montclair and Needles, welcomed the decade with new and larger buildings.

The growth of libraries continued through the 1970's and 1980's, with Yucca Valley and Rancho Cucamonga libraries relocating to facilities at least double the square footage of previous locations. Demand for more service and the success of the bookmobiles in Chino Hills and Wrightwood led to the creation of permanent branch libraries. Wrightwood, made permanent in 1981, had the unique distinction of having a swimming pool in its basement, the result of recycling available space.



1979, saw the introduction of automation to the County Libraries along with membership in the OCLC Network. Technology continued to be adopted by the County Library, with audio tapes and CD's replacing older sound recording formats on library shelves beginning in 1990. These newer services were combined with older methods of service delivery to provide quality and excellence to all San Bernardino County Library users. Books were sent by mail to homebound individuals or those for whom the library was too distant still. Partnering with the Braille Institute to bring materials for the visually impaired into libraries, saw the addition of large print books and books on tape to existing collections. An Adult Literacy Program was also initiated in 1984 and in the first four years assisted 1,800 adult learners with literacy needs.



By 1990, the population of San Bernardino County was 1,418,380, which grew from 161,108 in 1940. Not only had the population grown but the County Library system had grown with it. Through partnerships with nearby library systems, such as Upland, Riverside, Indio, Palm Springs, Corona and

Ontario, the Inland Library System was established and service was extended further than ever. During the years from 1945 to 1990, roads had been paved, miles traveled, new buildings built, new libraries established, and new services extended, all while maintaining the quality and level of excellence individuals had come to expect from their libraries.



Modernization: 1990-2013

As San Bernardino County Library kept pace with population expansion, modernization of library materials, and computerization of the library catalog, the Internet emerged during the mid-1990's and fundamentally changed the direction of library services and functionality. From 1990 to the present, the San Bernardino County Library has embraced the digitization of library services and the ever-changing dissemination of information. The Internet consequently afforded instantly available information on virtually every topic. Personal computers and electronic databases enhanced the effectiveness of print-only libraries. Library services were tasked with meeting a unique balance between print and digital materials within the library. San Bernardino County Library

proactively pursued this challenge, providing its constituents with access to computers, the Internet, online information databases, print and electronic information materials, and resources to assist with the uniquely evolving atmosphere of the modern library experience.

The opening of the 21st Century initiated the third great expansion of the County Library since its inauguration in 1913. The new Mentone Senior Center and Library was



opened in 2007, and was the first combined library and senior center in the system. In 2008, two impressive and cutting edge library facilities were opened to provide San Bernardino County residents with access

to state of the art information resource centers. The Lewis Library and Technology Center opened in Fontana, providing 93,000 square feet of information resources, computer access and popular library programming. The Sam J. Racadio Library & Environmental Learning Center in Highland provided a unique experience of the traditional library setting with print and digital resources as well as a rooftop garden and live animal exhibits. Both branches embody the future of libraries by embracing new sustainability efforts by utilizing solar energy and recycled building materials. Other branches to receive new and upgraded locations during this period include the Phelan Memorial Library, Crestline Branch, Hesperia Branch, James S. Thalman Chino Hills, and the Baker Family Learning Center in Muscoy.

Currently, 32 branches equipped with public access computers, internet connectivity, online databases, print and electronic

resources (including books, DVDs, music CDs, audio books), digital audio devices, and downloadable e-books) serve San Bernardino County residents. As library materials and services continue to transform and modernize, San Bernardino County Library will strive to embrace new and emerging technological advances as well as deliver innovative and diverse services.

Here are just a few new facilities added to the County Library System in the last 10 years:



NEWTON T. BASS APPLE VALLEY BRANCH LIBRARY - 2002



MENTONE SENIOR CENTER AND LIBRARY - 2007



LEWIS LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER IN FONTANA - 2008



HIGHLAND SAM J. RACADIO LIBRARY & ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER - 2008



HESPERIA BRANCH LIBRARY - 2006



PHELAN MEMORIAL BRANCH LIBRARY - 2009



JAMES S. THALMAN CHINO HILLS BRANCH LIBRARY - 2009



CRESTLINE BRANCH LIBRARY - 2010



BAKER FAMILY LEARNING CENTER IN MUSCOY 2013

Embracing the Future: 2013- Forward

The San Bernardino County Library system continues to embrace the changes that library services have seen during the last 100 years, striving to provide quality customer service while also delivering information through a variety of mediums. Our pledge is to continue to pursue enhancements to library services beyond simply being a repository of information. The future San Bernardino County Library will continue to promote and advocate for all types of literacy (data, information, technology, and traditional), technological innovation, and programming for all ages that inspires readership and lifelong learning.



The modern library setting continues to evolve into what can be described as an information commons: a library environment which includes print resources, digital resources, access to electronic books (e-books), access to the Internet and computers, the development of

programming for all ages that promotes print and digital literacy, and a forum that brings communities, individuals, and information together in one space. San Bernardino County Library endeavors to provide a foundation for the diverse populations we serve and to embrace the modern social nature of information that inextricably connects people, communities and information sources.

The future of San Bernardino County Library combines innovative and entrepreneurial thinking, creative use of resources and enthusiastic forward-thinking models of service to promote library service within our communities and make available integral resources and programs. Service goals moving into the future of library services in San Bernardino County will include:

- Provide services, resources, and materials that are at your fingertips, anytime, anywhere.
- Engage communities through social technologies.
- Build a digitally inclusive community through the expansion of digital resources and literacy programs for diverse populations.
- Inspire communities through cultural and educational programming on crucial subjects: early learning, employment, scholarship resources, e-government, language, and senior support.

