

LIBRARY DETAILS

CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

FAST FACTS

- Opening Date: 12 November 2005
- Floor Area: 6,407 square meters
- Collection Size: 227,755
- Target Community: Residents around Kolam Ayer, Whampoa, Jalan Besar, Kampong Glam, Kreta Ayer-Kim Seng, tourists, students from nearby schools, office workers close to the CBD

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Outdoor Gardens

Open to the public, Central Public Library's gardens include the Bamboo Garden, which houses 5,000 bricks from the former National Library at Stamford Road.

Also located within the garden are life-size bronze figures by Chong Fah Cheong featuring four children in various reading poses, poised on white marble rocks. The sculpture's fantastical nature illustrates the idea that "Anything can happen when you read". This concept is further reinforced by the garden setting which promotes the experience of being lost in a world of books.

- My Tree House

The world's first green library for kids, "My Tree House", was officially opened by Minister for Communications and Information Yaacob Ibrahim on 31 May 2013. The project was developed together with City Development Limited and is steered by green principles in all facets from design, infrastructure and use of sustainable materials, to collection, services and programming.

Features include 2 e-Book kiosks that allow children to read up to 179 eBook titles and engage in interactive activities.

Green-themed programmes for children are also hosted at My Tree House on a regular basis.

- Literary Arts

Being a Literary Arts Library, Central Public Library hosts a series of programmes such as:

- How to Fall in Love with the Classics: public lectures on notable works from various genres by Gwee Li Sui.
- ThinkLit: Quarterly in-depth discussions with experts about literature.

The library also is also home to these book clubs:

- Book Lovers Club: focuses on inspirational stories and society
- Singapore Literature Book Club: invites a local author to their monthly sessions to discuss their works
- The Nature Club: an intergenerational book club that emphasizes collective reflection on personal, literary and state narratives pertaining to sustainability issues
- Straits Times Book Club: Partner with Straits Times to feature their guests and journalists.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- English Fiction: Central Public Library has the largest English fiction collection in the network of public libraries, with more than 30,000 unique titles.
- Other Collections: The Literary Arts Collection is one of the library's highlights along with its International Collection which showcases the following countries: South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Taiwan, USA and France.
Children's Collection: The library has 45,000 children's fiction and non-fiction titles with a distinct focus on the themes such as environment and recycling. 30% of the Children's Collection is eco-themed.

LIBRARY HISTORY

Central Public Library was officially opened on 12 November 2005 by then President of Singapore Mr. S R Nathan. It is located at Basement One of the NLB building at 100 Victoria Street.

Central Lending Library was formerly located at the National Library Building at Stamford Road, which officially closed its doors on 1 April 2004. As part of the effort to preserve some memories of the former National Library, 5000 red bricks from the old building were brought over to construct a wall in the new library's Bamboo Garden.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Central Public Library is the only fully underground public library. It is also the only library to have a conveyor belt system for its bookdrop, as well as a monitor display at each bookdrop.
- The library is located in the Arts and Heritage precinct, as well as commercial and cultural hub within the Central Business District. This puts it in close proximity to design schools and the shopping belt of Bugis and City Hall. It is also located within a belt of museums, namely the Singapore Art Museum, the National Museum, the Asian Civilizations Museum and the Singapore Philatelic Museum, and other nearby tourist areas such as Little India and Fort Canning.
- Central Public Library has been visited by many famous personalities such as the former US First Lady Laura Bush, the former US Second Lady Jill Biden, His

Imperial Majesty The Emperor of Japan Akihito and the Empress Michiko, the current King of Bhutan, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.