

Dunedin Public Library

Stat attack

There are more than 700,000 items on the Dunedin Public Libraries catalogue.

Top of the class

The Dunedin Public Library was the first New Zealand public library to adopt self-pickup holds.

In the pipeline

The Dunedin Public Library celebrates its centenary in 2008!

Who's who

The first city librarian was William Barker McEwan (1870-1933), who started work in 1908.

Stack Trek heads off on the last Saturday of each month to explore the unknown world of the basement; the newspapers include *The Fiji Times* as well as the *Guardian*; and above the escalator hangs Colin McCahon's glorious painting of the Otago Peninsula. Our Dunedin Public Library is a rich treasure for reading in the heart of the city.

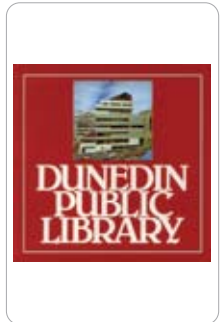
Thanks to American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, Dunedin's first free library opened at 110 Moray Place in 1908. A children's reading room opened two years later, then expanded into a lending library; and in 1911 lending services for adults began. Prior to this time, library needs for local residents had been met by the Dunedin Mechanics' Institute, which merged into the subscription-based Dunedin Athenaeum & Mechanics' Institute in 1858. The Otago University Library provided a free public reference library, with a Provincial Council subsidy, from 1875.

As well as all the books available for borrowing, the Dunedin Public Library holds the important Reed Collection of rare books and manuscripts, early bibles, and the McNab Collection of New Zealand printed books, manuscripts and papers.

The Library has occupied its present location on the northern side of Moray Place since 1981. The Library's popular Bookbus undertook its first distribution run on 17 April 1950. A second Bookbus was added in 1976 and today they call at 51 stops throughout the city.



The Bookbus today



Brochure produced for the 1981 opening of the new Dunedin Public Library

