

The Central Library is essential to your neighborhood branch library

A healthy Central Library is essential to a thriving branch library system. More than just a warehouse distributing books, the Central Library provides expertise, collections, databases and reference support. The branch libraries need a strong Central Library because:

1. Like a patient who consults a specialist for their most critical medical questions, patrons turn to the Central Library's highly trained and specialized library staff with their **most advanced reference questions**—more than 643,000 questions each year.
2. Central Library staff provides **technology support** for computers, printers, the free Wi-Fi internet and self-check machines at your branch.
3. The Central Library coordinates **improved access for disabled patrons at branch libraries**. Additionally, the Central Library's I CAN Center houses specialized computer equipment for disabled library users, including Low Vision, Developmental Disability and Mobility Assistance Computers.
4. **Programming for branch libraries** is managed from the Central Library. For example, Central Library staff provides all the materials, incentives and planning for the popular Summer Reading Programs at each branch.
5. The Central Library **houses more than half a million unique titles**, all of which can be delivered to any branch free of charge to patrons. The Central Library distributes more than 424,000 books, reference materials, CDs, DVDs and other materials to branches yearly, including more than 86,000 items for children and teens.



Specialized librarians at the Central Library, like Youth Services Coordinator Marina Claudio-Perez pictured here, work with professional staff at branches to guide programming.



6. The Central Library is **home to some of the region's most valuable archival resources**, including the only patent depository south of Orange County and the original plans for Balboa Park buildings from the 1915 Pan Am Exhibition.
7. Central Library staff works with the professional staff at branches to **develop a collection** of books, periodicals, CDs and DVDs and reference materials unique to the needs of the community.
8. The Central Library's **highly specialized collections** and programs in music, science, baseball research, government documents and rare and valuable

books are an invaluable resource to not only San Diego Public Library branches but also to the entire region. Extensive collections that support small business owners and entrepreneurs are available at the Central Library.

9. **The online catalog and all databases and other electronic resources** are managed from the Central Library. For example, Central Library staff helps select online databases and manages the popular new eAudiobooks program.



To support education and literacy for all San Diegans, log onto SupportMyLibrary.org.

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