

## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES - TIMELINE (1919-2020)

Timeline research and some images courtesy of **Orange County Archives**.

Accession #1985.34 et al. Orange County Public Library Records.















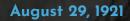


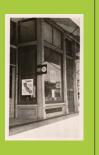




# OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1919-1921)

August 1, 1921





Orange County Free Library begins operating with a staff of three (Margaret Livingston & two assistants, Arline Davis and Frances Stockebrand) headquartered at 508 N. Mair Street in Santa Ana in a rented room shared with the County Farm Advisor.



Westminster branch opens, operating from a schoolhouse with a collection of 180 books. First Librarian: Louise Turpin. The library later moves to Odd Fellows Hall, then to Sigler Park (1929). In 1963, Westminster branch absorbs the Barber City branch and moves to a storefront location at Westminster Shopping Center. In 1977, Westminster absorbs the Bolsa branch and opens in a new building at the branch's current location.

Continued



1919

1921

WIND VENEZUE OF

August 19, 1921

October 11, 1921



July 5, 1921





adobe building in the downtown area, then

moves again in 1940. In 1953, SJC Library relocates to the Old Justice Court Adobe, then to Adobe Shopping Center in 1965. The library's current building, designed by architect Michael Graves, opened in 1983.

is established along with library service to the Harper-Fairview School District. In 1923, the City of Costa Mesa incorporates, and the Harper-Fairview branch is replaced by the Costa Mesa Branch in a new location.

September 19, 1921



Orange County Free Library is established by a Board of Supervisors resolution to bring library services to all parts of Orange County outside the jurisdictions of existing municipal library districts.

December 9, 1919



Harper-Fairview (Costa Mesa) branch

Librarian: Anna McVeigh. In 1929, the librar moves to City Hall, then to its own building 1953. It relocates to Brea Shopping Center 1962, then to the city's Civic/Cultural Cent on September 25, 1981.





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1921-1922)

### October 25, 1921



moves to larger quarters in the Chamber of Commerce



La Habra Branch opens. First Librarian: Mrs. Frederick B. Drake. Relocates in 1929 and again in 1937. A new facility is built in 1966. New library opens in 1983 with twice the space.

**November 8, 1921** 

Continued

>>>

1921 1922

October 11, 1921



Seal Beach branch opens in Citizens National Bank. First Librarian: Sarah Dyson. The library moves to temporary quarters in 1929, then to City Hall in 1930. It relocates again in 1962 to a new location across from City Hall, then to a new building in 1978.

### October 25, 1921



#### COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

### County of Orange

After one year of operation, Orange County Free Library provides library services from 38 community distribution points established throughout Orange County: 19 schools and 19 community service "branches" (which include full library branches plus institutional service points and smaller "stations" in stores, rooms, or other locations).

Collection: 10,463 volumes. Registered Borrowers: 4,609.

June 1922

December 18, 1922







## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1923-1928)

1924

Library Admin HQ relocates to the basement of the Hall of Records, Room 112.

Date Due

First numbered library cards are issued to the public.

February 15, 1927

Wintersburg Branch opens in a local church First Librarian: Juliene Blaylock. In September 1936, Wintersburg relocates and becomes Ocean View.

Continued

1923

1924

1925

1926

1926

1927

1928





Costa Mesa branch opens. First Librarian: Sarah Conant (hired the following year). The library relocates to larger building in November 1951. In 1960, a new building is constructed, then a larger building (named for Judge Donald Dungan) is completed in July 1987. Costa Mesa Library's current building opened May 24, 2019.



Card catalogs are installed in all Orange County Free Library branches.

1925

are established. Atwood closed April 28, 1929 after the building was destroyed in a fire. Diamond closed in late 1930-early 1931.

1007



San Clemente branch opens in the butler's pantry of a community club house. First Librarian: Loral H. Caskey. In 1940, the library moves to larger quarters, then to a new building in May 1951. It relocates again in October 1956, then opens at its current location on June 7, 1982.

July 1923

May 22, 1928





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES **TIMELINE** (1930-1933)

1931

Library Administration HQ moves to Court House Annex, Room 148.



**January 16, 1933** 

Continued

1930

1931

1933

>>>

1930

Shady Brook (Silverado) branch opens in a log cabin shared with the community's post office. First Librarian: Elsie McClelland. The library is renamed the Silverado branch in 1934-35. In 1946, Elsie retires and is given the cabin as a retirement home. The library moves to a former barber shop building, then moves again to a new building in Silverado Shopping Center on July 30, 1964, boasting the first air conditioning unit in Silverado. In 2017, the Silverado Branch closes and is rededicated as Library of the Canyons located in a former school building on Santiago Canyon Road.

Tustin branch opens. First Librarian: Hazel Gowdy. After the 1933 earthquake, the library moves to the First National Bank Building, then moves again in 1939 to a store building on Main Street. It opens a temporary location in 1949, then reopens in a new City Hall building in 1950. The library moves to larger quarters in 1958 and 1963, then relocates to a new building on July 16, 1976. The library's current location opened August 19, 2009.

1931

1933



Trabuco Oaks branch opens in the local grocery store/post office. First Librarian: Ethel Glenn. The branch relocates in 1949 and is later known simply as the Trabuco branch. Closed in 1969-70.

July 7, 1933





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1935-1938)

October 1, 1938

### September 3, 1935

**January 18, 1935** 

Olive branch is established in the Boy Scout headquarters with a collection of 500 books. Closed in 1962-63.



Midway City branch opens in a real estate office on Bolsa Avenue, serving residents of Westminster, Midway City, and Barber City First Librarian: Anna Van Steenberg. In 1964 the library relocates and is renamed the Bolsa Branch. It is absorbed by Westminster Branch in 1977.



Dana Point branch opens in a local post office. First Librarian: Laura Louise Russell. The library moves to the Herbert Caldwell Building in 1950, then to a store building on La Plaza in 1957. The library's current building opened July 6, 1977 and the library was renamed the Dana Niguel branch. In 1998, the name reverted back to Dana Point branch.

Continued

1935 1936 1937 1938



Los Alamitos branch opens in Laurel School. First Librarian: Grace Green. The library relocates in February 1941, then moves to Rossmoor Shopping Center in 1962 and is renamed Los Alamitos-Rossmoor Branch. The library's current building opened in August 1978.

February 1, 1935

Wintersburg branch becomes Ocean View after moving to Huntington Beach Blvd. opposite the Ocean View School. The branch establishes a memorial bookshelf honoring service men in November 1945. Closed June 30, 1959, later becoming part of the Huntington Beach system.

September 1936

mid 1930s

Annual "Summer Vacation Reading Clubs" are hosted by libraries throughout the system and continue to this day as the library's annual Summer Reading Program.



Cypress branch (run by the local community since 1933) joins Orange County Free Library and opens in a former bank building. First Librarian: Clara King. The library relocates in 1953 after its building is damaged in an earthquake, then reopens in a new building on Moody Street in 1965. The library's current building opened in 1976.

New County Librarian: Carma Russell Zimmerman (1938-1942).

1938





# OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1940-1948)



New County Librarian: Margaret Cotant Morrison (1942-1968). 1944

Orange County Free Library collects over 1,000 books to be distributed to military personnel for the "Send Your Books to War" campaign organized by the California Library Association.

1948

Santa Ana Gardens Branch opens. Closed Jun 30, 1959.

1942

1940

1942

1944

1946

1948

Continued



### **April 1, 1940**



Stanton branch opens. First Librarian: Geraldine Kahl. In 1956, the library relocates to a local shopping center, then moves to the Civic Center in 1974

After 20 years of operation - 21 branches: Brea, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Dana Point, El Modena, Garden Grove, Laguna Beach, La Habra, Los Alamitos, Midway City, Ocean View, Olive, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Seal Beach, Serra (closed June 30, 1942), Silverado, Stanton, Trabuco Oaks, Tustin, & Westminster.

Collection: 142,272 books and 21,860

other items.

Registered borrowers: 16,068.

Circulation: 419,290 items.

June 1942

#### Library Admin HQ moves to 1104B West 8th St., Santa Ana.







## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1955-1963)

July 15, 1958

1955

First Friends of the Library group forms in Laguna Beach.

South Laguna branch opens in Laguna Beach, the second branch in that community due to population growth in the area. First Librarian: Virginia Narbel. Closed July, 1979, a public wake (including eulogies) was held at Laguna Beach branch.

1961

Library Admin HQ moves to 12392 Placentia Ave., Orange.

1963

Children and Young Adults
Division is established.

Continued

1955

1958

1959

1961

1963

Villa Park branch opens in Villa Park Elementary School. First Librarian: Jean Thompson. The library later moves to new facilities in City Hall and reopens June 1, 1972.

July 1, 1958



Bookmobile service (later called Extension Service) is established. First Librarian: Martine Hornburg. An additional bookmobile is added in 1962. In 1968, routes have 34 stops over an area ranging from Brea to San Clemente and Sunset Beach to Modjeska Canyon. Stops vary from 30 minutes to 3 hours. 1968 bookmobile circulation is 14,000 books per month. The last bookmobile is taken out of service in 1982.



Library Admin HQ moves to 431 South Manchester, Orange.





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1963-1964)

### January 1963

Leisure World (Seal Beach) branch opens in the Leisure World Medical Building. First Librarian: Vera Christensen. In 1965, the library moves to Leisure World Shopping Center, then to a new building in 1973. The library leaves the Orange County system in 1995. July 9, 1963

Garden Grove branch is designated a Federal Depository for government documents.



West Garden Grove branch opens in response to high local book mobile demand. First Librarian: Myrna Donohue. In 2015, the library is renamed Garden Grove Tibor Rubin branch

January 14, 1964

Continued

>>>

1963

1964

### May 1963



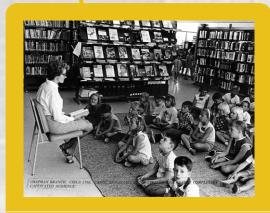
Westminster branch absorbs Barber City branch

1964

Library School Dept. closes (libraries which operated inside of schools before school funding allowed establishment of their own libraries).

1964

Midway City branch becomes Bolsa branch at a new site. Bolsa library later merges with Westminster Branch in 1977.



Garden Grove Chapman branch opens in response to high local book mobile demand. First Librarian: Harriet Scheldrup. Later, Librarian Dorothy Wood develops the system's sheet music collection (eventually transferred to Cypress). The GG Chapman branch also managed a "picture collection" of mounted pictures for use by artists, teachers, and children who want to know. "what it looks like."

January 14, 1964





# OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1965-1970)

November 1, 1965

1965

The library's first history publication is issued, "Orange County Free Library 1921-1965."

Collection: 405,000 volumes. Circulation: 2,804,000.



Mesa Verde branch opens in Costa Mesa. First Librarian: Esther Burch.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

November 1969

New County Librarian: Harry

1968

M. Rowe, Jr. (1968-1978).

Continued

1965

1967

1968

1969



Fountain Valley branch opens. First Librarian: Dorise Jesko. In 1991 the library closes and reopens in a new building (designed to represent a seahorse from above) and new location behind City Hall.

January 23, 1965

**Orange County Free Library** is renamed "Orange County Public Library" by County Board of Supervisors.

1967

October 4, 1969



Third bookmobile goes into service, holding 5,000 books.





## **OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE** (1971-1975)

1971

Card catalogs are replaced by computer-generated system-wide book catalogs (with inventory locator guide). Printed volumes are dispatched to each branch, enabling patrons to see what is available at other system branches for the first time. As the collection grows through the decade to over 1 million volumes, a microfilm catalog replaces the print version. In 1988, the first electronic catalog is introduced on compact disc.

**June 1972** 

After 50 years of operation - 25 branches: Bolsa, Brea, Chapman, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Dana Point, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Laguna Beach, La Habra, La Palma, Leisure World (Seal Beach), Los Alamitos Rossmoor, Mesa Verde, Mission Viejo, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Seal Beach, Silverado, South Laguna, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, West Garden Grove, & Westminster, plus several institutional service points and 34 bookmobile stops.

Circulation: 4,328,650 items.

October 20, 1975



Continued

1971

1972

1973

1974

February 22, 1971

Young Adult Coordinator position is established and Young Adult (YA) collections, spaces, and programs are developed throughout the library system.

1971



Mission Viejo branch opens as the system's second regional branch. First Librarian: Lucille Martel. The library becomes part of the City of Mission Viejo in 1995.

Seal Beach Branch adopts the name "Mary Wilson Branch" to honor the memory of longtime librarian Mary B. Wilson, who served as librarian from 1943 until her death in 1973.

**November 3, 1973** 

July 1974





# OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1977-1981)

1979

July 6, 1977

Dana Point branch's current building opens and the branch is renamed Dana Niguel branch. The name reverts back to Dana Point branch in 1998. Special collection items include a VCR monitor, manual typewriters, and Apple IIe computers for public use.



University Park branch starts a Chinese language collection with a gift of 250 volumes of Chinese language children's books from Irvine Chinese School. The library system allocates a budget to maintain the University Park Chinese collection.

1980

Friends of the Library Recognition Day is established.

Continued

1977

1979

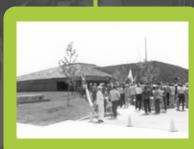
1980

1981



1979

New County Librarian: Elizabeth Martinez Smith (1979-1990).



El Toro branch opens. First Librarian: Donna Laffoon. In 1991, the library retains its name despite the city's name change to "Lake Forest."

April 11, 1981

Westminster branch absorbs Bolsa branch (formerly Midway City branch) and reopens at its current location.

November 1977

documents & pamphlets; 24,627 microfilm rolls; 5,236 maps & charts; 522 pieces of art for loan or rent; 1,043 moving pictures (943 16mm filmstrips, 97 other filmstrips); 42,582 audio recordings (36,354 discs of any size or speed and 6,228 tapes of any size or speed); and 1,092 periodical titles.

Collection - 1,089,314 volumes; 351,503

**June 1979** 





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES **TIMELINE** (1982-1987)

March 1982

First database access is offered through the library's subscriptions to "BRS: Bibliographic Retrieval Systems" and "The Source." Librarians at regional reference centers in Brea, Garden Grove, and Mission Viejo are trained to conduct database searches for patrons. Search results yield a list of periodical citations for the patron to pursue.

1982

1983



San Juan Capistrano branch reopens as the system's third regional branch in a new building designed by architect Michael Graves.



First Farsi language collection is established at University Park Branch by staff member Badri Tabibzadeh and a \$50 donation from Nasser Khousrobod.

1984

Mid-1980s

La Palma volunteer Shizuko

December 5, 1987

Crown Valley branch opens in Laguna Niguel. First Librarian: Renee Sarno Welling. The library is renamed Laguna Niguel branch in 1999.

Continued

1982

1983

1984

1987

>>>

1984

Books-by-mail service continues "extension services" after suspension of the bookmobile program. Booksby-mail is discontinued in 1985 due to cost considerations.

1982

**Orange County Public Library** agrees to administer the newly created Orange County Archives at the Chestnut Street Facility. In 1991, the Archives moves to the Old County Courthouse and then are absorbed by the County's Clerk-Recorder Office in 1995.

1983



Adoption of ALIS, an automated circulation control system, the largest of its kind at that time. All Branch collections are labelled with barcodes and all 25 branches are linked online by September 1984. The system's promotional campaign features a new zebra mascot, "Rita Book", whose stripes are intended to reference barcode bars. Rita is named by 11 year-old Cypress Branch patron, Sabrina Vasquez, who won a county-wide contest to name the library's new mascot. Her entry is selected from 5,000 applicants.





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1988-1994)

June 3, 1988



Heritage Park branch is established in Irvine. First Librarian: Barbara Brook. Heritage Park replaces Mission Viejo as the system's second regional branch in 1995. 1991

Library Admin HQ moves to its current location: 1501 E. St. Andrews Place, Santa Ana.

199

New County Librarian: John M. Adams (1991-2007).

1992

READ/OC assesses their first learner and begins WIN (Working for Inmate Literacy Now) in partnership with OC School District.

1994



Cypress branch receives the system's sheet music collection (originally housed at Garden Grove Chapman branch).

Continued

1988

1990

199

1992

1993

199



Security systems installed in all branches.

1989-1990

1991



READ/OC created.

Circulation: 6,690,446 (FY 92-93

June 1993



Rancho Santa Margarita branch opens. First Librarian: Diane Alter.

November 29, 1994

Orangewood Children's Home Library opens to residents only. First Librarian: Pam Carlson.

November 30, 1990





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (1995-1999)



OC/EDGE (Electronic Data Global Entry) debuts: Dial-in computer access to the library catalog is available to the public 24 hours/day through a 900 number and dial up modem (at a controversial cost of 50 cents/minute). Users can consult the catalog, see if materials are available or checked out, reserve materials, and renew materials already checked out.

### January 1997

OC Board of Supervisors creates the Library Advisory Board.



Library website (www.ocpl.org)

1995

The library's collection budget is halved and branch hours are reduced during Orange County's bankruptcy.

### September 1996

READ/OC begins Families for Literacy program.

1998

Public Internet stations become available for patrons in some branches

1999

Continued

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999



Leisure World (Seal Beach) branch privatizes and leaves the Orange County system.

1995



San Clemente branch is the first library in Orange County to offer Internet connection and classes to the public from one Internet-connected computer.

January 1996

ARD VEA

1999

All branch libraries

include computer

workstations with

Internet access for

patron use.

Mission Viejo branch becomes part of the City of Mission Viejo.

1995

Aliso Viejo branch opens. First Librariar Carin Sung.

January 31, 1998





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (2000-2003)

July 2002



OCPL, in partnership with the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System, begins offering online real-time reference support, 24 hours/day through LION (Librarians Online).



Laguna Hills Technology branch opens inside Laguna Hills Community Center. First Branch Librarian: Maureen Gebelein.

### August 2003



Ladera Ranch branch opens in the Ladera Ranch School Administration building. First Branch Librarian: Karen Thorburn.

#### 2003

READ/OC begins EL-Civics to meet ESL demand.

### Continued

2000

2001

2002

2003



Orange County Public Library offers remote catalog and databases access through their web site.

April 2000

Costa Mesa Technology branch opens. First Branch Librarian: Cameron Trowbridge. Relocates in 2013. Closed Jan. 31, 2019.

January 11, 2002



Foothill Ranch branch opens First Branch Librarian: Paula Bruce.

February 1, 2003

Laguna Woods branch opens in Laguna Woods City Hall building. First Branch Librarian: Phyllis Brown.

April 2003

Orange County Public Library offers resources in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Farsi, French, German, and Russian languages, as well as in Braille.





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES

**TIMELINE** (2006-2010)

2008

New County Librarian: Helen Fried (2008-2018).

2007



Debut of Literary Orange.



Self-checkout machines are introduced.

2007

August 19, 2009



Tustin branch reopens at its current location.

**January 20, 2010** 

eBook collection is established through Overdrive (150 titles).

Continued

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010



2006

eAudiobook collection is established through Overdrive (100 titles in March 2006).

2006

Wi-Fi is installed in all library branches. Orange County Public Library is renamed "OC Public Libraries" and becomes part of a new County department, OC Community Resources, combining OC Public Libraries, OC Parks, OC Animal Care, and OC Community Services.

2008

Orange County Public Library's first digital images collection is created (74 images hosted by Calisphere).

2007



Katie Wheeler branch opens in Irvine. First Branch Librarian: Richard Serrato.

February 23, 2008

Digital sheet music collection is established.





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES TIMELINE (2011-2017)

2014



OC Stories debuts (www.ocstories.org).



Lunch at the Library debuts at Garden Grove Chapman branch. The following year, the program expands to include Garden Grove Main with additional branches participating in subsequent years. In 2019, the program supplies 20,564 free lunches to Orange County children.

Summer 2016

Continued

2011

2014

2015

2016

2017

>>>

Circulation: 6,303,411 (FY 2010-2011).

June 2011



West Garden Grove branch is renamed Garden Grove Tibor Rubin branch.

March 2015



Rita Recommends launches, providing individualized reader's advisory online.

Summer 2016



Library of the Canyons branch (formerly Silverado) opens in former Silverado Elementary School building on Santiago Canyon Road.

June 2017





## OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES

**TIMELINE** (2018-2020)

2019

# HOW TO GET A CARD

Patron eCards are introduced, allowing remote access to online resources.

December 2019



New County Librarian: Julie Quillman (2019-). March 2020

All OC Public Libraries branches close to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Jun 2020 (FY 2019-2020)

Circulation: 7,060,197 Attendance: 3,897,046 Library cards issued: 84,144 Internet sessions: 311,788 Wireless sessions: 848,388

Reference questions answered: 692,706

361,134 people attended 11,838 programs.

2018

2019

2020



Graduation of first Career Online High School class from San Clemente library.



New Costa Mesa branch opens in Lions Park.

May 2019

OC Public Libraries branches reopen with limited patron service.

June 2020



WiFi on Wheels (WOW) is launched to address the digital divide augmented by the COVID-19

October 2020