

THIS IS YOUR LIBRARY

Services

Reference: a Trove and a Guide

In addition to its extensive collection of reference materials, available in print and online, the Reading Public Library has professional librarians ready to guide or train you in accessing and making the most of this wealth of information.

Meeting Space: Free to the Public

Equipped with powerful, up-to-date technology, the Dr. Jerome I. Marcus Learning and Meeting Commons at the Main Library and the SE branch can seat up to 12 people. Rooms at other branches and the RPL Foundation can hold up to 30 people.

Public Computer and Internet Access

Youths and adults can use the free public computers at all RPL locations, and WiFi is accessible 24-7 outside the building. Plus, the Main Library offers computer and internet classes including Word and Excel—all free.

Outreach Initiatives

From early literacy education to delivery services to senior residences, RPL works hard to provide all city residents access to our collections and services.

Local History & Genealogy Research

The Pennsylvania Room at the Main Library houses a special, uncirculated collection of materials covering the history of Reading and Berks County. A dedicated staff member is available to assist you with genealogy research.

Programs for You

Participate in the Book Club, Cinema Club, Virtual Yoga Class, or Chess Club. Investigate writing, illustration, healthy eating, or English as a Second Language. Browse the RPL website to see the many programs and classes available, all free.

Main Library

100 South 5th Street, Reading, PA 19602

Free Parking Available at Rear of Building

(610) 655-6350

(610) 655-6355 Reference

(610) 655-6365 Administration

www.ReadingPublicLibrary.com

 ReadingPublicLib  readingpublib

Our Other Locations

Northeast Branch

1348 North 11th St

Reading, PA 19604

(610) 655-6361

RPLne@Reading.Lib.PA.US

Northwest Branch

901 Schuylkill Ave

Reading, PA 19601

(610) 655-6360

RPLnw@Reading.Lib.PA.US

Southeast Branch

1426 Perkiomen Ave

Reading, PA 19602

(610) 655-6362

RPLse@Reading.Lib.PA.US



Our thanks to the KU Designathon Team:
Aimee Basiura, Gabby Edwards, & Belen Jurado



READ PLAY LIVE



READING PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our Collection

Our collection comprises over 300,000 materials, including traditional books, DVDs, and periodicals. Our non-fiction titles cover a vast array of subjects, and our fiction selection is truly comprehensive. Patrons with vision limitations can borrow our large-print titles.

If we don't have the book or film you're looking for, ask us to purchase it!

eMedia

Our digital media services bring streaming movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics, and TV shows to your computer, tablet, phone, and TV.

Spanish Language Collection

We offer a selection of fiction and non-fiction titles in Spanish, which are shelved in our Reference Department. In addition, we regularly add Spanish-language films on DVDs and music on CDs.

Interlibrary Loan

Interlibrary loan is a free service that allows library card holders to borrow books, audio visual materials, and articles that are not available at their home library. We supply ILL materials for all RPL branches and Berks County Public Libraries.



Children and Teens

Collection

The Children's Department houses the largest collection of books in the county. Both the children's and teen departments have a diverse collection of books including nonfiction, graphic novels, and Manga. The collection features the newest fiction and easy books, and a large Spanish-language section.

Children's Programming

Our award-winning Children's Library offers everything from traditional story times to innovative programming like Food for Thought, Mindful Yoga, Anime Club, and sensory friendly nights.

Each summer brings a reading challenge with incentives and prizes along with exciting in-person performances, weekly STEM activities, crafting, cooking, movement, and more.

Teen Scene

The Teen Loft includes a lounge area to meet friends, play games, and use computers. Teen programming is designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and leadership. Useful courses such as SAT Prep classes, Job Readiness Workshops, and Girls Who Code Club help prepare teens for a successful future.

Who We Are

Our Roots

Founded in 1863, Reading Public Library is the sixth oldest library in America. The building that houses RPL's Main Library was completed in 1913, funded by industrialist-turned-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The first three branches were built between 1917 and 1927. Today's branch locations serve the same neighborhoods as the original branch libraries.

Our Mission

Reading Public Library serves the city of Reading as a community center, cultural center, job resource center, and people's university. We are committed to meeting the needs of a diverse and dynamic population by empowering people through literacy and access to information. More than just a warehouse for books, we are a 21st-century institution well positioned to close the literary, cultural, and digital divides within our community.

