



Self-guided Tour of the Main Library Nashville Public Library

Welcome! This self-guided tour is designed to give you a brief introduction to the services and collections available from the Main Library. There are 20 branches in the Nashville Public Library system. The Main Library is centrally located in downtown Nashville.

Please allow 40-45 minutes to complete this tour. If you can't find something, please ask a staff member at any information desk.

First Floor

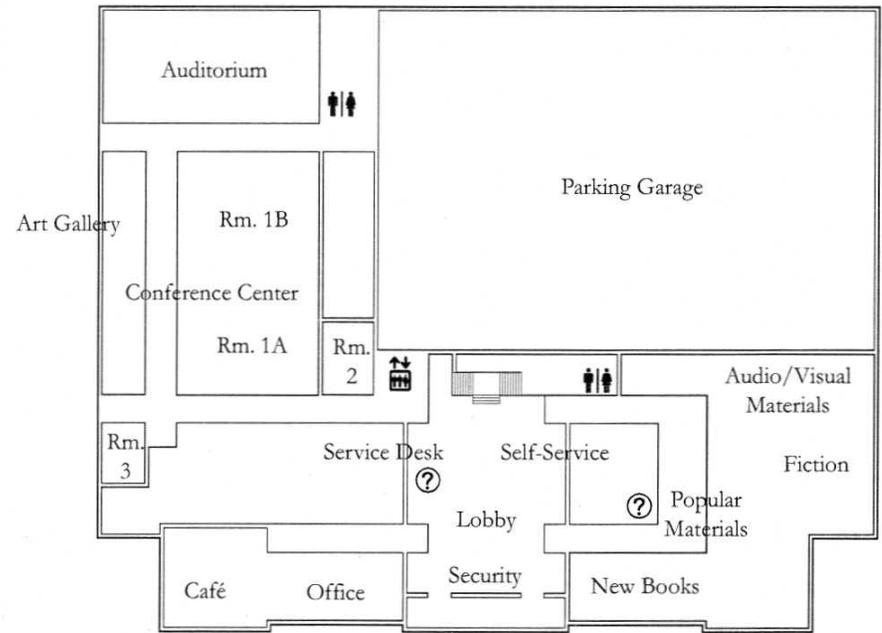
Begin your tour in the main lobby on the first floor in front of the Customer Service Desk. Turn and face the staircase. The Self-Checkout stations are located on your right, and the Return Desk is on your left. You can register for a library card and pay overdue fines at the Return Desk and check out items using our Self-Checkout stations located throughout the building.

Proceed down the hallway to your right. You are now entering the Popular Materials Department. Here you will find Fiction, Large Print Books, New Fiction and New Nonfiction, CDs, DVDs, videos, and audio.

Public express computers are also located in this area. You will need a library card to access the computers, or you can pick up a one-day computer ticket at the information desk.

Walk past the restrooms and back into the lobby. Straight ahead you will see another hallway. Proceed down this hallway past the elevators. You will notice the Conference Rooms on your right. Turn the corner and you will see the Main Library Art Gallery on your left and an Auditorium straight ahead.

The Auditorium and Conference Rooms must be reserved through the Conference Center Coordinator and there may be a fee to use these facilities. Return to the main lobby where the tour began. Go up to the second floor by using the staircase or the elevators located in the hallway.



1st floor map

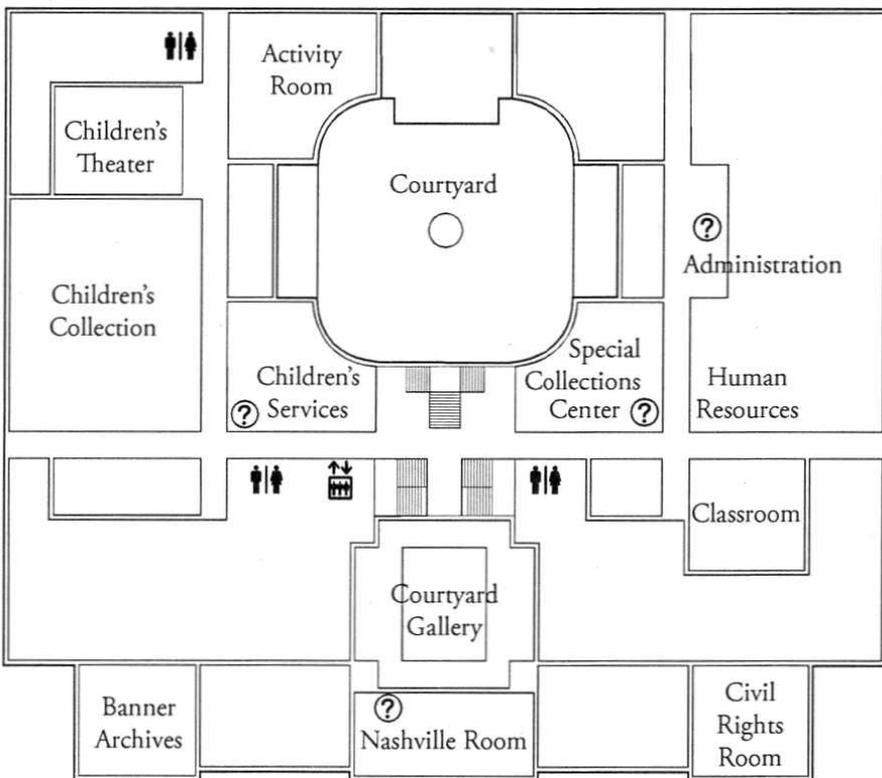
Church Street

Second Floor

The next area of interest is the Children's Department. The elevator takes you directly into this area. If you go up the stairs, turn left into the Children's Department. Here you will find over 100,000 book and movies for children. Notice the tot-sized furniture and the Ryman Auditorium motif on the Information Desk and computer carrels. Walk past the computers to the Children's Theater. Outside the theater you will see some of the puppets that have been used in previous puppet shows. There are free story times and puppet shows every week. Everyone is invited to attend.

From the theater you can exit through the side door into the Courtyard. You may enjoy food and beverages in the Courtyard. You may also bring library books here to read while you have lunch, or just relax and enjoy the fresh air.

Exit through the door that goes back to the second floor lobby. You will go



2nd floor map

left into the Special Collections Center, which serves as an access point for the library's oral history collections. Once inside the center you will find a large screen displaying the library's extensive digital collection. Also take a peek at the touch screen kiosks that allow you to listen to excerpts of oral histories as well as view historic photographs and documents.

Walk out into the hallway and turn left. Straight ahead is the Public Computer Classroom. The classroom is home to our monthly library Computer Classes. It is also available to qualified organizations for Internet workshops, webinars, or computer learning.

Walk out into the second floor lobby again. There is a balcony overlooking the first floor lobby. This is the Courtyard Gallery and is used as an exhibition area. Go across the balcony and walk into the Nashville Room. The Nashville Room is part of the Special Collections Division of the library and contains information on local history and genealogy. Old issues of the Nashville Banner and Tennessean are available here on microfilm. All material in the Special Collections Division is for library use only. To your left is the Civil Rights Room. This room is dedicated to the Civil Rights Movement and the events that took place in Nashville. Now exit the Nashville Room and go back across the balcony towards the stairs. From here you will take the stairs or the elevator to the third floor.

Third Floor

The third floor lobby features murals that depict the evolution of our city over two centuries.

Turn left and walk through the Periodicals section. Current magazines and newspapers are located on your left. Back issues are located on your right. Most magazines are bound into books. Some older magazines and newspapers are on microfilm or microfiche. The oldest periodical we own dates back to 1769.

The next area is the Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Equal Access Program. In addition to helping individuals with disabilities, this

department boasts the largest lending collection of materials relating to hearing loss of any public library in the United States.

Now go through the set of double doors. Just down the hall and to your left is the West Reading Room. This room is used for study and programs. Just outside the West Reading Room is a section of reference materials. Here you will find our collection of maps and atlases.

Move down the hallway past the atlases and enter the public computer lab. We have over 70 public computers located in this area. Now enter the Grand Reading Room. The Grand Reading Room houses most of our reference materials. These materials cannot be checked out, but you may make photocopies on the third floor.

The mural above the balcony doors shows the history of the Nashville Public Library. The story of Nashville is told through eighty copper panels located above the book shelves.

Continue through the Grand Reading Room and turn right down the hallway and into the Fine Arts Room. The Fine Arts Room contains books on painting, photography, interior design – many different kinds of visual art. Proceed ahead into the East Reading Room, also called the Wilson Room. The books contained here were donated by a local art collector. These books are not necessarily old, but they are rare. Many of these books are signed by the author/illustrator.

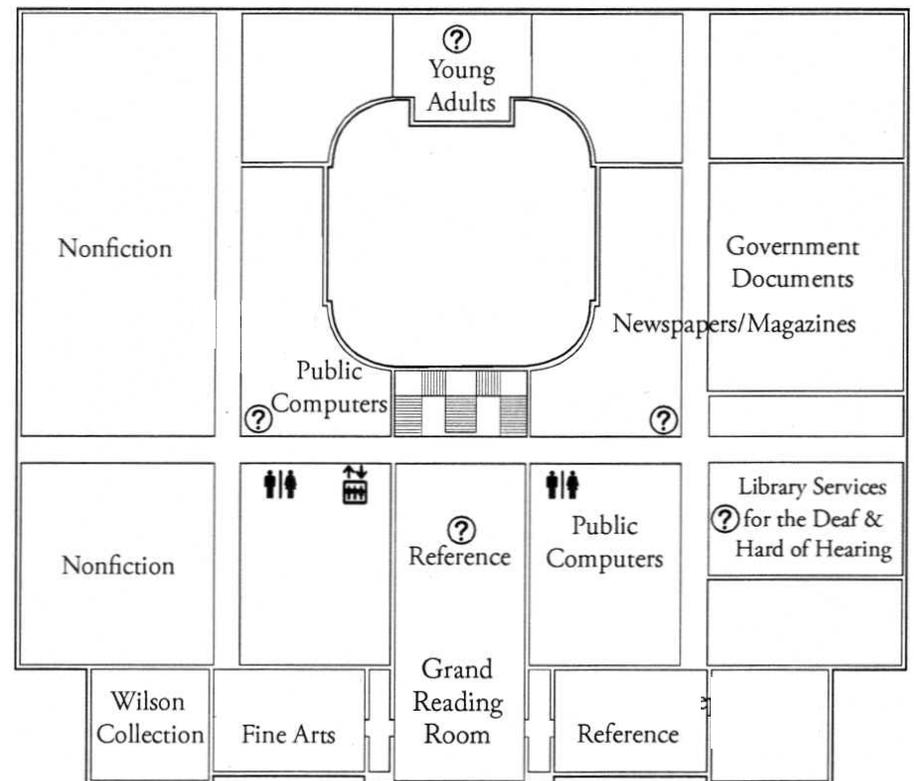
Now enter into the Nonfiction area. The Nonfiction area begins with the biographies and ends with the 900s. The books are organized by subject using the Dewey Decimal System. The Nonfiction area is the size of a football field and currently holds about 150,000 books. Catalog computers are conveniently located throughout this section. You can search the catalog at these computers without a library card. There is an information desk located midway down the hall on your right.

Located next to the information desk are more public computers. To use these computers you will need either a library card or you can pick up a one-day computer ticket at the Nonfiction desk.

Continue down the hall toward the 900s. At the very end of the hall you will take a right into the Teen Area. This section serves teens ages 12-18. Teens have access to study rooms, computers, Young Adult fiction and nonfiction books, teen magazines, and audio books. The Teen Area also offers programming geared toward this age group. Programs are free and open to teens only. Students seeking help with homework can ask for assistance at the Teen information desk. This area remains closed until 2:00 each weekday when school is over.

This is where the tour ends. Please return to the Nonfiction information desk. You may exit the third floor by going down the stairs or you may take the elevator located across from the information desk.

Thank you for visiting the Main Library. We hope this tour has introduced you to the many treasures located at the downtown library. Please come see us again soon and visit us online at www.library.nashville.org.



3rd floor map