

Walk through the Young Adult Area and into the **Periodicals** section. The materials on your left are our **Government Document** holdings. The Nashville Public Library is a Federal Depository Library and collects 20% of what the Government Printing Office publishes each year. Included in this section are the census reports, starting with the nation's first census done in 1790. Other subject concentrations include: Civil Rights, Education Services, Financial Services, Health Services, Military History, Small Business Information, Social Services, State and Federal Statistical Information, Technology, and Tennessee information.

Continuing through **Periodicals**, current magazines and newspapers are located on your right. Back issues are located on your left. Most of these are bound into books. Older magazines and newspapers are on microfilm or microfiche. The oldest periodical we own dates back to 1769. Magazines and newspapers offer researchers first hand accounts, or primary sources, of a subject or event.

Continue down the hall, past the old magazines. The next area is the **Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Equal Access**. You will find information on all aspects of hearing loss available for all reading levels. This department serves the entire state of Tennessee and is the largest of its kind in the entire country.

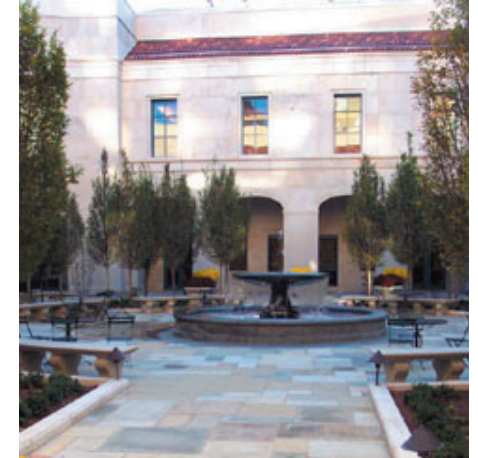
Now go through the set of double doors. Just down the hall and to your left is the **West Reading Room**, also called the **Entrepreneurial Center**. The books in this section contain information on college, scholarships, grants, careers and business information. Just outside the West Reading Room is the last section of reference materials. You will find maps and atlases in this area.

Walk back into the Grand Reading Room. This is where the tour ends. To return to the lobby, exit the Grand Reading Room and go down the stairs or take the elevators located in the Non-Fiction area to the first floor.

Thank you for visiting the Nashville Public Library. We hope this tour has familiarized you with the Main Library. Please come see us again soon and visit us on our website at www.nashvillelibrary.org



Self-Guided Tour 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 of the Nashville Public Library. There are 20 branches in the library system. The Main Library is centrally located in downtown Nashville.

Begin the tour in the lobby on the first floor. Please allow 40-45 minutes to complete it. If you can't find something, please ask a staff member at any information desk.

First Floor

You are standing in the main lobby on the first floor. Turn and face the staircase. The Check-Out desk is 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 at the Check-Out desk using our Self-Checkout stations.

Proceed down the hallway to your right. You are now entering the **Popular Materials Department**. Here you will find Fiction, Large Print, New Fiction, New Non-Fiction, music CDs, DVDs, videos, books on tape and CD. Public computers are located on every floor. The computers in this area are for 15-minute sessions. You may use a library card to access the computers or a computer ticket available at any 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 conference rooms on your right. Turn the corner and you will see an art gallery on your left and an auditorium straight ahead.

The art gallery is free and open to the public. The exhibit changes every few months.

The auditorium and conference rooms must be reserved through the Conference Center Coordinator, and there is a fee to use these facilities.

Return to the main lobby where the tour began. Go up to the second floor by either the staircase or the elevators in the hallway.

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, you will turn left into the Children's Department. Here you will find thousands of books and movies for children. Walk past the computers to the 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.

Across from the theater is a door into the **Courtyard**. The Courtyard is the only place in the library where you can enjoy food and beverages. You may also bring books to this area.

Exit through the door that goes back to the second floor lobby. You will see a balcony overlooking the first floor lobby. This area is called the Courtyard Gallery. Go around the balcony and walk into the **Special Collections: Nashville Room**. The Nashville Room is a special collections division of the library, and it contains information on local history and genealogy. Old issues of the Nashville Banner and the Tennessean are available here on microfilm. All material 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. To your right is the **Banner Room**, named for the Nashville newspaper that closed its doors in 1998 after over 100 years of operation. The Banner archives and the Banner-Stahlman book collection are housed in this division. Our four Writer's Rooms are also in this area. These rooms are made available to Nashville writers via an application and selection committee process.

Now exit the **Special Collections Division: Nashville Room**. Go back around the balcony and into the second floor lobby. Through the double doors on your right is the **Special Collections Center (part of the Special Collections Division)**. The Special Collections Center is the access point for the division's non-book, or closed stack, materials, including ephemera, image collections, maps, oral history collections, records and manuscript collections. Patrons using the materials must follow special handling procedures in order to protect the fragile and unique materials.

The Special Collections Center features a large media wall that highlights the library's digital collections. Two kiosks are available for patron use in order to find out more about the images and themes displayed on the media wall. The Center also features three interview rooms used for recording oral history interviews as

part of the division's three active oral history projects: the Veterans History Project, the Civil Rights Oral History Project, and the Nashville Business Leaders Oral History Project. From here, take the stairs or the elevator to the third floor.

Third Floor

If you go up the stairs, you will come to another lobby area. While you take a second to catch your breath, notice the murals that depict the evolution of our city over two centuries. Now enter through the double doors in the middle of the lobby. This is the **Grand Reading Room**. The Reference Information desk is located just inside the doors.

The Grand Reading Room houses almost all of our Reference materials. These materials cannot be checked out, but you may make photocopies of what you need. The mural above the balcony doors shows the history of Nashville Public Library. Around the room are the names of well-known urban libraries. The story of Nashville is told through eighty copper panels located above the book shelves.

Continue through the Grand Reading Room. You will 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 the **Non-fiction** area. The Non-fiction area begins with the Biographies and goes all the way down to the 900s. The Non-fiction books are organized by the Dewey Decimal system. This system categorizes books by subject. The entire Non-fiction area is the size of a football field and can hold thousands of 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. Remember, you can ask for help at any of these information desks.

Located next to the information desk are the public computers. To use these computers, you will need either a library card or a computer ticket available at any information desk on the 3rd floor.

Behind the non-fiction desk is the **Interlibrary Loan** office. If you can't find a book or article in our library system, we can borrow items from other cities. You must have a library card to utilize this service.

Continue down the hall toward the 900s. At the very end of the hall you will take a right into the **Young Adult** area. This section serves teens ages 12-18. Teens have access to study rooms, computers, Young Adult fiction and non-fiction books, teen magazines and books on tape and CD. The Young Adult area also hosts free programs for teens only. Students can obtain homework assistance by asking at the information desk.