



Level 5: Charles Simonyi Mixing Chamber

- 145+ public computers, and librarians who can help patrons with general questions or in-depth research.
- Artist George Legrady's six-screen electronic installation above librarian desk uses checkout data to visually display what the community is reading.

Levels 6-9: Books Spiral

- A series of flat tiers connected by gentle ramps allows the nonfiction collection to be laid out in a continuous run. Dewey Decimal System numbers on floor mats provide guidance.
- Video projection by artist Gary Hill – 40-foot-square artwork on white atrium wall. The installation consists of a series of computer-generated 3-D objects that move almost imperceptibly in space.



The south edge of Level 5 and the highest viewpoint on Level 10 are among the best places to view the artwork.

- Two music practice rooms with digital keyboards – Books Spiral 8.
- Largest genealogy collection in Pacific Northwest – Books Spiral 9.



Level 10: Betty Jane Narver Reading Room

- Highest point in building for public, with views of Seattle and Elliott Bay.
- Hugh and Jane Ferguson Seattle Room (local history).



Frequently asked questions about the Central Library

Q. How do you wash the windows?

A. Window washers use attachment points to move around the outside of the building.

Q. What are the plants in the planter on Level 3 in the Living Room?

A. Grass leaf sweet flag, autumn moor grass, golden Japanese forest grass, blue wheat grass, purple moor grass, field fescue, Pacific hair grass, ice dance sedge grass and frosted curls sedge grass.

Q. What are those white puffy things on the ceiling on Level 10 in the Reading Room?

A. Acoustic pillows to keep the space quieter.

Q. What's on Level 2 and Level 11?

A. Staff floors.

Q. Why are the hallways on Level 4 red?

A. In a building of steel and glass and angles, the meeting room floor is an area meant for interactions between people. The intensely red corridors provide a vibrant link to the meeting rooms, which are painted cooler colors of gray, blue, white, and brown.

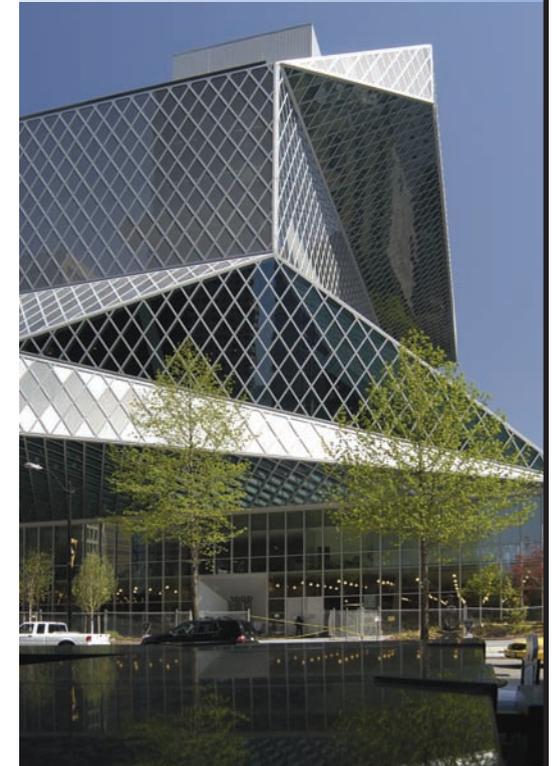
Q. Why are the escalators and elevators fluorescent green-yellow?

A. The bright color is used to draw your eye to ways you can move throughout the building.

Q. How big is the Central Library's collection?

A. Currently there are 1 million items in the collection, with the capacity to house more than 1.45 million items.

A Self-guided Tour of the Central Library's Key Attractions



The Seattle Public Library

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Outside: Fourth Avenue plaza

• “Fountain of Wisdom” – The first fountain by the late George Tsutakawa, a Seattle artist who won international recognition for his scores of graceful sculpture fountains. The fountain is located in the Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Plaza.



Level 1: Fourth Avenue entrance

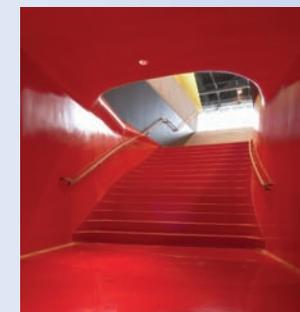
- Overhead high-tech book-handling system processes an average of 1,400 books, CDs and other items per hour. The system uses a Radio Frequency Identification antenna to detect chips on returned items.
- Maple floor by artist Ann Hamilton – 556 lines of raised text, in reverse, in 11 languages found in the collection. The type is reversed to reference both how books are produced and how we learn to read from symbols that are at first unknown to us.
- Faye G. Allen Children’s Center – bamboo floor, triangular story room. Textile art by Mandy Greer based on folk tales: “The Phoenix Fairy,” “Babe the Ox” and “The Magic Grove.”
- 275-seat Microsoft Auditorium.



Level 3: Fifth Avenue entrance (The Norcliffe Foundation Living Room)



- Popular magazines, newspapers, fiction books, DVDs and videos, chess games.
- Coffee/sandwich cart. Covered drinks are allowed throughout the building. Food may be eaten in the coffee cart area.
- FriendShop. The gift shop operated by the Friends of The Seattle Public Library sells eclectic souvenirs. The shelves slide together when the shop is closed.
- Starbucks Teen Center
- Materials, services and computers for teens.
- Video sculptures by artist Tony Oursler – in wall of escalator to Level 5. The sculptures reflect the tradition of the public library as the transmitter of myriad information forms: spoken, printed, recorded, and digital.



Level 4: Meeting

- Red, circular corridors open into meeting rooms that are painted calm, neutral shades.

