Moving Toward the Future

Rapid City Public Library

RAPID CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Rapid City Public Library
2008 in Review

Accomplishments

- New branch library in North Rapid at the General Beadle Community School
- County Library Services contract approved with ongoing formula
- *USA Today* picks RCPL as one of the top ten libraries in the nation
- New book drop in Rapid Valley
- Updated Library Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010

Ribbon Cutting at Rapid City Public Library North

Space Upgrades

- Exceeded the Mayor's Challenge for September's Library Card Sign Up Month, with over 1,200 registrations
- Final phase of Space Use remodeling with Library Foundation and Friends of the Library funding

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USA TODAY

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Travel (http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/10great/2008-03-06-10great-libraries_N.htm)

10 great places to find a nook and read a book

It's enough to make librarians kick up their heels: We're nearing the end of Return Borrowed Books Week, we're just past Library Lovers Month, and National Library Week is April 13-19. That's reason aplenty to check in with NPR book commentator **Nancy Pearl**, author of *Book Lust*. She shares her list of favorite public libraries with **Tim Smight** for USA TODAY.

Louisville Free Public Library (Crescent Hill Branch)

Constructed in 1906, Crescent Hill is one of nine area public libraries endowed by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Its unique, columned building underwent a major renovation in the early 1980s, moving its original design smart, especially here the children's wing, which has wonderful murals and a small, tower-topped castle where kids can read, play and listen to stories," Pearl says. (502) 574-1611 louisvillelibrary.com/crescent-hill.htm

Seattle Public Library

"What will immediately strike you when you walk into the Seattle Public Library is the abundance of natural light," Pearl says. "Even during these gray and rainy winter months, the light streaming through the ceiling is amazing and magnificent." Built in 2003, the spacious library of contemporary design "has tons of nooks and comfortable seating where you can settle down with a good book." 877-700-4711 www.seattlelibrary.org/?SS=1297

Carnegie connections: A 1906 renovation of Louisville Free Public Library's Crescent Hill Branch retained the elegance of the 1908 structure endowed by Andrew Carnegie

Cuyahoga County Public Library (South Euclid Branch)

South Euclid, Ohio

"Built in 1928, this library is the former residence of William Telling, a weighty Ohioan," Pearl says. "His dedicated wife, Lillian, left the house to the library with the stipulation a reading garden with a fountain and 26 different statues." Among them: a greyhound, an aviary and a stray cloth. "Although the pool is very much alive here, for nearly 40 years-plus library users — for story books, Internet access, discussion groups and homework help — you are welcome to just sit and read." 216-382-4400 cuyahogalibrary.org/branches/SEUCLID

Rapid City Public Library

Rapid City, S.D.

"When I first walked into this beautiful library, I was struck by how sunny, vibrant and yet cozy it felt," Pearl says. "There's a solarium on the first floor filled with comfy chairs and an aquarium stocked with South Dakota game fish." The library also offers a pair of unique programs: No School Discovery Days, which feature special activities on school holidays, and a lunchtime speakers program for adults. 605-394-6139 rapidcitylibrary.org

A work of art: Main Library in Oak Park, Ill., has a gallery and public art throughout.

Main Library

Oak Park, Ill.

Art lovers shouldn't miss this library, Pearl says. "Not only is there a dedicated gallery for contemporary Illinois artists' works by local artists, there are splendid examples of public art throughout the building — from walls to sculptures to stained glass. I also enjoy reading the literary quotations scattered on walls throughout the library." 708-383-0291 www.oakparklibrary.org

Milwaukee Central Library

Milwaukee

This grand old library, built in 1898, displays French and Italian Renaissance architectural styles. Several additions help connect the Mitchell Building (last stretch today "have things that make a visit here a pleasure: a cafe, a gift shop, a terrace and the dedicated rotunda that separates the building's east and west wings," Pearl says. "The library has all the bell and whistles that today's modern users expect, yet it still gives the impression of being a cherished and liberal." 414-286-3000 mpl.org/locations/central_central.htm

Laramie County Library in Cheyenne

Cheyenne, Wyo.

This brand-new facility opened in September 2007 and boasts more than 130,000 square feet spanned over three floors. Among amenities are more than 70 computers, a teen area, a meeting room and a coffeehouse. "But what really stands out for me is the library's second floor, which is devoted to children and teens," Pearl says. "There's a loft area for reading and lots of all ages can exercise their imaginations at an interactive center where they can create their own short animated films." 307-634-3189 lcl.net/library

The Library Station

Lexington, Ky.

Setting in the southwest corner of Winston-Salem, Springfield was a tire distributor for Firestone and Goodyear high-wear tires. With that kind of historical link, it's fitting that this popular branch of the Lexington-Fayette County Library District is devoted to the theme of transportation. "You can walk from 50 on the library floor and see the entrance of the Lexington Transit Authority, one of the city's area," Pearl says. 859-885-2580 fayette.lexlibrary.org/about/branch.cfm

Burton Barr Central Library

Phoenix

With a design inspired by Arizona's Mesoamerical Indian, this striking building includes a five-story atrium, nine huge skylights and a 2,000-seat auditorium. "Its lending division is just one floor up from the entrance lobby. "The building also sports glass-enclosed elevators and a grand staircase that's surrounded by a stunning reflecting pool," Pearl says. "Young people gravitate to Barr like a magnet. Teens organize special events in the Teen Center with a 'national sound' room where kids can watch DVDs." 602-262-4636 phoenixpublic library.org/branches/barr.htm

Minneapolis Central Library

Minneapolis

"I was lucky enough to visit this Cesar Pelli-designed facility shortly after it opened in 2006," Pearl says. "I was totally taken with the openness and ease of finding my way around its four floors. You can actually see most of the library from wherever you're standing. There are cozy reading lofts, furniture in each floor and more than 300 computers with Internet access. It's a public place — and a well-stocked, well-lit one at that." 612-630-6000 mpls.lib.mn/centralhours

Rapid City Public Library, Rapid City, SD

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RCPL Named Top 10 Library

Increased Use

- 28% increase in attendance at library programs and events
- 23% increase in computer use
- 14% increase in use of electronic resources (information databases and other online resources)
- 8% increase in new library cards
- 6% increase in use of library materials
- 4% increase in visits to the library