



Archives ACT Finding Aid Public Libraries

The Parliamentary Library Committee allowed citizens to borrow on a limited scale from collections under its control in 1927. This arrangement continued until 1934 when a small building erected in Kings Avenue commenced lending material from part of the National Library collection. In 1947 the Extension Division of the National Library was created to be responsible for developing public library services in the ACT. In preparation for handing over public library services to a local administration in 1960 the title Canberra Public Library Service was adopted for the public library services and in 1961 the Kings Avenue building became its headquarters. In 1963 the Canberra Public Library Service Advisory Committee was established to advise the Council of the National Library of Australia on public library services.

In 1965 the building order of the District Libraries was determined to be Dickson, Woden, Manuka and Belconnen and the first children's library was to be Narrabundah.¹ Also in 1965 a possible site was selected for the mobile library.²

A long-term building programme of boys and girls libraries to a standard design was undertaken with the first two, Narrabundah and Red Hill Boys and Girls Libraries, opening in December 1966. An examination of the sequence of the boys and girls libraries in light of the 1969 school enrolments was undertaken by a Sub-Committee of the Canberra Public Library Advisory Committee, agreed to by the Advisory Committee and confirmed by the National Library. The next two Boys and Girls Libraries were to be Torrens³ and Scullin⁴. O'Connor⁵, Curtin and Lyneham were built between 1965 and 1969. In the 1960s plans were drawn up for Boys and Girls Libraries in Watson⁶, Campbell⁷, Hackett⁸, Deakin⁹, Woden Town Centre¹⁰ and Pearce¹¹.

Opened	Library	Closed
1952	Ainslie, Corroboree Park Youth Centre ¹²	1968
1970 November	Belconnen Branch Library opened at Jamison Shopping Centre, Macquarie	
1981 September	Belconnen Town Centre Library, Chandler Street	
1970-1971	Central Library, transferred to Leichhardt Street Kingston from Kings Avenue	
1961	Central Library, Canberra Public Library Service established in Kings Avenue	

¹ 65/753 Boys and Girls Library Prototype

² 65/112 Boys and Girls Library – O'Connor design folio 14

³ 69/686 Boys and Girls Library - Torrens

⁴ 69/687 Boys and Girls Library - Scullin

⁵ 65/112 Boys and Girls Library – O'Connor design

⁶ 65/108 Boys and Girls Library - Watson

⁷ 65/111 Boys and Girls Library - Campbell

⁸ 65/252 Boys and Girls Library – Hackett

⁹ 65/254 Boys and Girls Library - Deakin

¹⁰ 65/680 Boys and Girls Library – Woden Town Centre (WTC)

¹¹ 66/35 Project –Children's Library –Woden 7 - Pearce

¹² 65/254 Boys and Girls Library - Ainslie

Opened	Library	Closed
1995	Central Library, transferred from Leichhardt Street Kingston to the refurbished Griffith Primary School and name changed to Griffith Library	2007
1961 March	Civic Branch	
1968-1969	Curtin Children's Library ¹³	1983 January
1969 December	Dickson District Library	
	Downer Library	
1983 March	Erindale Centre Library	
2001 June	Gungahlin Library	
1964	Hughes Interim Library	
	Kingston Children's Library	
1978 July	Kippax Interim Library	
	Lyneham Children's Library ¹⁴	1980 August
1968	Mawson Primary School ¹⁵	1973
1959 July	Mobile Library Service	
1966 December	Narrabundah Children's Library ¹⁶	1983 January
1968-1969	O'Connor Children's Library	1983 January
1927	Parliamentary Library	
1966 December	Red Hill Children's Library ¹⁷	1983 January
1990 March	Tuggeranong Town Centre Library	
1959	Turner Primary School	1969
1977 November	Woden Town Centre Library	
1967	Wreck Bay	
1959	Yarralumla ¹⁸	1975 May

¹³ 69/424 Children's Library – Curtin - Landscaping

¹⁴ 65/250 Boys and Girls Library - Lyneham

¹⁵ 66/36 Children's Library –Woden No.3 - Mawson

¹⁶ 65/87 Boys and Girls Library - Narrabundah

¹⁷ 65/110 Boys and Girls Library – Red Hill

¹⁸ 65/251 Boys and Girls Library - Yarralumla