MAIN LIBRARY FACT SHEET

Date opened on current site: April 18, 1996
Location: 100 Larkin Street, between Fulton and Grove streets
Size: 376,000 square feet / seven floors
Seating capacity: 2,043
Glass study rooms: 23
Meeting spaces: 5 rooms + 1 auditorium
Reference desks: 14
Self-checkout stations: 10
Self-return machines: 2
Video relay station for the Deaf/Hard-of-hearing: 1
Audio/video viewing/listening stations: 9
Bicycle parking capacity: 52
Public access computers: 240
Wireless access: entire building
Works of art: 7

MAIN LIBRARY ANNUAL STATISTICS (FY 2013-14)
Visitors and patrons to the Main Library: 1,716,071
Annual number of programs and attendance: 1,460 programs / 58,805 attended
Annual hours open: 3,030
Borrower cards issued: 18,453
Reference questions answered: 322,325
Items borrowed: 2,160,748
Items owned (books, cassettes, CDs, VHS, DVDs, government documents, bound periodicals, sheet music, LPs): 2,002,912
MAIN LIBRARY TIMELINE

1879: First San Francisco Public Library opens in Pacific Hall on Bush Street

1888: The Library moves to the Larkin Street wing of City Hall

1903: Architect Daniel Burnham, leader of the City Beautiful movement, begins to design a master plan for San Francisco, including a Civic Center with a new library building.

1906: Earthquake and fire destroys San Francisco City Hall including the Main Library and its collection.

1907: Temporary Main Library is built at Hayes and Franklin streets.

1917: New Main Library at Civic Center is dedicated and opens to the public.

1943: Main Library reaches capacity.

1974: The Library Commission, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, Keep Libraries Alive! and other citizen groups fight to retain Marshall Square as the site for a new main library. The original Main Library was housed in the building that is now the Asian Art Museum.

1987: Mayor Feinstein calls for a new main library in Marshall Square as part of a Civic Center master plan.

1988: Voters approve a bond measure for $109.5 million to construct a new 376,000-square-foot main library and renovate a few branches.


1992: A groundbreaking ceremony is held in Marshall Square.

1993: Construction begins on March 15.

1996: The Main Library opens on April 18.

2008: The Main Library’s First Floor renovation is completed, resulting in an additional 6,000 square feet of publicly accessible space.