

**Central Library, Downtown
Multnomah County Library
Portland, OR**

Submitted by:
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Multnomah County Library is the oldest public library west of the Mississippi, with a [history](#) that reaches back to 1864. Today, Central Library and the other 18 [neighborhood libraries](#) that make up the library system house nearly 900 computer search stations for the public and a collection of two million books and other library materials.

As Oregon's largest public library, Multnomah County Library serves nearly one-fifth of the state's population with a wide variety of programs and services

Funding (see final page of report for more detail)

Multnomah County Measure 26-143 was approved by voters on November 6, at a rate of 62 percent, creating a permanent library district to fund library services and hours beginning in 2013 at a rate limited to \$1.24 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

This dedicated funding source and new hours of service to the public will take effect July 1, 2013.

The website is excellent - <https://multcolib.org/about>

Central Library, Downtown Portland, OR

Historic Central Library in downtown Portland is the heart of the Multnomah County Library system. The library was opened in September 1913 and extensively renovated in 1994-97.

A "tribute to Portland's book scene", the Central Library's "magnificent" circa-1913 Downtown home impresses with "artistic adornments" and "minute details that make it special", including a "grand marble staircase etched with quotes" and a bronze tree in the "remarkable children's section"; its 17 miles of shelves delight bookworms, as do the "pleasant" staff, "plenty of seating" and "open stacks that beckon one to linger", especially on "rainy days."- Zagats

Other Items of Note:

- Mobile App (see picture).
- Great Public Financing Support. This library system is loved by the community
- There was a brochure that included a "Walking Tour" of the Library's historical structural elements and artwork. This was a great feature. Knight?

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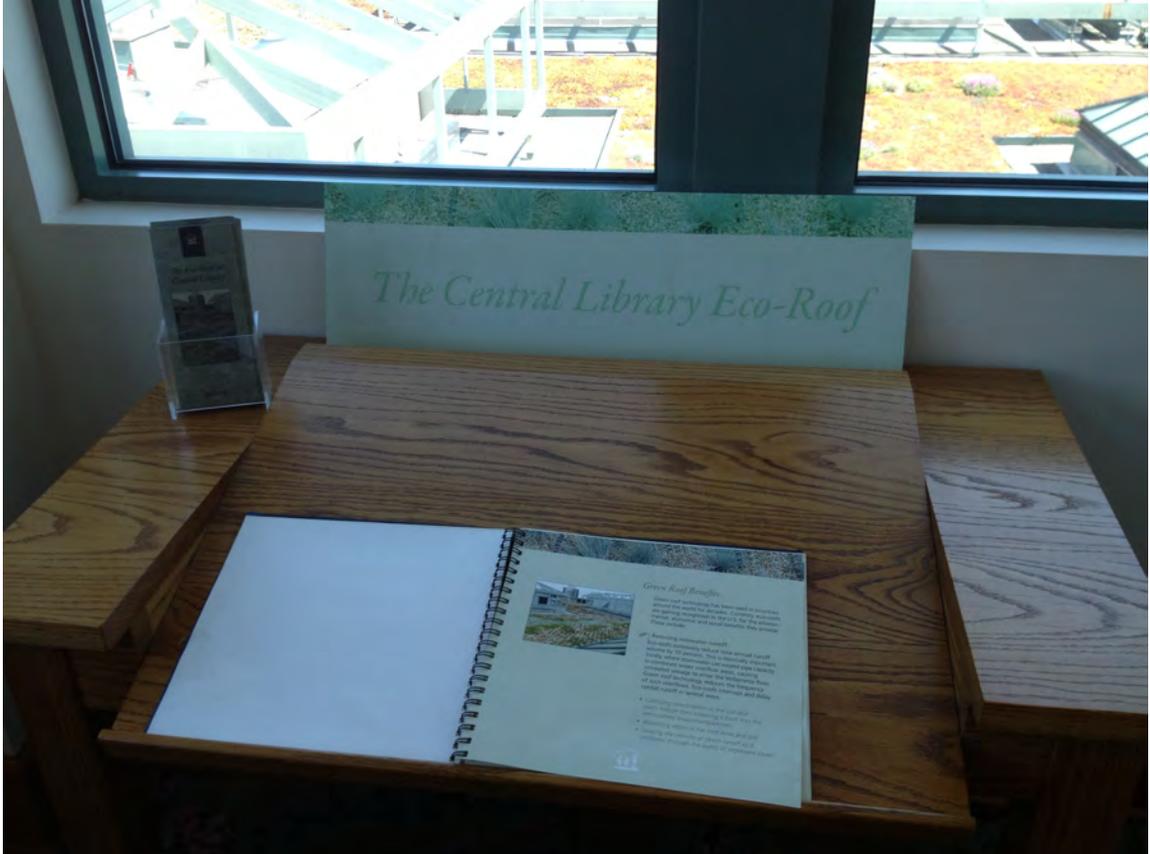


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MULTNOMAH COUNTY
LIBRARY





Multnomah County Library Funding

Two main sources of funding support library services: a three-year local option library levy and the Multnomah County General Fund.

In the current budget (Fiscal Year 2013), about 55 percent of the library's annual revenue is derived from the recently approved three-year local option levy. Multnomah County's General Fund provides 25 percent of funding. Another six percent is from one-time-only county money to mitigate service cuts; seven percent is from diminishing library reserves; and the remainder is from fees, fines, grants and other incidental sources.

In May 2012, voters approved Measure 26-125¹, a three-year local option levy renewal at a rate of \$.89 per \$1000 in Assessed Value. This measure — which passed with 84.5 percent of the vote — continues the same rate of levy funding as the previous levy, which expired on June 30, 2012. Because of property tax limitations, levy funds are not sufficient to maintain library services at the level experienced prior to July 1, 2012. New hours² for all libraries went into effect July 1.

The current system of library funding is unstable, due largely to the impacts of Oregon property tax limitations. Under this model in the current year, the library expects about 37 percent of voter-approved levy funds (or about \$16.8 million) will not be collected as a result of the effects of those property tax limitations, also known as "property tax compression³."

The rate of property tax compression is substantially higher for municipal services funded by local option levies than it is for municipal services organized as taxing districts. In November 2010, voters approved Measure 26-114⁴ by 72 percent, allowing for the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to ask voters whether to create a library district with a dedicated source of funding.

On August 2, 2012, commissioners unanimously approved a resolution referring such a measure to voters. Measure 26-143⁵, asks: "Shall dedicated library district fund Multnomah County Library hours, services; rate limited to \$1.24 per \$1000 in assessed value beginning 2013?"

More information:

- Current library budget (PDF): <http://bit.ly/PZEgzs>
- District Analysis Report: <http://bit.ly/OrTtGd>
- The history of Multnomah County Library funding, 1976 – present: <http://bit.ly/NUYHzu>

¹ Full text of Measure 26-125: <http://bit.ly/NUUUly>

² New library hours beginning July 2012: <http://www.multcolib.org/hours/>

³ Oregon Dept. of Revenue; more details: <http://1.usa.gov/RkKR4A>

⁴ Full text of Measure 26-114: <http://bit.ly/OuD2wj>

⁵ Full text of Measure 26-143 (PDF): <http://bit.ly/OHSOmj>