

## Atlanta – Fulton Public Library

Christian Caldarone, visit 2/13

The Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System serves the citizens of Fulton County and the City of Atlanta (including the portion of the city in DeKalb County). It is the largest in the state, with 34 libraries and a collection of more than 2.5 million items. It offers innovative programs, services and virtual resources tailored to meet the needs of each branch's community. Children, teens and adults may choose from a variety of classes, visit exhibitions, listen to authors discuss their work, check out videos, DVDs and CDs, attend book club discussions, get homework help, hear music and see live performances. Last year patrons borrowed more than 4.2 million items, made 4 million visits to the libraries and its website had over 4 million hits.

The Central Library, originally designed by Marcel Breuer, has recently been refurbished and includes a modern, fully equipped instructional learning center. The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American History and Culture contains one of the foremost collections of African-American literature and historical documents in the nation. To fulfill its mission as "The People's University," the library also provides a wide variety of classes, workshops, seminars and ongoing learning opportunities for library users at all learning and interest levels.

### **Mission:**

The Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System serves as a cultural and intellectual center that enriches the community and empowers all residents with essential tools for lifelong learning.

### **Significant Features of the Central Library Building**

1. Two large public art galleries – one in basement in the hallways between the auditorium and the children's section. The other is on the first floor, very prominently displayed.
2. Children's Section is beautifully appointed with fantastic sculptures, brightly colored walls and a cloud-themed story area.
3. Large auditorium with film screen in basement. The local university sponsors films and educational seminars there. I attended a 2:00 screening of a documentary about songwriter Johnny Mercer.

First Floor –

Circulation Desk, Elevators, Admin Offices, Classrooms, Gallery





Bottom Level – Children’s Section with small theater area, Large Auditorium, Hallway gallery.







