

# THE DAYTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

“The Board of Managers of the *Dayton public library* invite you to be present at the formal opening and dedication of the *new library building....*  
*All citizens* are cordially invited to be present...”

— The Dayton Herald announcing the grand opening of the first library building, 23 January 1888.

“I think this is going to be the *crowning one* that brings downtown together in a way we have not seen *since the 1960s.*”

— Tim Kambitsch, executive director of the Dayton Metro Library in the Dayton Daily News on the opening of the newest library building, 6 August 2017.



The Dayton library's first main branch, completed in 1888, in Cooper Park.  
Image: DaytonDailyNews.org.



The columned interior of the original library, outfitted with black walnut shelves and tall windows through which light poured in.  
Image: DaytonDailyNews.org.



The reference desk in 1922.  
Image: DaytonDailyNews.org.



From 1893, the library's second floor offered a natural history museum. One of its more sensational artifacts was an Egyptian mummy and its sarcophagus.  
Image: DaytonDailyNews.org.



The 1888 building was demolished in 1960 to make way for a larger, modern-style branch on the same site. It is shown here shortly after its 1962 opening.  
Image: DaytonDailyNews.org.



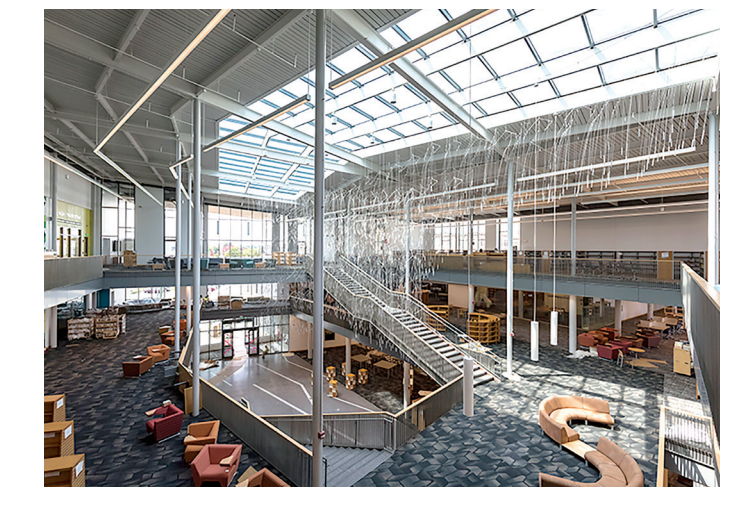
The metallic sculpture by local artist Robert C. Koepnick — mentioned earlier within the timeline history of the DAI — hung above the cornerstone of the 1962 building. It would be preserved after the 2017 demolition and construction of the present structure.  
Image: WYSO.org.



A view from the second floor as construction continues on the newest building, looking out at the 1910 statue of President McKinley.  
Image: DaytonMetroLibrary.org.



Fanfare during the grand opening ceremony of the newly-completed branch in August of 2017.  
Image: DaytonMetroLibrary.org.



The expansive, skylit entranceway of the new building, viewed from one of the upper floors.  
Image: DaytonMetroLibrary.org.



Among the many amenities of the new library, floor-to-ceiling windows and sitting areas with fireplaces vivify the reading spaces.  
Image: DaytonMetroLibrary.org.



Robert C. Koepnick's 1962 sculpture remains as a monument outside the new building.  
Image: DaytonMetroLibrary.org.



The library's sleek, glass-and-steel façade frames President McKinley in Cooper Park just as the original 1888 building did.  
Image: DaytonMetroLibrary.org.

“*New library* open for business today.... a first look at the *new building is breathtaking.*”

— The Journal Herald on the opening of the second library building, 26 March 1962.