

## HISTORY OF THE YORBA LINDA PUBLIC LIBRARY



Yorba Linda's first librarian, Gertrude Welch, and her uncle celebrating Christmas in 1910. The ostrich's name was President Taft and was the main attraction at a South Pasadena ostrich farm.

In April of 1913, Gertrude Welch thought that the people of Yorba Linda should have their own library. A citizen's group held a meeting and made plans to establish the first library. The Yorba Linda School District gave permission to put the library in a 300-square foot room in the grammar school on School Street.



Yorba Linda School

Volunteers installed bookshelves and helped to redecorate the room. Gertrude Welch gave sixty-three books to the new library; her sister from New York also donated and sent books to help out. In addition, the Yorba Linda Women's Club contributed books and held “teas” to raise money.

The library opened on May 2, 1913. Books could be checked out for one week. Only two books could be taken out at a time, one fiction and one non-fiction. A fine of two cents a day was charged for overdue items.

The library was open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 3:00 pm to sunset.

The report for May of 1913, the first month the library was open as follows:

Days open	8
Total circulation	31
Largest daily circulation	8
Smallest daily circulation	2
New books	67
New library cards	12
Amount of fines collected	\$0.27

On March 3, 1914, the Yorba Linda Library District, the first library district in California, was established and a board of trustees appointed by the Orange County Board of Supervisors. This allowed the library to raise tax money to purchase materials and provide better service.

The room in the schoolhouse continued to serve as the library for over three years. In December of 1916, a lot was purchased at the southeast corner of Valencia Street and Lemon Drive. A building was erected and the library relocated there in the late summer of 1917. Amanda Longnecker, Yorba Linda's first schoolteacher, was the librarian.



In the early 1920's, the library purchased and moved into a building that formerly housed a post office and general store on Olinda Street. The library remained there until 1960.

By 1958, the collection had grown to 13,500 books and the library needed to expand. Unfortunately, the library building, which was constructed in 1916, could not be altered according to the county building code. The library district asked for a bond issue in order to build a new 6,000 square foot library. A library bond issue for \$80,000 was passed on July 8, 1959 by a vote of 280 to 39.

Groundbreaking for the new library took place on Saturday, March 7, 1959. Hurless Barton, honorary mayor of Yorba Linda, presided over the event. The Dedication was held on February 7, 1960.



How the current (2106) library looked in the mid 1960's.

By 1970, there were about 55,000 books in the library and the building was unable to accommodate the growing collection. A bond issue of \$585,000 was passed and the library was enlarged to become a three-level building. This added 17,425-square feet. Dedication for the library addition was held on June 26, 1971.

In July of 1985, the Yorba Linda District Library was dissolved, and the library became a department of the City of Yorba Linda and was renamed the Yorba Linda Public Library.

Between 1990 and 1992, the library was again remodeled. The building was enlarged to 28,530 square feet. Total cost for the project was \$3,700,000 and was financed with existing revenue from the library and general and redevelopment agency funds. Mayor Irwin Fried officiated at the dedication ceremony on September 12, 1992. Assemblyman Mickey Conroy, Assemblyman Ross Johnson, State Senator John Lewis, and Orange County Supervisor Gaddi Vasquez also attended the ceremony.

<b><u>1914</u></b>	<b><u>2011/12 fiscal year</u></b>
152 books and magazines	169,871 books, ebooks, magazines, audio visual items
21 magazines	174 magazine subscriptions
24 patrons	55,925 patrons
251 circulation	874,333 circulation
\$150 income (\$3,444 in 2012 dollars)	\$158,380 fines, fees and rentals

**Library Statistical Comparison - 1914 to 2011/12**



**The façade of the Library in 2016,**



**Computer stations opposite the Reference Desk in 2016.**



**Stacks in the Library as of 2016.**

As of 2016, a new Library and Arts Center is in the planning stages. This facility will be located in the lot behind the Stater Brothers Market on Lakeview Ave. where it meets Lemon Dr., just north of Yorba Linda Blvd., near the new Town Center development. The new library will be approximately three blocks from the current library.