

Boston Public Library (BPL)

[Established](#) in 1848, by an [act of the Great and General Court of Massachusetts](#), the Boston Public Library (BPL) was the [first](#) large free municipal library in the United States. The Boston Public Library's [first building](#) of its own was a former schoolhouse located on Mason Street that was opened to the public on March 20, 1854. The library's collections approximated 16,000 volumes, and it was obvious from the day the doors were first opened that the quarters were inadequate.

Today, the Boston Public Library system includes a Central Library, twenty-four branches, a map center, a business library, and a website filled with digital content. Last year, 3.7 million people visited the Boston Public Library system, many in pursuit of research material, others looking for an afternoon's reading or the use of the computer or to attend a class, still others for the magnificent and unique art and architecture of many library locations. There were 7.9 million visits to the library's website and 3.7 million books and audiovisual items borrowed or downloaded. Click below link to visit The Boston Public Library.

The screenshot shows the Boston Public Library website. At the top, there is a logo and a navigation bar with links for 'My Account', 'Kids', 'Teens', 'Support the BPL', 'Jobs', and 'Links'. Below this is a dark navigation bar with categories like 'general info', 'central library', 'neighborhood branches', 'research services', 'our collections', 'electronic resources', 'programs & events', 'press room', and 'contact us'. The main content area features a section for 'Central Library Services' with a list of links including 'Computers & Technology', 'Events and Exhibits', 'Hours & Directions', 'Car, Bicycle & Motorcycle Parking', 'Meeting Rooms', 'Reception & Event Booking', 'Restaurants', and 'Accessibility Resources'. A central banner highlights 'Central Library in Copley Square' with a photo of the Johnson and McKim buildings and the text 'The Central Library comprises two buildings — the Johnson Building and the McKim Building.' Below this, there are two columns of service listings for 'The Johnson Building' and 'The McKim Building'. The Johnson Building services include Access Services, ASA College Planning, Borrower Services, Children's Services, and Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center. The McKim Building services include Arts, Delivery Desk (Newspapers, Magazines & Books), Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Prints and Photographs, Rare Books and Manuscripts, and Special Collections.