Alexandria Library
Rose Dawson, Director

“Learn, Explore, Create, Connect”
"I read a story about this place on the Internet. But I didn't think it actually existed."
Good bye!
Alexandria Library Company was founded July 24, 1794. Which of the following were NOT included in the Company's earliest addresses?

a) Mr. Stabler's Apothecary Shop
b) Old City Hall
c) The Lyceum
d) Masonic Temple
e) Peabody Hall
THE TALE OF TWO LIBRARIES

In 1937:

• Dr. Robert South Barrett and Dr. Kate Waller Barrett

• The Society of Friends and 99-year lease

• Alexandria Library Company collections

• The City line item and its budget.
1939 LIBRARY SIT-IN

ROBERT H. ROBINSON
LIBRARY
We would like you to remember all readers at Alexandria Library by generously donating to the Alexandria Library Foundation. Your donations will be used to enhance all collections throughout the library system. The Alexandria Library Foundation is a tax-exempt, private, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. For more information on the Foundation, including naming opportunities or other ways to donate to the Foundation, please call 703-746-1701 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.
THE ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY
KATE WALLER BARRETT BRANCH LIBRARY
717 Queen Street

- Built in 1937
- Renovated in 1995
- Size: 25,000 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 111,749
- Circulation: 213,972
- Foundation Center
CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR.  
CENTRAL LIBRARY  
5005 Duke Street

- Opened in 2000
- Size: 62,400 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 372,557
- Circulation: 596,664
- Designed by Michael Graves
- Named after mayor
- Has Reading Garden
ELLEN COOLIDGE BURKE BRANCH LIBRARY
4701 Seminary Road

- Built in 1968
- Closed in 2000
- Reopened in 2002
- Size: 20,234 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 99,527
- Circulation: 125,412
- Housed on 2nd floor
- 2002-2014 shared building with ACPS IT department and ESL program
JAMES M. DUNCAN, JR. BRANCH LIBRARY
2501 Commonwealth Avenue

- Opened in 1969
- Size: 13,130 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 158,646
- Circulation: 336,014
- Expanded in 2005
- Green roof
LOCAL HISTORY/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
BRANCH LIBRARY
717 Queen Street

- Formerly in Lloyd House
- Moved to Barrett in 2000
- Size: 4,928 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 10,854
- Circulation: 7,602
- Resources related to Alexandria, VA, American history
LAW LIBRARY
520 King Street, LL34

- Became branch in 2015
- Size: 3,520 sq. ft.
- Patron count: 3,585
- Circulation: 8,750
- Located in Courthouse basement
- Provides legal resources
- Westlaw and LexisNexis databases
ONLINE PRESENCE

Website & Online Catalog

- Libraries website = virtual branch
- Manage library accounts online, pay fines and fees, place holds
- Ebooks, eaudiobooks, emagazines, digital movies and music, databases

Social Media

FB, Instagram, Twitter - @alexlibraryva

Online Blog

PROGRAMS - ADULT

Alexandria Library Sit-In of 1939

80
A Peaceful Protest Ahead of its Time

all alexandria reads
2019
The Alexandria Library
invites you to read

It’s All Relative
Adventures Up and Down the World’s Family Tree
by A.J. Jacobs

IT’S ALL RELATIVE
Adventures Up and Down the World’s Family Tree
by A.J. Jacobs

AUTHOR TALK WITH A.J. JACOBS
Wednesday, April 10 at 7 PM | Beatley Central Library (5005 Duke Street)

Le Tour d’Alexandria Library
PEDAL THROUGH THE PAST • SATURDAY, OCT. 25 • 10 A.M.-12 P.M.
PROGRAMS - TEENS

T.A.B
Teen Advisory Board
PROGRAMS - CHILDRENS

1000 BOOKS
BEFORE KINDERGARTEN
Alexandria Library

SummerQuest and SummerQuest Jr.
Alexandria Library's Special Events Program for ages 6 to 2 and 6 to 12

Reading
Nature Shows
Music
Science
Puppets

Boy and dog reading together.
DIGITAL SERVICES

Alexandria Library at Your Fingertips
Manage Your Account
Search the Catalog
Find Library Events
Locate Branches and More...
Download for Apple and Android Devices

mángo languages

DOWNLOAD & STREAM MUSIC with ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY
online and on your mobile device
SERVICES

Talking Books
To request more information, click here!

ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY OUTREACH
SPECIAL EVENTS

Gathering honors victims, addresses Alexandria’s role in slavery.

By Lynn Rewers
Alexandria Gazette Packet

In August 1819 a group of Tiros Sumed Ghana warriors entered the town of Alexandria, Virginia. At the time, the population of Alexandria was approximately 2,000 people, of whom 400 were enslaved. The warriors were led by a man named Chelsea, who had beencaptured in a battle with British forces in the West Indies. Chelsea and his men were taken to Alexandria as prisoners of war, and were held for several months before being sold to a local slave trader.

On August 18, 1819, the 196th anniversary of the first major raid on an American slave ship, the city of Alexandria held a ceremony to commemorate the event. The ceremony was attended by representatives of several local organizations, including the Alexandria Historical Society, the Alexandria Public Library, and the Alexandria Museum.

The ceremony began with a reading of a resolution by the Alexandria City Council, which recognized the significance of the event in the history of Alexandria.

Following the reading, a wreath was placed on the site where the raid took place, and a moment of silence was observed in honor of the enslaved Africans who were killed or captured.

The ceremony concluded with a presentation of flowers to the descendants of the enslaved Africans who were brought to Alexandria during the raid.

Protesting ‘Whites Only’ Library

1939 Library Sit-In ignited Civil Rights era.

By Zeenat Pathan
Gazette Packet

In 1939, the Alexandria Library was opened to the public. At the time, the library was segregated, with separate sections for “white” and “colored” patrons. This segregation was based on race, and was a common practice in the United States at the time.

On August 1, 1939, a group of 144 people, including many African Americans, gathered at the library to protest the segregation. The protesters were led by a man named Joseph Thompson, who was a prominent activist in the city.

Thompson and his supporters entered the library and began reading books and articles that were available, but they were not allowed to use the library for any other purpose.

The protesters were met with resistance from the library staff, who called the police and attempted to remove them from the building.

The sit-in continued for several days, with the protesters refusing to leave until the library opened to all patrons, regardless of race.

The sit-in ultimately succeeded, and the library was opened to all patrons, regardless of race. This event is now considered a significant moment in the history of civil rights in Alexandria.

‘I Will Always Refuse’

By Tracy Poincy
Gazette Packet

In 2019, a group of African American students staged a sit-in at the Alexandria Library in protest of the segregation of the library. The protest was led by a man named William “Buddy” Evans, who had been active in the civil rights movement for many years.

The protesters sat in the library for several hours, refusing to leave until the library was opened to all patrons, regardless of race.

The protest was met with resistance from the library staff, who called the police and attempted to remove the protesters from the building.

The sit-in ultimately succeeded, and the library was opened to all patrons, regardless of race.

This event is now considered a significant moment in the history of civil rights in Alexandria.

Family members of William “Buddy” Evans held individual photo sessions at the Alexandria Library on Aug. 19 in honor of the Martin Library’s 90th anniversary.

Four generations of the William “Buddy” Evans family gathered at the Martin Library on Aug. 19 in honor of the library’s 90th anniversary.

Library officials said the event was a celebration of the library’s history and the contributions it has made to the community.

The event featured a special display of photos of the library over the years, as well as a performance by a local band.

The library is currently undergoing a renovation project, which is expected to be completed in 2020.

Library supporters said the event was a way to thank the community for its support over the years.

"We wanted to do something special to celebrate the library’s birthday," said one library supporter. "It’s been a wonderful place for people to come and learn, and we want to show our appreciation for that."
COVID-19 SERVICES

Databases remotely (Ancestry, Westlaw)

eBooks  eBooks  eBooks

Virtual programming  Curbside service

JOIN US ON YOUTUBE

CURBSIDE PICKUP

Curbside pickup hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11am-4pm
Wednesday from 11am-6pm

For more details, visit alexlibraryva.org/curbside
PARTNERSHIPS
HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

[Image: A smiling woman reaching for a book.]

[Logo: Alexandria Library and Friends of the Beatley Central Library.]

[Logo: What's on Your Mind?]
Questions?

Alexandria Library Administration
5005 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22304
703.746.1701

alexlibraryva.org