



Meet East Orange Public Library

A gateway to knowledge, the East Orange Public Library helps people of all ages meet their informational, educational, and recreational needs through professionally selected print and non-print resources.

The Main Library

East Orange Public Main Library was among the first of libraries built with Carnegie funding. Alexander King, a resident of the city and child-hood friend of Andrew Carnegie, orchestrated the first grant to be offered in New Jersey, made January 18, 1900. Carnegie originally offered \$50,000 and stipulated \$5,000 be committed by the municipality for its upkeep. Eventually the city purchased a lot at Main Street and South Munn Avenue where the building was constructed and opened on January 3, 1903. In 1914, the Carnegie Library Fund granted another \$40,000 to an expansion of much needed wings. In 2009, the building was altered and converted to the East Orange Municipal Court. The current Main Building of the Library, located at 21 South Arlington Avenue, was opened in August of 1973 and was built at a cost of \$2.75 million.

The Branch Libraries

The Franklin Branch Library was built after receiving a grant of \$13,000, opening on August 1, 1909 at its location on Dodd Street near Watsessing Park. It was expanded in 1939. The Elmwood Branch Library was made possible through a \$13,000 grant from the Carnegie Library Fund and opened on January 12, 1912.

The Ampere Branch originally opened as a deposit station in 1915. After changing locations it become a branch library in 1923, and on March 17, 1931 moved to its current location across from the former Ampere Station. The building was originally built around 1914 as horse-drawn fire engine station; a second floor was added in the 1950s.