

Completely Booked

An exploration of Saint Paul's public libraries



Saint Paul is home to fourteen public library branches, including the bookmobile. The Central Library (now George Latimer Central Library) was the first branch, built in 1917. It has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1975. The public library system has changed a lot since then. For example, movies are some of the most popular items. The libraries have also started exploring what their role in the 21st century should be. One recent change is the Innovation Lab at the Central Library, a place where patrons can use sewing machines, 3D printers, and many more tools for free, following the public library model.

Where are the branches?



You'll notice that most of these popular items are movies. This is largely because movies can only be checked out for one week, while books can be checked out for three, giving movies more chances to be checked out.

What do we check out the most?

Top 10 items at each branch in 2018
Branches ordered L-R based on total check-outs

