

Public Libraries

The New City Center

On principle, libraries provide free access to an expansive list of resources and material to people of all ages, ethnicities, and groups. Libraries serving as community spaces play an essential role in the development and preservation of educated, safe, and resilient communities.

“There’s a term you don’t hear these days, one you used to hear all the time when the Carnegie branches opened: **Palaces for the People**. The library really is a palace. It bestows nobility on people who otherwise couldn’t afford a shred of it. People need to have nobility and dignity in their lives. And you know, they need other people to recognize it in them too.”

- Eric Klinenberg, *Palaces for the People : How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*

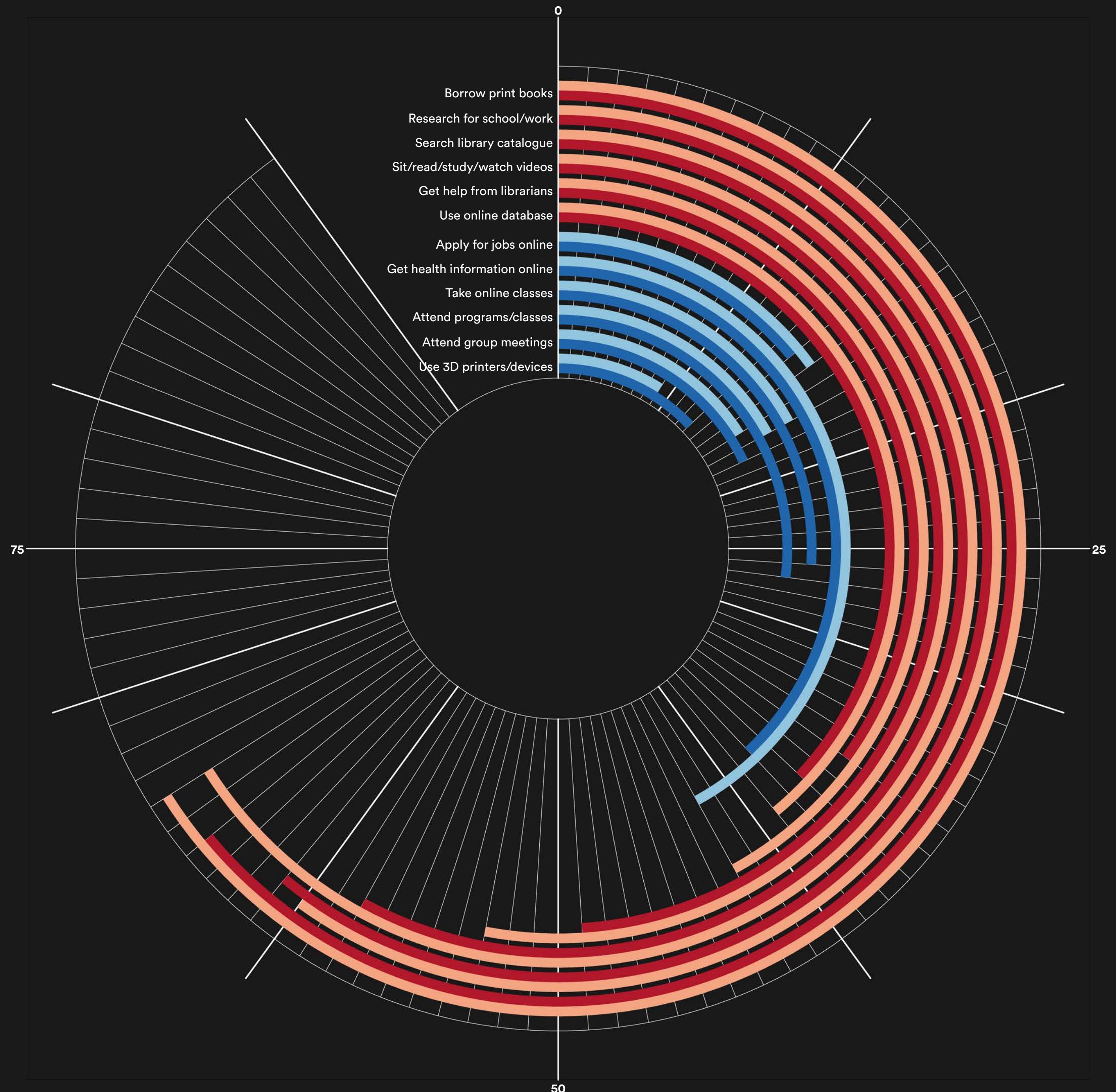
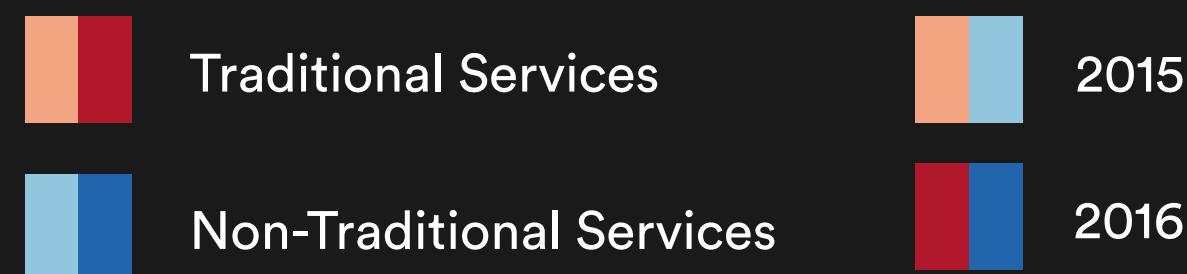


Public Libraries

Not Just A Place For Books

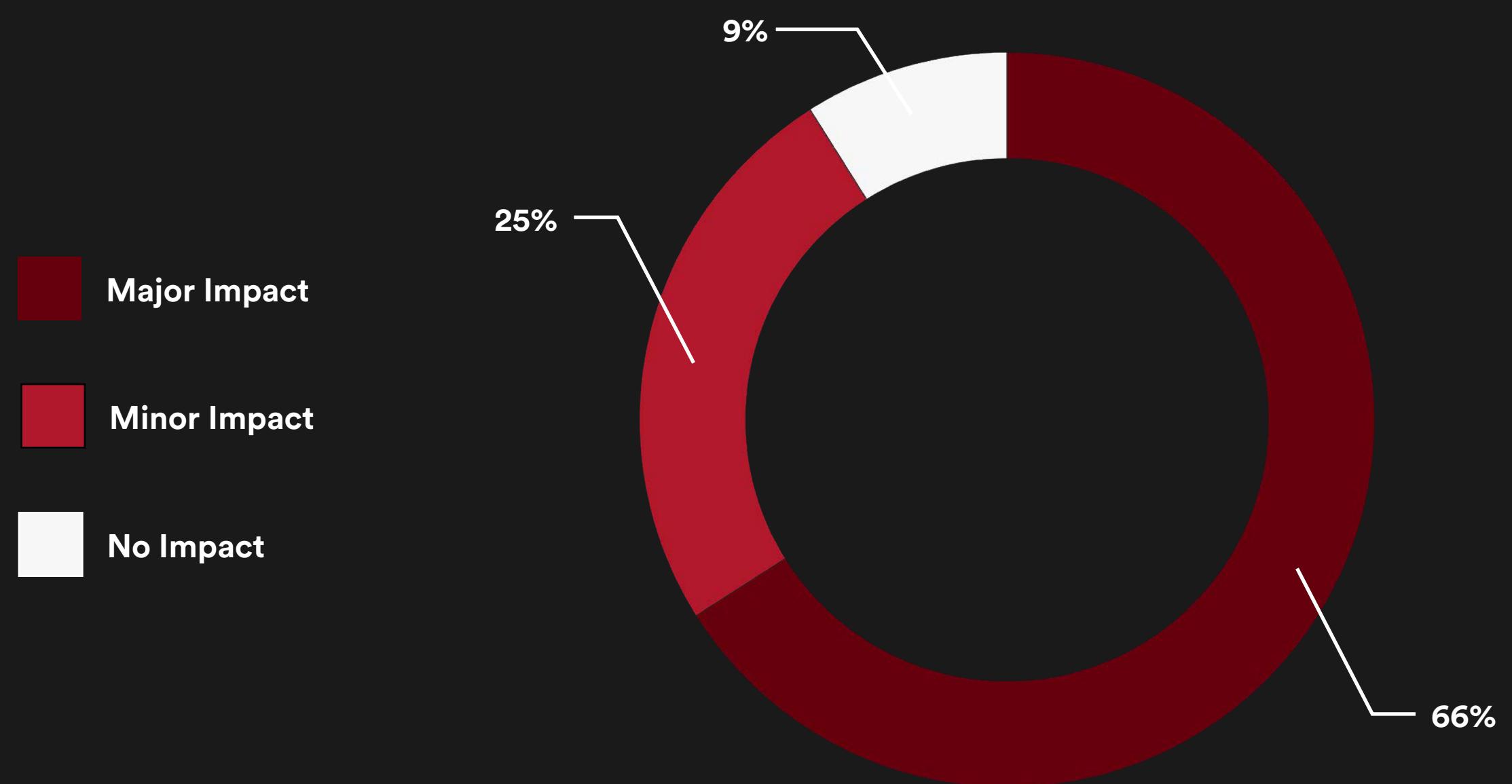
We must forget our traditional notion of a library as a place that solely houses books. Libraries can be, and in many ways already are much more than that. The range of services they provide is evolving.

Many traditional services saw a decrease in usage from 2015 to 2016 while non-traditional services saw an increase. The graph represents the percentage of polled library visitors and the services they used.

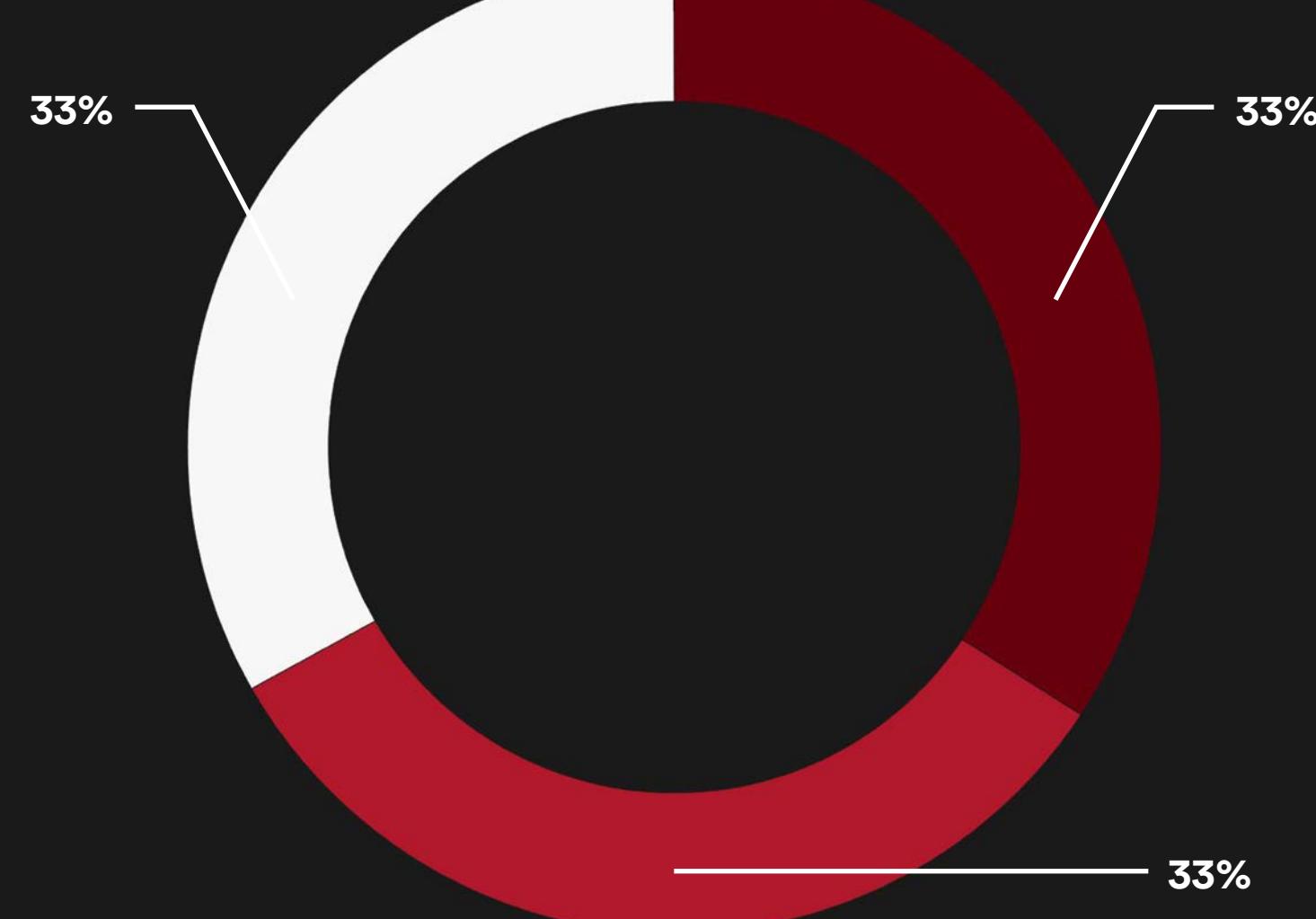


Public Impact

In 2016, Americans were asked how the closing of their local public library would affect them.



Think that it would hurt their community:



Think that it would hurt them and their family:

Seattle Public Library

Seattle, WA

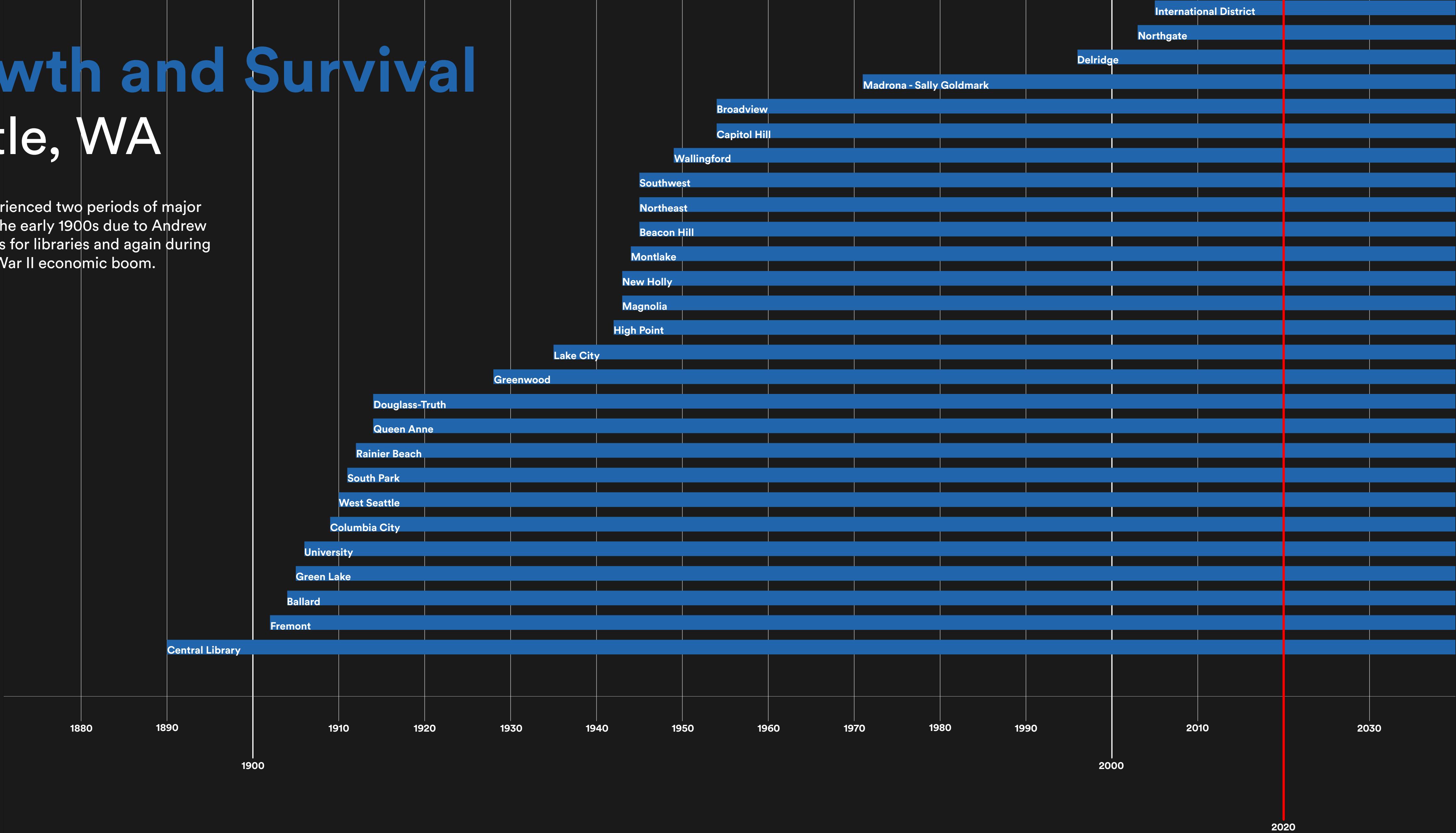
The Seattle Public Library is one of the top-rated systems in the United States. Its libraries are widely dispersed across the city and offers a diverse range of public services.



Growth and Survival

Seattle, WA

Seattle has experienced two periods of major growth. One in the early 1900s due to Andrew Carnegie's grants for libraries and again during the post World War II economic boom.



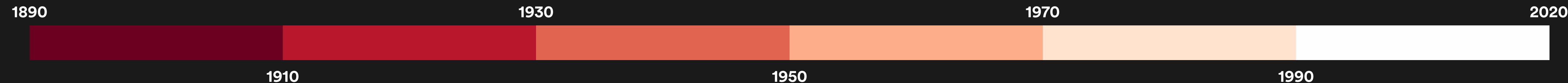
Life And Location

Seattle, WA

The growth of Seattle's public library system covered a wide area quickly.

15 Years - International District

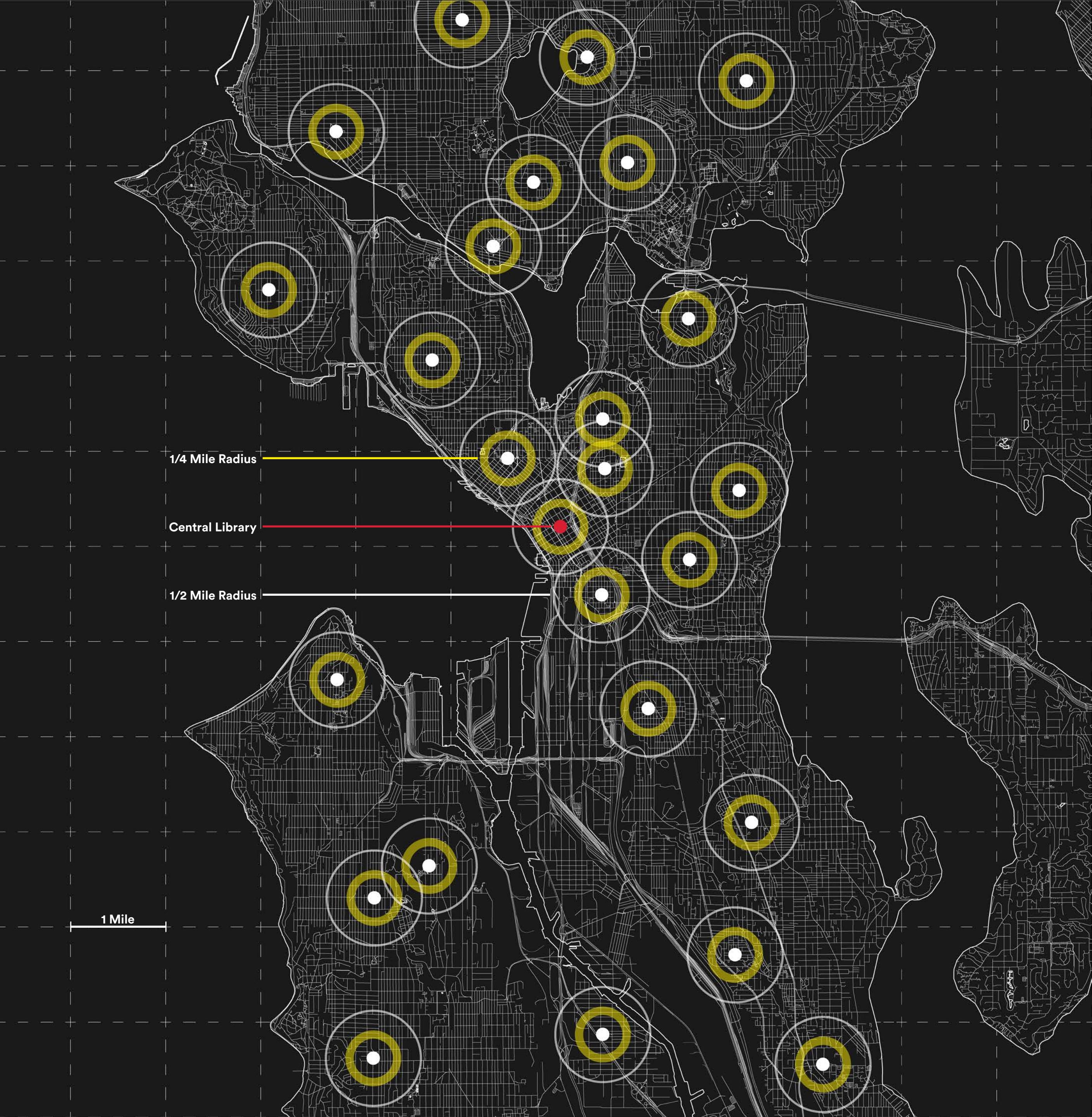
130 Years - Central Library



Seattle Public Library

Seattle, WA

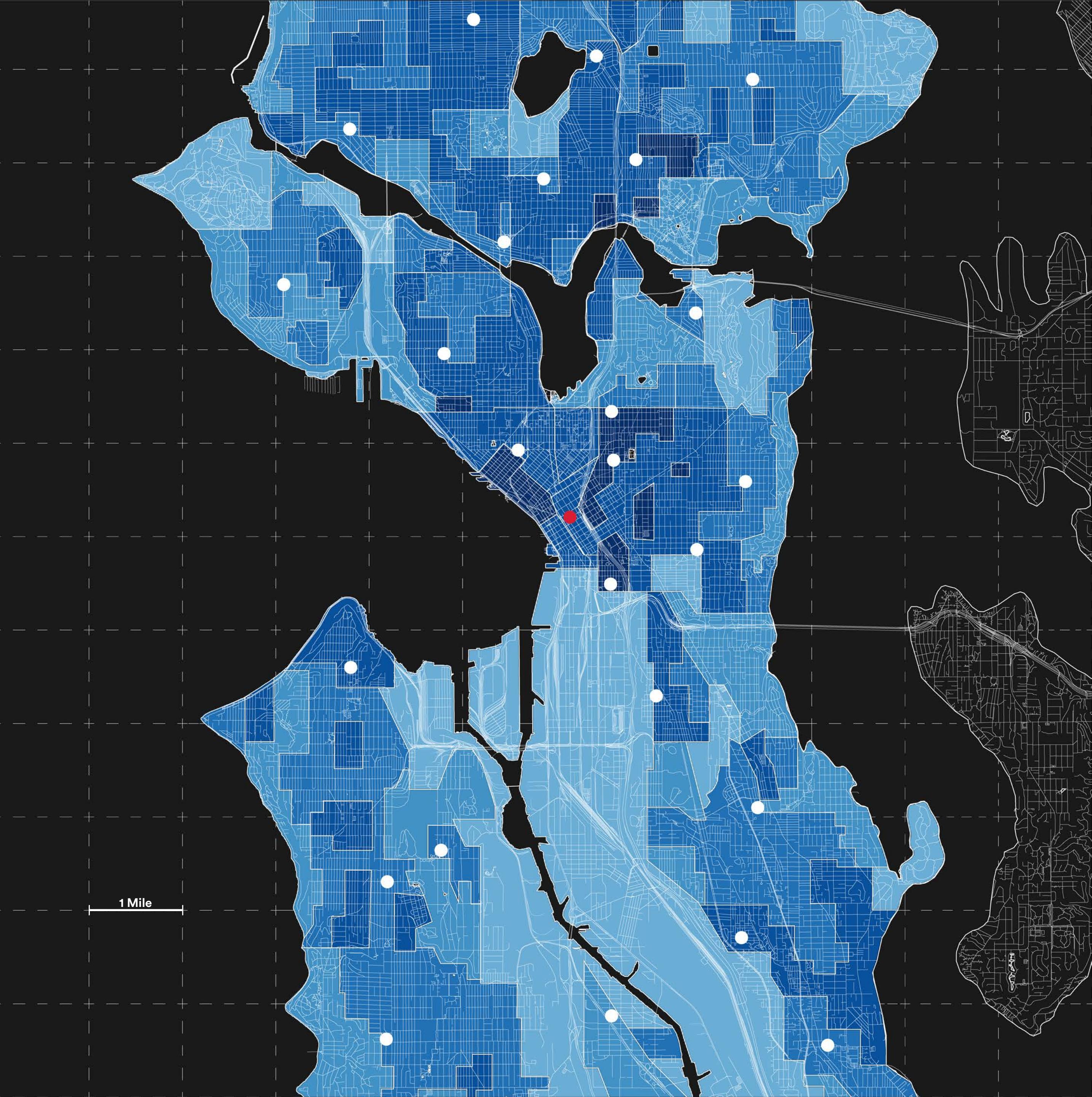
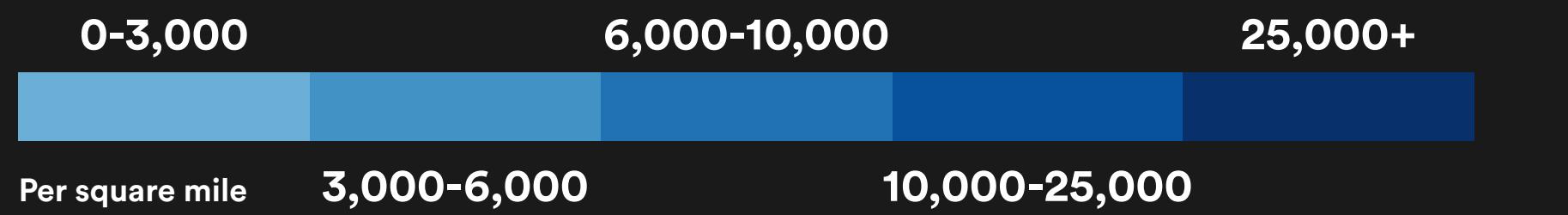
A look at the current coverage of the Seattle Public Library. The rings determine reasonable walking distance at both 1/4 and 1/2 mile.



Population Density

Seattle, WA

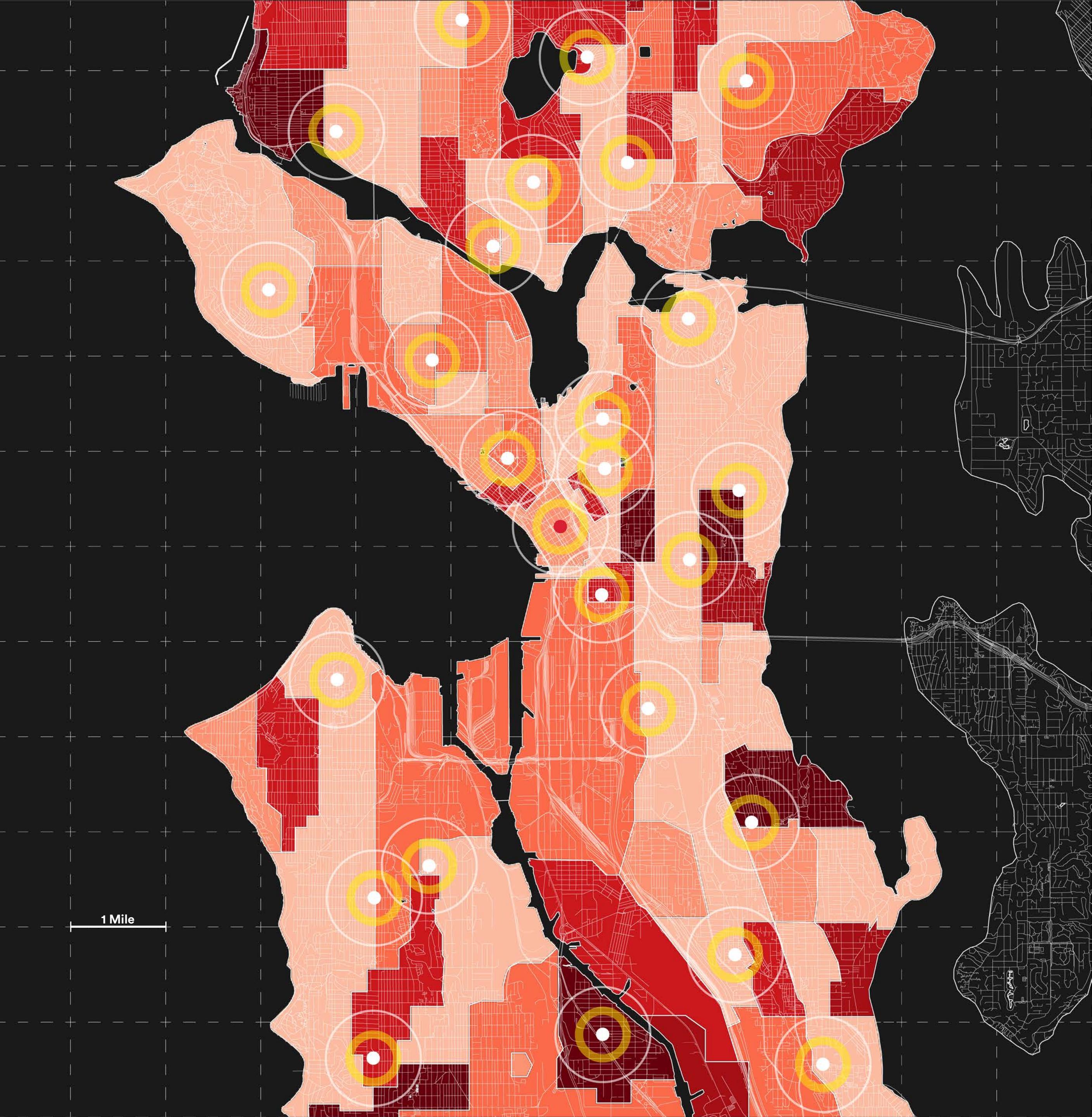
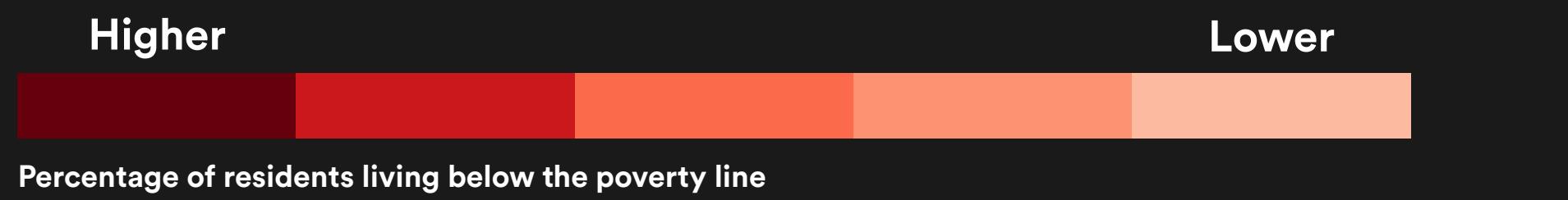
Seattle's libraries are dispersed evenly across its densely populated areas. Leaving few areas without nearby library service.



Poverty

Seattle, WA

People living in poverty are more likely to benefit from having a library within walking distance. Most of Seattle's areas with higher poverty rates are within walking distance to at least one branch location.



Tsunami Zone

Seattle, WA

A tsunami following an earthquake on the Seattle Fault poses a legitimate threat to low-lying areas of the city. Currently, no libraries are located within this hazard zone.



Soil Liquefaction

Seattle, WA

Liquefaction occurs when ground soil is highly saturated with water and usually contains sand , gravel, and silt.

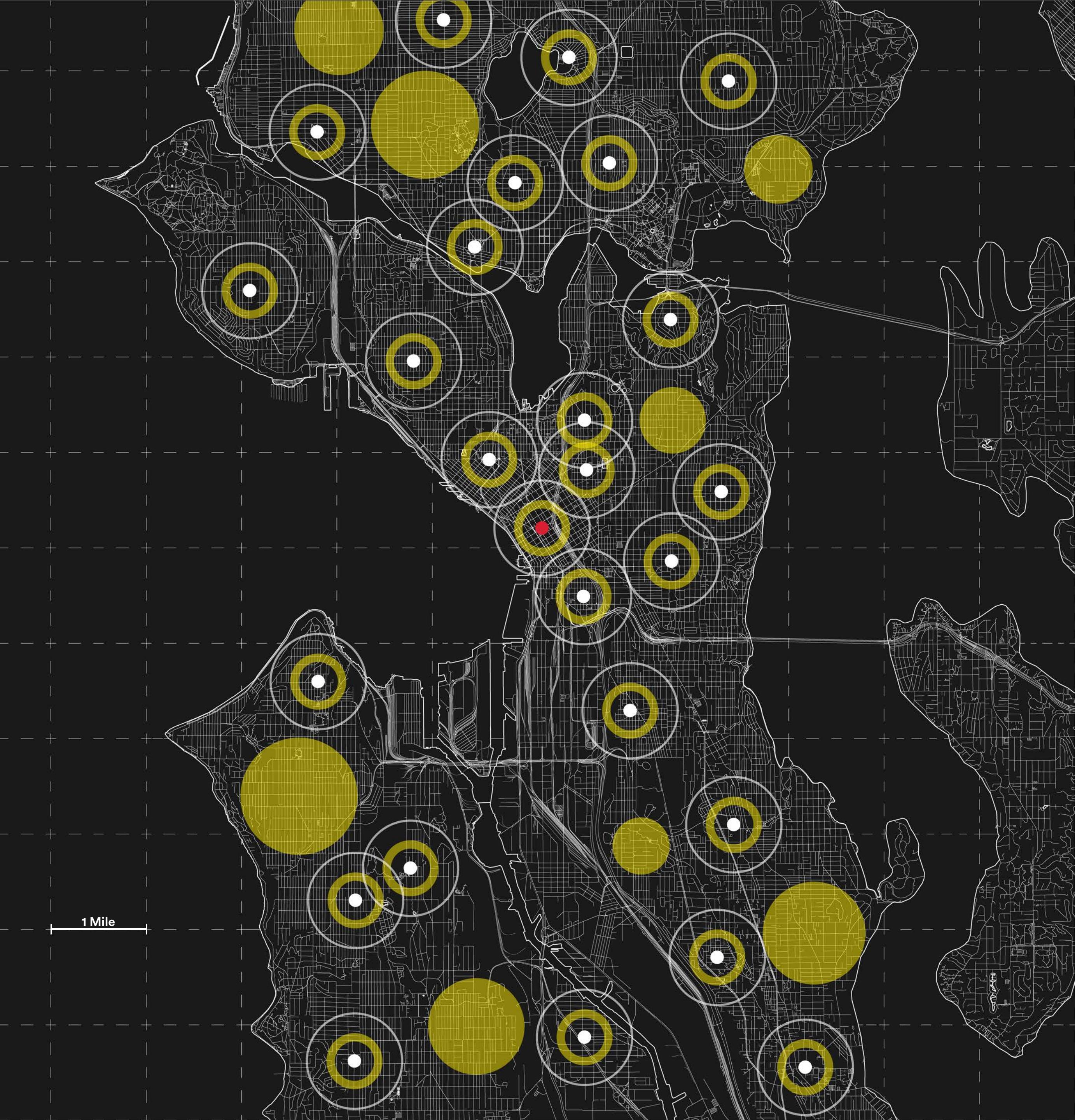
Large areas of the city are at high risk of liquefaction. During an earthquake, buildings in these zones could sink or topple.

Only one current location is situated in a liquefaction zone. Areas like these need to be taken into consideration when searching for places of future expansion.



The Future Seattle, WA

This map highlights areas of potential expansion. Factors like those shown in the previous slides were all taken into consideration to determine the future locations.



New Orleans Public Library

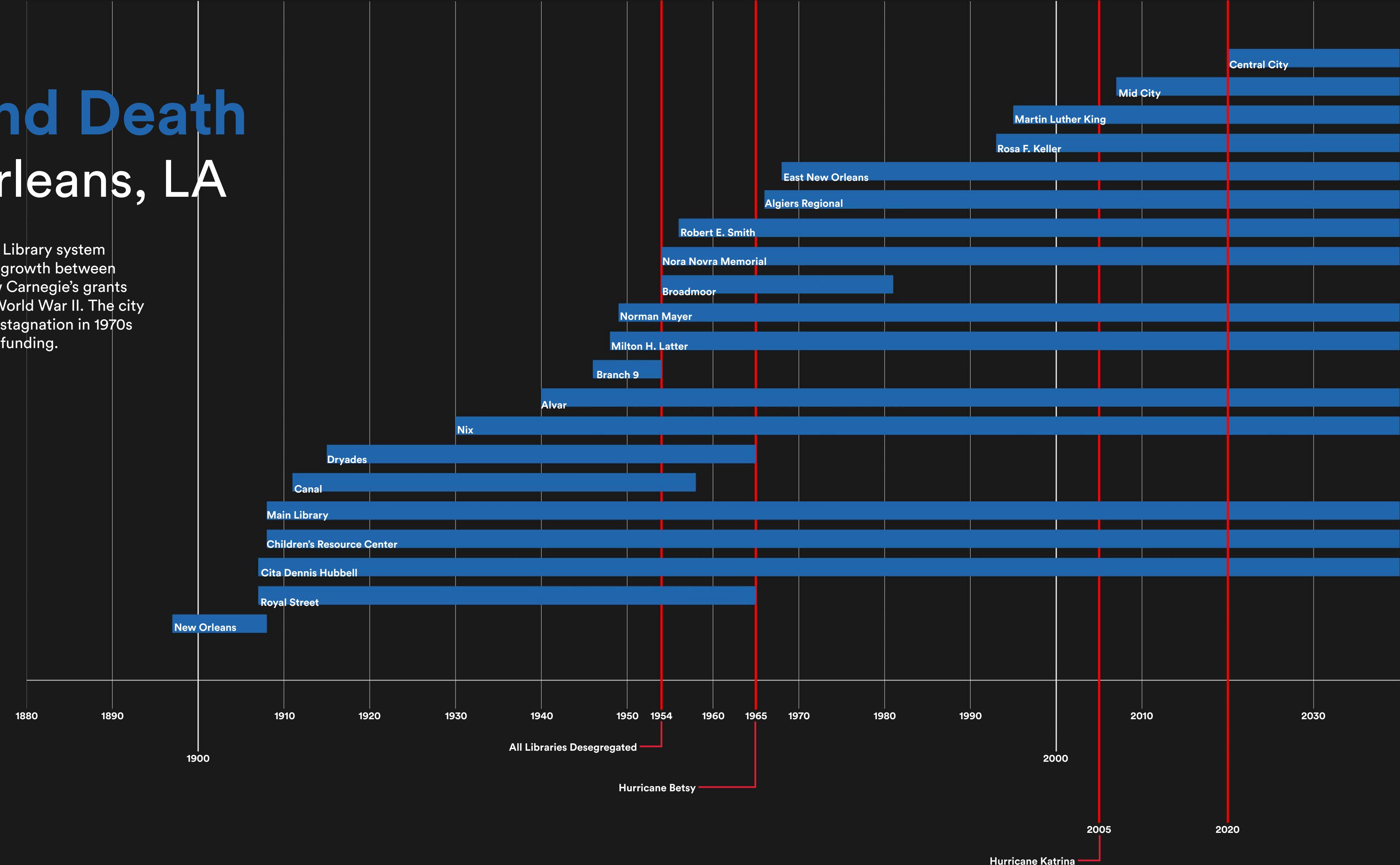
New Orleans, LA

The New Orleans Public Library has endured a turbulent existence. The system has withstood trials ranging from hurricanes to a lack of funding. These difficult circumstances have stunted the system's growth. Nonetheless, the New Orleans Public Library has continued to provide services to the public. The following research is intended to provide insight into the future expansion of New Orleans's system.



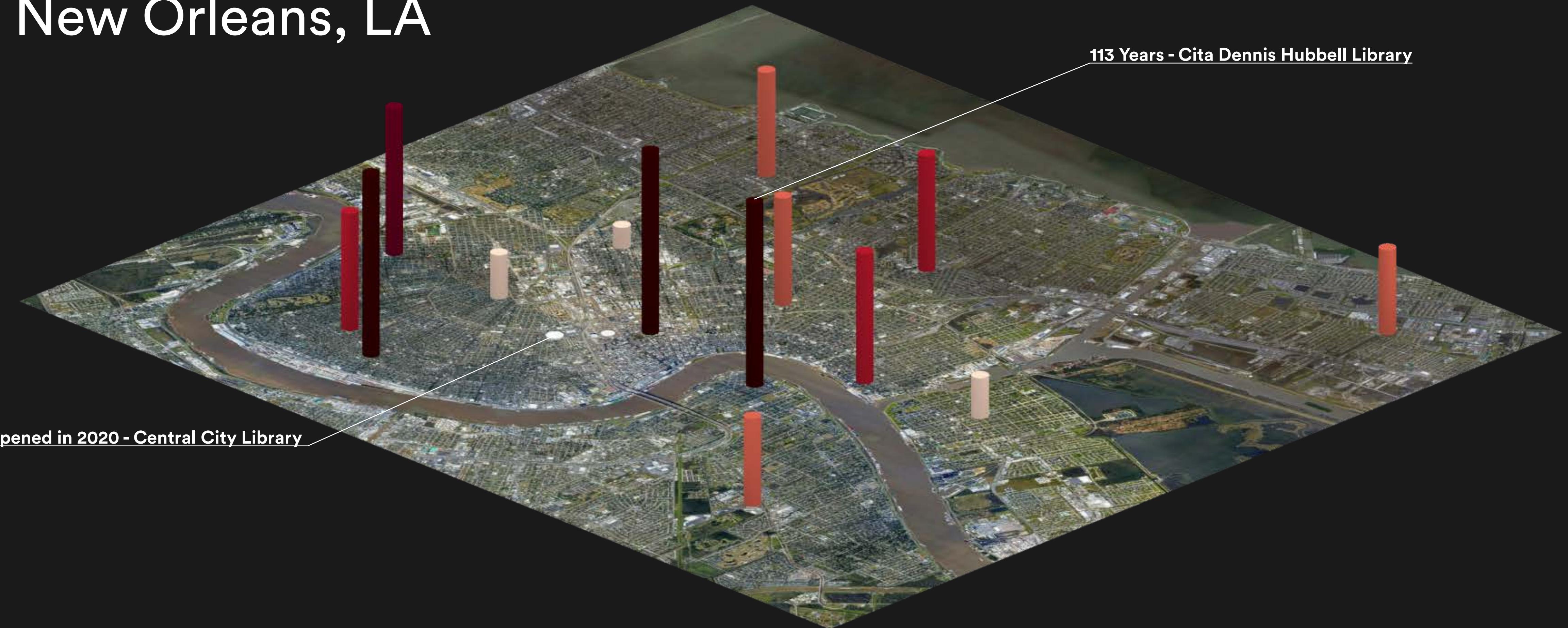
Life and Death New Orleans, LA

The New Orleans Public Library system experienced substantial growth between 1907-1915 due to Andrew Carnegie's grants and again shortly after World War II. The city experienced a period of stagnation in 1970s and 80s due to a lack of funding.

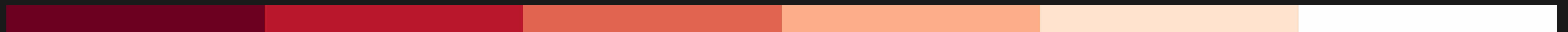


Life And Location

New Orleans, LA



1890



1910

1930

1950

1970

1990

2020

New Orleans Public Library

New Orleans, LA

A look at the current coverage of the New Orleans Public Library system. The rings determine reasonable walking distance at both 1/4 and 1/2 mile.



Population Density

New Orleans, LA

Most of the city's libraries are located in Uptown, Downtown, and Mid City. This leaves areas of Gentilly and New Orleans East without a nearby branch.

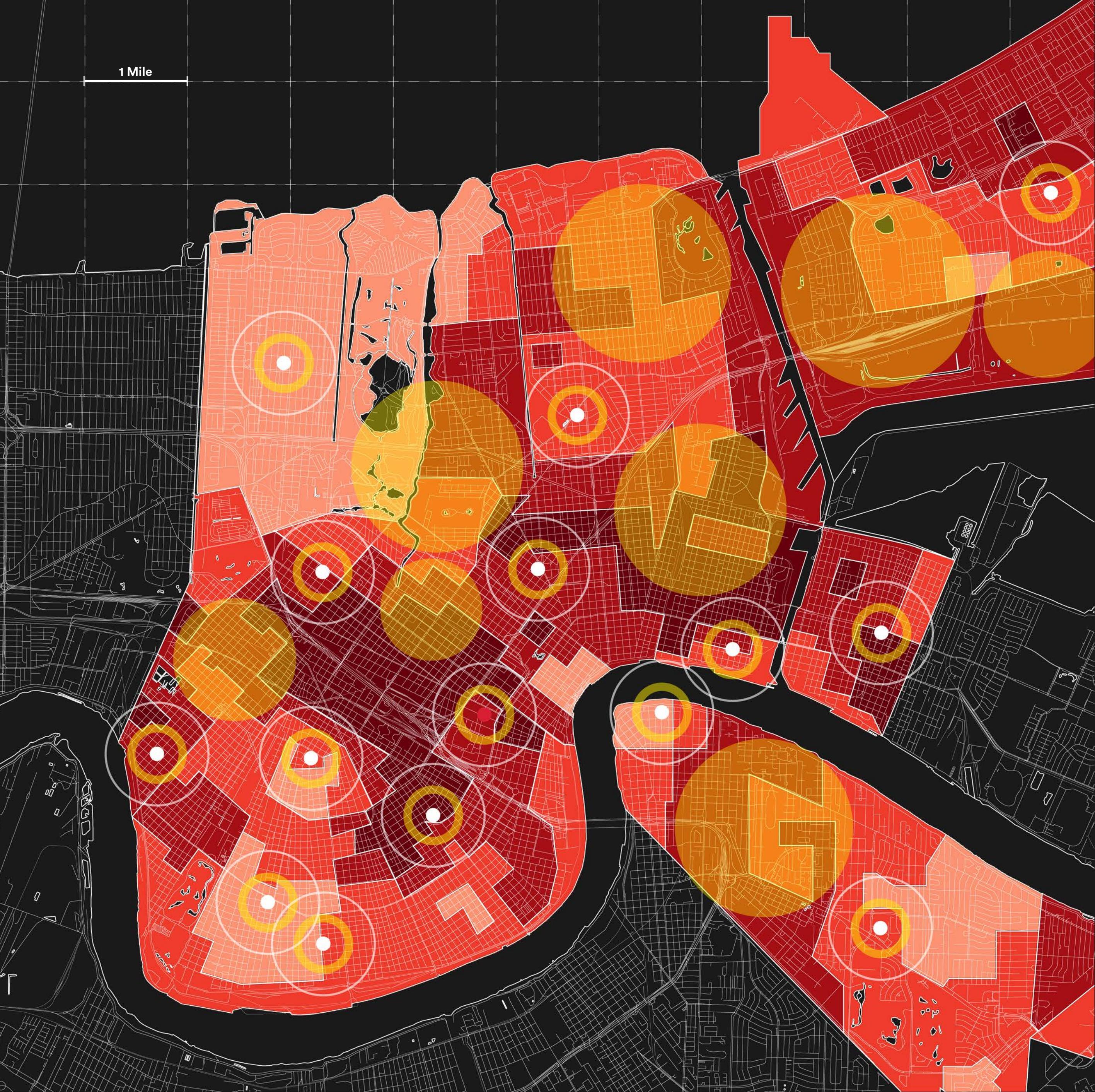
Possible areas of expansion are highlighted on the map.



Poverty

New Orleans, LA

The proposed areas of expansion have been adjusted to take poverty rates into consideration. Many poor areas of the city do not have a nearby library within a reasonable walking distance.

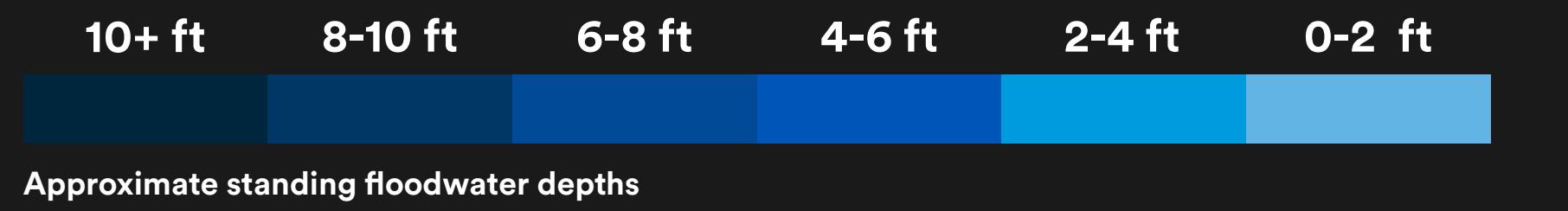


Katrina Flooding

New Orleans, LA

The New Orleans Public Library was severely affected by Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005. Six branches were completely destroyed and 90% of the library system's staff was laid off. The last of the six destroyed libraries was not reopened until 2018.

The proposed areas of expansion have been adjusted to account for areas prone to extreme flooding.



The Future The New City Centers

Communities built around libraries as their center have proven to be more resilient than those without that social infrastructure. Building communities around strong social infrastructure like libraries provide the cornerstones for upward social mobility and a more equitable society.

