

The Bill Blass Public Catalog Room

- Library materials are identified by searching through the Catalog, NYPL's new online catalog that combines research and circulating holdings. It can also be searched from home over the Internet at catalog.nypl.org
- To request a book, readers fill out a call-slip for each item and hand slips to the "tube clerk" **at the window in the North Hall of the Rose Main Reading Room.**
- **34 computer workstations offer access to more than 600 electronic resources selected by library staff. These include academic journals, newspapers and periodicals, encyclopedias, eBooks, and indexes.**
- Librarians and technical assistants are available to assist readers at all times
- The painting on the ceiling is by James Wall Finn and was restored in 1985.
- Along the Southern Wall of the room are black volumes representing the Library's card catalog up to 1972. Each page holds 21 reproductions of the original cards.

Stack Facts

- Call slips are sorted in the Rose Main Reading Room (delivery area) sent to all 7 levels of stacks in the building. Slips are faxed or sent via the conveyor to the Bryant Park Stack Extension. Orders are filled and the books are brought up on a "selective vertical conveyor."
- There are 75 miles of shelf space in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building & 40 miles of stacks under Bryant Park.
- The Library has a unique classification system. Many of the books are shelved according to a system designed by our first Director, Dr. John Shaw Billings. To more efficiently use space, since the 1950's most titles have been shelved according to size. The books in the Rose Main Reading Room are classified by the Library of Congress' system, and our circulating libraries use the Dewey Decimal System
- Due to the need for growth space, The New York Public Library, in conjunction with Princeton University and Columbia University, built a high-density, environmentally-controlled shelving facility for off-site storage of materials. The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium or ReCAP is located on Princeton University's Forrestal Campus in Princeton, New Jersey. To date, over 2.7million items from NYPL's collections have been sent to ReCAP to be stored. Most items are sorted and shelved by size and a sophisticated inventory control system keeps track of item locations.

The Deborah, Jonathan F.P., Samuel Priest, and Adam Raphael Rose Main Reading Room

- The Rose Main Reading Room was completely renovated and restored through the generosity of the Rose family and reopened in November 1998.
- New murals were inspired by the original paintings based on the discovery of original glass plate negatives in the NYPL archives. They give the impression of looking through the ceiling up to the sky. The ceiling ornamentation is executed in plaster. Above the ceiling in the high attic are HVAC systems that are accessed via catwalks.
- The size of the Reading Room almost equals a football field. It is one of the largest rooms in the nation without a dome, interior columns or steel-reinforced walls to support the ceiling.
- An indicator board in the North Hall shows numbers for book pick-ups.
- Open shelf reference books here include encyclopedias, dictionaries, biographical resources, and standard reference works in the humanities and social sciences. .
- There are multi-media computers for video & audiocassettes & CD-ROM's in the South Hall.
- There are **27 Internet** computer workstations in the South Hall **along with 4 electronic resource computers.**
- There is assistive technology to help people with disabilities to use Library collections and services.
- The entire room is outfitted with open wi-fi access.