



TALLINN CENTRAL LIBRARY

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Founded in 1907

www.keskraamatukogu.ee



TALLINN CENTRAL LIBRARY

The library was founded by the municipality of Tallinn and it was opened for the citizens on October 27, 1907. For the first 15-20 years library was mainly a reading room.

Library users had to be older than 16 years. Students were allowed to use the library only according to written permissions by their schoolmasters.



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In 1920, the library was removed to the centre of the city (Estonia Avenue 8).

The house was originally built (1894-1895) for the Tallinn Russian Social Community. At first the building had one big main hall with stage, banquet hall, reading room, bowling, billiard tables, rooms for playing cards.



TALLINN CENTRAL LIBRARY

In 1921-1950 Aleksander Sibul was the head of the library and also played an important role in the development of the whole Estonian librarianship at that time.

Tallinn Central Library currently provides a scholarship, named after Aleksander Sibul, for librarianship students.

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Aleksander Sibul



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1923 – the library started with home lending.

The first branch library was opened in 1926.

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Reading room in 1930s

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Reading room in 1930s

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Reading room (1957)

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Estonian literature department (1957)

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Estonian literature department (1957)

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Collection Management Department in 1960s



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During the Soviet and German censorship a great number of books was removed and destroyed, the library became an ideological institution.

There were only 60, 000 items at the library in 1952 (1937- 113, 601 items).

Later the number of books began to grow.



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1959 - 1961 library begin with the open shelves system.

In 1962 Tallinn Central Library starts using unified library card, which can be used in all departments.



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1986- fire in the main building
Estonia Ave. 8 started the long
awaited overhaul.

None of the books was not
destroyed, but the building was
badly damaged.



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In 1990s the library changed to a cultural and educational centre.

1993 – library started to enter their funds into the computer.

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First computer in our library

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Estonian literature department (1993)

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Reading room (1995)

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Main entrance (1993)

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In 2000 library's main building reconstruction started.



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2002- library service started in new renovated building in Estonia Ave. 8 again.

Children and music department first started as separate departments in Tallinn Central Library.

And the library started to use automated library system.



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2005- first building built only
for our library purpose was
completed- branch library in
Pääsküla.

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Branch library in Pääsküla (2005)

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Today:

- *19 branch libraries

- *total collection over 1, 035, 557 items

- *57% in Estonian, 38% in Russian,
others in English, German, Finnish,
French and other languages

- *In 2005- 88 794 users