In this 8-story atrium there are 3 2000-lb chandeliers representing the natural, human-made, and spiritual worlds. The landings also feature lanterns based on an upside-down human profile.

The 64-foot-tall rotunda showcases 4 murals, from 1933, that depict 4 eras of California history: discovery (north), mission building (east), americanization (south), and the founding of the city (west). The one-ton chandelier is made of cast bronze (it represents the solar system, and the zodiac, and the 48 states that formed the country when the library opened, in 1926).

In the children's library, the furniture is smaller than usual. The walls are adorned with California history because this was originally the History department (the original children's murals, of Ivanhoe, are in the International Languages department). The custom-made carpet showcases animals.

Here is the original terra-cotta sculpture of a hand entwined by the Serpent of Knowledge and holding the Torch of Learning, that adorned the top of the library tower. Since it is very fragile, it has been replaced by an exact copy.

In the front garden, an art piece called 'Spine' includes fountains, sculptures, and inscriptions on stair risers (the many types of written expression, including music and mathematics).

Here, the vividly painted ceiling features intertwined names of LA novelists. The bright colors and oblique shapes create a dynamic feeling.

There are small art galleries here, under the escalators.

This courtyard is enclosed by ornamental metal gates rendered with multilingual inscriptions. There is also a lotus shaft fountain with carvings that illustrate the delights of children's literature.

The grotto fountain uses various media to represent the geologic layers underneath the library, and fundamental civil liberties.

research + culture in Los Angeles: The LA Central Library

floor plans; upper levels

4 = noteworthy

630 West 5th Street; downtown LA
213-228-7000
[M-Th 10 am- 8 pm; F-Sat 10 am- 6 pm; Sun 1-5 pm]
The elevators shafts are decorated with thousands of obsolete catalog cards, as well as the Dewey Decimal numbers found in each floor.
research centers in Los Angeles: The LA Central Library

description

2 Art, Music, & Recreation
Focus: art history, gardening, architecture, decorative arts, crafts, fashion, artists, photography, music history, music biographies, sheet music and scores, film, dance and indoor/ outdoor recreation and sports. 213-228-7225
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Databases: California Manufacturers’ Register/ Harris InfoSource (37,000+ California companies), Prospect Research Online (philanthropic data, non-profit organizations), Gale Business Resources (various including Annual Business Ranking, Market Share Reporter, American Industries, Business Directory), Corporate Affiliations (subsidiaries, affiliates, and divisions for 137,000+ international companies).

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various

Government Documents
The Central Library holds texts published by the U.S. Government Printing Office, U.S. Government Patents & Trademark Office, State of California, United Nations, City of Los Angeles, and County of Los Angeles. These are found in the various departments of the library.