

BERWYN LIBRARY LOCATION TIMELINE

EARLY YEARS AS PRIVATE LENDING LIBRARIES

1894

The wives of early Berwyn leaders meet in the home of Mrs. Arthur MacNeal, wife of the founder of MacNeal Hospital, to form a small rental library. They first lend books out of the home of Charles E. Piper, co-founder of Berwyn, at

3427 Oak Park Avenue

As interest in the rental library grows, the women persuade Mr. Francis Lackey to provide space for their library in his dry goods store at the

**Southwest corner of Windsor Avenue and Elliott Avenue
(now Grove Avenue)**

But within a few years, circulation exceeds the time and space Mr. Lackey can devote to the books, and the collection is turned over to Emerson School.

1922

The Berwyn Woman's Club starts a library for children in the

**Cloakroom of the Community Club House
in the Masonic Temple's southern wing, 3112 Oak Park Avenue**

CREATION OF THE BERWYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

By City Council ordinance – November 18, 1924

1925

The Board of the new tax-supported Berwyn Public Library rents space in

The Berwyn Club, 33rd Street and Oak Park Avenue.

1926

The Berwyn Club building is sold, and the library moves to

**The former Barnhart & Co. Real Estate Co. building at
2214-16 Oak Park Avenue**

1929-30

Due to rapid growth, the library moves out of the Barnhart building and opens branches:

**A Central Branch opens in a store building at
6910 Cermak Road.**

A South Branch opens first **at 3204 Grove Avenue**, and then moves to
3118 Oak Park Avenue

**A North Branch opens in a portable classroom building adjacent to
Havlicek School, Elmwood Avenue and 15th Street**

1931

The North Branch moves to a storefront at

6405½ W. 16th Street

1932

The Central Branch moves across the street to

6909 Cermak Road

1933

The South Branch moves almost to the very spot where it had started in a dry goods store nearly 30 years earlier. It occupies

**The second floor of the former Murphy Building,
6828 Windsor Avenue**

1938

The Central Branch moves to a spot a few feet from the former real estate building at

2208 Oak Park Avenue

1939

The Central Branch moves into the new Berwyn City Hall at
6720 W. 26th Street

1947

The North Branch expands by leasing a second adjacent storefront and takes the address

6409 W. 16th Street

1955

The North Branch rents new quarters at

6421 W. 16th Street

1961

Following a successful 1960 referendum, the library for the first time moves into new buildings planned and constructed for library use

A South Branch at

3400 Oak Park Avenue

A North Branch at

6420 W. 16th Street

The Central Branch continues in City Hall until closing in 1981.

1996

After two failed attempts to pass a referendum to construct a new facility, the library moves into a single, central facility in the renovated CSA headquarters at

2701 S. Harlem Avenue