

# Public Library of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck

## Information & Services

including a pull-out library guide with key information

[www.luebeck.de/stadtbibliothek](http://www.luebeck.de/stadtbibliothek)



**Dear library user,  
dear library visitor,**

there is more to the City Library than you might think. If you know what it has to offer, you will be able to discover its treasures.

As an institution, the library has had many names since 1622: "Biblioteca Publica", "öffentliche Bibliothek zu Lübeck", "Bibliothek der freien und Hansestadt Lübeck", "lübeckische Stadt-Bibliothek". It has been referred to as the Stadtbibliothek – the City Library – since about 1753 but at the time it was not like the library in its present form. However, the Public Library of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck – Bibliothek der Hansestadt Lübeck, which is now the library's official name – has always been an institution open to everyone.

The Public Library of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck is a modern library with a history spanning 400 years, making it one of the most traditional public libraries in Germany:

- a central library with four branch libraries
- a library for children and young adults
- a music library
- an academic library with valuable historical collections
- a digital library for all sections

If you need help finding your way around the main library, require information on borrowing media or accessing digital collections, or if you want to check out our opening times and contact details, this brochure will answer the most important questions. And there will certainly be a few surprises for you. The library team will be happy to help you with any questions.



Monika Frank  
Senator for Culture  
and Education



Gerald Schleiweis  
Library Director

**Imprint**

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stadtbibliothek@luebeck.de  
www.luebeck.de/stadtbibliothek

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## The Public Library of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck

is particularly special because of its 400 year-old history. Founded in 1622 with several library bequests, the institution had close connections with St. Catherine's School (the Katharineum), the oldest grammar school of the hanseatic city. It still shares the same building today and for almost 300 years it was directed by the respective third deans of the school.

Since 1756, the "öffentliche Stadt-Bibliothek" – Public City Library – has held the right to statutory copies for the Free Hanseatic City of Lübeck, making it a state library until 1937. Alongside the city library, two public libraries were established which were incorporated into the library building in 1919 and 1973.

The library is mentioned separately in Schleswig Holstein's library law (BiblG) in §4 (4): "As an academic public library, the library of the hanseatic city of Lübeck has regional librarial functions and is under the patronage of the city of Lübeck. At an administrative level, it is allied with the public libraries of the same patron and is jointly responsible for the provision of media."



Since 2021, 600,000 media from the collection have been stored in a closed-stack library in Lübeck's Einsiedlerstraße. For the library, cultivating its historical heritage and lending out contemporary media are not contradictory aims: together they form the library's general duty to the citizens of the hanseatic city of Lübeck.



## Central Library – from Incunable to Tonie

A lot has happened in 400 years, but one thing has remained: the library – at least it is still in Hundestraße. If you are standing in front of the library, you cannot see the whole complex of buildings. The central library is spread out over five buildings dating back to 1355, 1877, 1926 and 1979, and an administrative house from the 13th century. The library is a small version of Lübeck's town centre, with the old and the new running into each other.

In the historical collections there are incunabula, manuscripts, books, newspapers, and music, all spanning centuries. Lübeck has some of the only existing titles. The historical collection is continually being digitised and can be viewed online. The law library is classified as an academic institute library. The Willy-Pieth reading room gives you the opportunity to study. The second floor is home to the Library for Children and Young Adults, and the Music Library is on the fifth floor.

“Of all the worlds which man has created, the world of books is the most powerful.”  
Heinrich Heine

Internet computers, office computers and photocopiers are on the ground floor. There is free WLAN everywhere in the library. There are work desks throughout the library for learning and reading.

Librarial enquiries can be made at the information desk on the ground floor.

### An introduction to using the library

For appointments for school classes and other groups call: 122-4114 (for adults) or 122-4115 for the Library for Children and Young Adults.

Literature required for academic work which is not available in the library can be ordered from other libraries with an interlibrary loan.

The **reading room** has mainly legal reference works and a genealogical section. Here you will also find the peace and quiet necessary to concentrate on your work.

You can read the electronic edition of the newspaper Lübecker Nachrichten in the library, including regional sections, via the **Lübeck-Fenster** (portal), and you can access the editions which have been published since 28-07-2017.



Lübeck newspapers dating back to 1751 are available on microfilm. Research in the microfilm collection is free of charge; there is a fee for ordering and printing. A list of the newspapers which can be accessed is on our homepage.

**A Seed Library (Saatgutbibliothek)** was introduced in 2021 which means that together with you we are helping to maintain bio-diversity. The Seed Library is in the Central Library opposite the information desk on the ground floor. You can find more information about the Seed Library in a separate flyer.

In the foyer of the ground floor there are daily and weekly editions of German and foreign-language newspapers.

In the **reading area for magazines and periodicals** on the 4th floor, there are around 400 titles from all subject areas.



## Music Library

The Music Library of Lübeck's City Library has 60,000 media, making it the biggest public music library in Schleswig-Holstein. It is on the 5th floor of the Central Library and has media from all music genres. It has a special focus on music education, music for playing, and music from the Baltic region.

There is an ePiano for which headphones can be borrowed at the information desk on the ground floor.

The importance of the Music Library outside the region is due mainly to its historical collection (handwritten music and over 1,500 prints from the 16th to the 18th century, many of which are unique).

“When you have a garden in a library, you will not want for anything.”  
Cicero

### Highlights

The liturgical manuscripts from the 12th to the 15th century are gems. The cantata of Dietrich Buxtehude and the “Lübecker Abendmusiken” of Adolph Carl Kunzen and J.W.C. von Königslöw deserve a special mention. The 19th century collection in particular is rich in music (including – among others – first prints of Ludwig van Beethoven). Bequests from 20th-century Lübeck musicians such as Jan Bender, Hugo Distler, Bruno Grusnick, Manfred Kluge, Walter Kraft, Wilhelm Stahl and Erwin Zillinger also belong to the library collection.



### Digital music-streaming

If you are interested in music, the library provides free access to the streaming services Naxos Music Library Jazz and Naxos Music Library World.

The links for using the streaming services can be found in the library's online catalogue.

Naxos Music Library Jazz has a broad selection of jazz music with more than 240,000 tracks from 21,000 albums, ranging from jazz legends to contemporary jazz. Fans of the world music genre are sure to find something to their taste in Naxos Music Library World. The collection has music from 150 different countries and more than 1,500 cultural groups.

**NAXOS**  
Music Library Jazz

**NAXOS**  
Music Library World

### Stream ballets, operas, and concerts with medici.tv

The video-streaming platform for classical music, opera, dance and jazz. Music performances from baroque to contemporary, concerts, operas, ballets, documentaries, and master classes for home-viewing. Medici.tv also has live concert recordings which are available for up to 90 days. In addition, there are qualified biographies of the individual artists to read. Medici tv can only be accessed via a browser using the following link: <https://connect.liblynx.com/wayfless/medicitv?lcard=StadtbibliothekLubeck>

**medici.tv**



## The “KijuBi” – a whole floor for the youngest

The Library for Children and Young Adults – Kinder- und Jugendbibliothek – is on the 2nd floor of the main library. The “KijuBi” offers children, parents, young adults and school classes the space and the media to read, learn and play.

Special media are also available for borrowing:

- Console games for Nintendo 3Ds & 2DS, Switch, Wii & PS4
- Tonies – audio figures for the Toniebox
- **TigerBooks** is an interactive app for children’s books which has more than 8,000 interactive books, e-books and audio books for children aged 2-12 years with heroes and heroines such as Conni, Pettersson & Findus or the Olchis. With additional games for learning and reading, a read-aloud function, animations, an audiorecorder and a choice of different foreign languages, the app makes reading especially appealing.



The app is entirely safe for children, free of advertising and does not have any in-app purchases. The children’s digital books can be used online and offline, so TigerBooks is ideal to use on-the-go. The app is available for mobile devices with Android or iOS as a free download on Google Play or in the Apple AppStore. Library users can select the name of the library when registering and log in free of charge using their usual membership data (library card number and PIN). Once you are logged in, you have unlimited access to all contents of the app for a lending period of one week.

### **The Library for Children and Young Adults has regular events:**

- Picture-book cinema, Bücherbutcher (songs and rhymes for children under 3), craft workshops, events for young adults, holiday-pass activities, readings, theatre and lots more.

You can keep up-to-date with our events by subscribing to our monthly newsletter at: [stadtbibliothek@luebeck.de](mailto:stadtbibliothek@luebeck.de) keyword: “Monatsmail Kinder- und Jugendbibliothek.”

For further information you can call the Library for Children and Young Adults on (0451) 122 – 4115 during opening hours and we will be happy to answer your questions.

### **Service for education professionals:**

#### **Free lending, media boxes, guides and more**

The Library for Children and Young Adults offers a range of services which are free for education professionals:

- a library card with special lending terms
- picture-book cinema sets
- Kamishibai frames and cards
- the LeseLachMöwe for kindergartens
- school set texts for whole classes
- individual media boxes, put together on request, for a variety of subjects
- guides by appointment for kindergarten groups and school classes

**Online-Service “Onilo”:**

Digital picture-book cinemas – boardstories – for reading aloud in kindergartens and junior schools, can be borrowed easily online with Onilo. After a one-time personal registration at the library, you can request the boardstories you want via email and they can then be accessed online. Onilo is a digital platform which complements the media provided by the library for kindergarten workers and teachers such as Kamishibai picture cards, analogue picture-book cinemas, media boxes, and set texts for classes. [www.onilo.de](http://www.onilo.de) has a list of the stories available and further information.



**The Library for Children and Young Adults offers free group guides for schools and kindergartens**

Groups of children can also attain the Bibliotheksführerschein – a library pass certificate – which is aimed at four different age groups. Based on the principle of the spiral curriculum, children learn about the library in a fun way at an age-appropriate level in four different modules: final year of kindergarten, year 2, year 4, and years 5/6. Please contact the library in advance to register for the library pass certificate, or if you plan to visit the library with a school class or kindergarten group.

The Library for Children and Young Adults can be contacted during opening hours on (0451) 122 – 4115 for further information and registrations.



**Central Library**

Hundestraße 5-17  
 23552 Lübeck  
 Mon. – Fri. 10:00 – 19:00  
 Sa. 9:00 – 13:00  
[stadtbibliothek@luebeck.de](mailto:stadtbibliothek@luebeck.de)  
[www.luebeck.de/stadtbibliothek](http://www.luebeck.de/stadtbibliothek)

**Telephone numbers**

Reminders/loan periods/	(0451) 122 – 4113
tel. loan period extensions*	(0451) 122 – 4159
Lending desk	(0451) 122 – 1588
Library for Children and Young Adults	(0451) 122 – 4115
Information desk	(0451) 122 – 4114
Office/Director	(0451) 122 – 4110

**Branch Libraries**



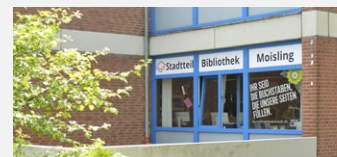
**Kücknitz**

Solmitzstr. 26 | 23569 Lübeck  
 Tel.: (0451) 122 – 4216  
 Mon. 10:00 – 13:00 | Tue., Wed., Fri. 14:00 – 18:00  
 Thu. closed



**Marli-Brandenbaum**

Max-Wartemann-Str. 5 | 23564 Lübeck  
 Tel.: (0451) 122 – 4220  
 Mon., Tue., Wed., 14:00 – 18:00  
 Thu. closed | Fri. 10:00 – 13:00



**Moisling**

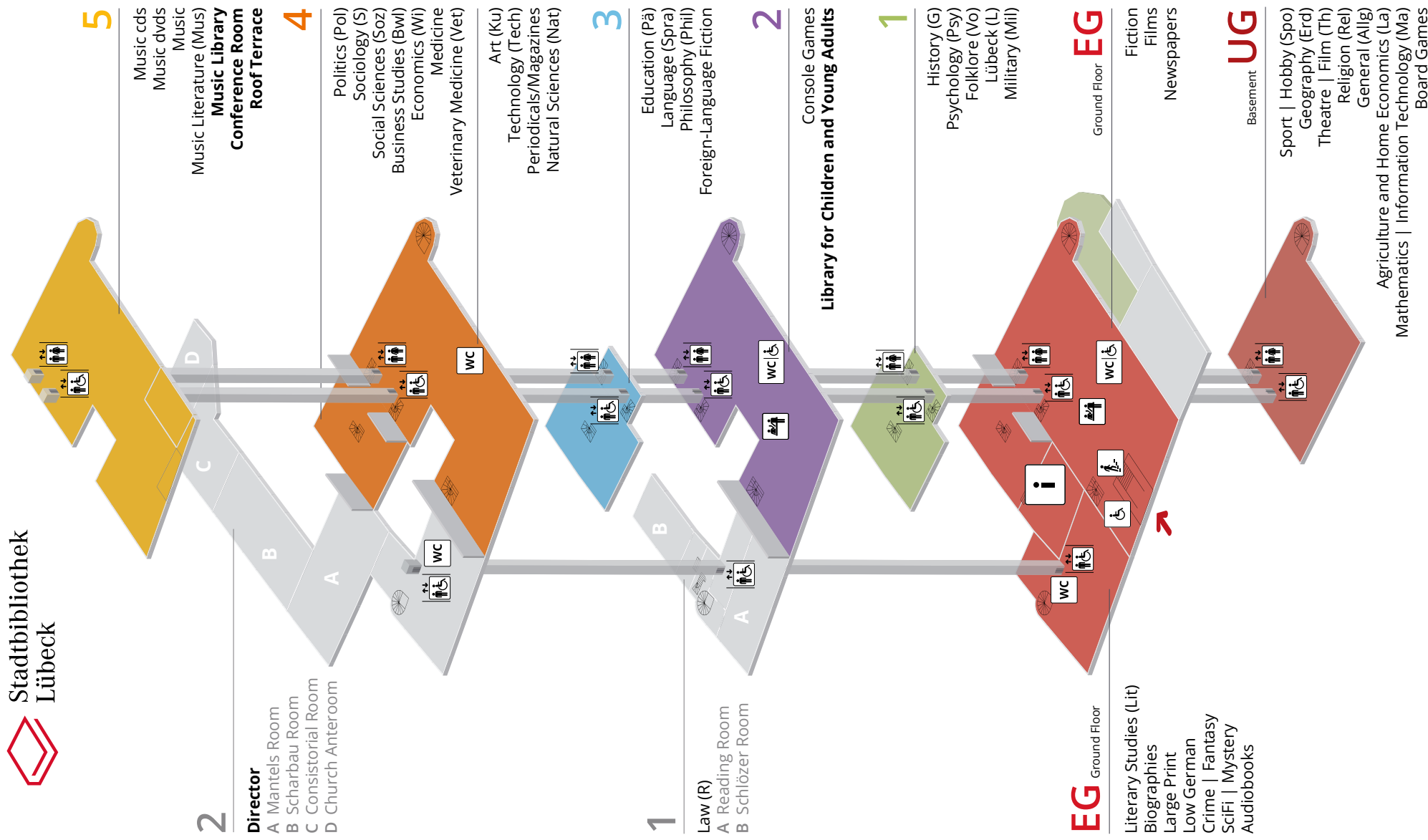
Moislinger Berg 2 | 23560 Lübeck  
 Tel.: (0451) 122 – 4210  
 Mon., Wed., Fri. 14:00 – 18:00  
 Tue. closed | Thu. 10:00 – 13:00



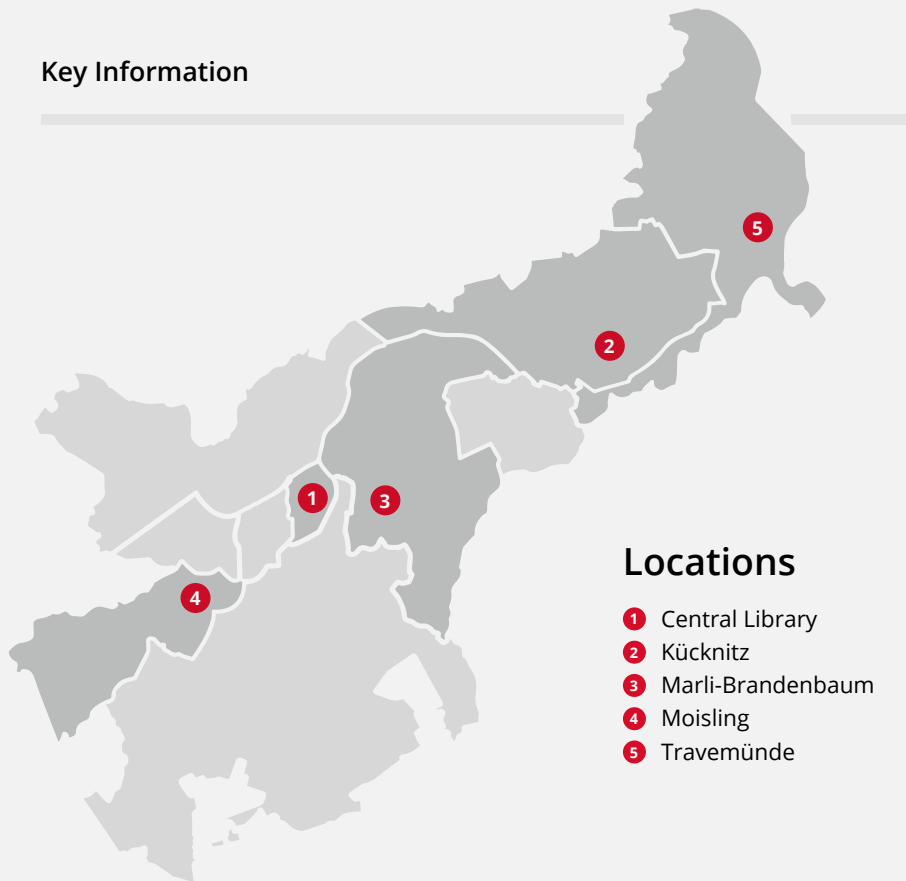
**Travemünde**

Nordlandring 15 | 23570 Lübeck  
 Tel.: (0451) 122 – 4227  
 Mon., Tue., Thu. 14:00 – 18:00  
 Wed. Closed | Fri. 10:00 – 13:00

\*library loan period can be extended by calling all numbers during opening hours.







**Locations**

- 1 Central Library
- 2 Kücknitz
- 3 Marli-Brandenbaum
- 4 Moisling
- 5 Travemünde

**Fees**

**Adults**

One year ..... 24.00 €  
 6 months ..... 15.00 €

**School students over 18, trainees, students, and Lübeck-card holders**

One year ..... 12.00 €  
 6 months ..... 7.50 €

**Day card for 10 media** ..... 3.00 €

**Children and young adults: free of charge under 18 years of age.**

**Lending period**

**2 weeks**

Films, console games, music cds, Tonies and magazines/periodicals

**4 weeks**

All other media, including books, audiobooks, language courses etc.

Please return media on time or extend the loan period, otherwise fees will be incurred: these can be found in our statute.



**Stream & Read 24/7**

**DigiBib** has a lot to offer: a diverse range of websites, e-papers, and data banks which will help you with many different kinds of research – for private purposes, for school, and for studying.

**Filmfriend** is a platform for library users to stream films, serials, documentary films, and children’s films.



Register with Filmfriend on the website <https://luebeck.filmfriend.de/de/home> or use the Filmfriend app. Registration is easy: you only need your library card number and your library PIN number. The films available range from german classics and prize-winning documentaries to international arthouse cinema and selected series. More films are being continually added to the collection, complementing the films available in the library.

## Digital Services

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### Digitised Historical Collection

→ see Academic Research Library

**medici.tv** → see Music Library

### Naxos Music Library Jazz and Naxos Music Library World

→ see Music Library

**Onilo** → see Library for Children  
and Young Adults



You can borrow e-media anywhere with internet access using the **Onleihe** app or the following link: [https://www.onleihe.de/schleswig\\_holstein/](https://www.onleihe.de/schleswig_holstein/). You will find a comprehensive collection of fiction, non-fiction, books for children and young adults, magazines, newspapers, audiobooks, music and videos. Our e-media can be used on all current e-readers (except Kindle), computers, tablets and smartphones (iOS and android). Further information is available on the Onleihe website, at the library, or by calling: (0451) 122 - 4114.



Please note: we are continually reviewing and updating our digital services so this list may not be complete nor the most recent. Up-to-date information can be found on our homepage.

## Digital Services

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**OverDrive** and the corresponding **Libby** app complement the Onleihe App with e-audiobooks, some of which are available in English. The e-audiobooks can be borrowed using a browser or the Libby app. OverDrive has a varied range of exciting titles including thrillers, crime novels, fantasy, romance, biographies, non-fiction, and for children and young adults. The collection is growing all the time. You can register at <https://s-h.overdrive.com/> with your library membership number and password or use the corresponding app.



**PressReader** provides online access to digital editions of daily newspapers and magazines from 150 countries in over 60 languages. The newspapers and magazines are available for up to 90 days on PressReader after publication. The City Library of Lübeck is particularly pleased that the PressReader has the "Lübecker Nachrichten". At <https://www.pressreader.com/de> select "Bibliothek der Hansestadt Lübeck" (under Library or Group) and you can register with your library card number and your PIN.

### TigerBooks

→ see Library for Children and Young Adults

## Research and Study

With a history dating back 400 years and a substantial historical collection, the City Library is able to fulfil the role of an academic research library, comparable to university libraries. Access to the historical collection is by appointment only at [stadtbibliothek@luebeck.de](mailto:stadtbibliothek@luebeck.de)

“Be cheeky and wild and wonderful.”  
Pippi Longstocking

The digitised historical collection of sources which are culturally and historically important is available worldwide for private and academic use. Primarily manuscripts, incunabula and the music collection are in digital form at <https://digital-stadtbibliothek.luebeck.de/viewer/index/>. There is a special emphasis on making Lubecensien accessible: Lubecensien are literature and documents relating to Lübeck which are particularly important for researching the cultural history of the hanseatic city.

We also have an extensive collection of law books, comprising approximately 21,000 volumes, 175 loose-leaf collections and access to the Beck-Online data bank. The law collection and online access can be found in the reading room and adjoining rooms.



A room in which only one thing matters: quiet. The Willy-Pieth reading room is the kind of room to work in which you now only see in films. But it is for everyone to use. Here the traditional “shhh” of the library staff still holds.

The closed-stack collection in Ein-siedelstraße has 600,000 historical books, periodicals and maps. It also stores a significant part of the historical collection dating back to the 16th century and the Lübeck statutory copies from 1756 onwards. There are special restrictions for using this. The newer, more recently archived media from 1950 to the present, can generally be used without any restrictions but must be pre-ordered. Transport of media between the closed-stack collection and the central library is twice a week. It is not possible to visit the closed-stack collection. There is no fee for reservations: media can be pre-ordered online via the catalogue, by telephone or in person at the library.



The city library has numerous **collections and bequests**, e.g.: addressbooks dating back to the 18th century, genealogy, research material for Lübeck literature, hanseatic literature, the bequests of Friedrich Overbeck, Emmanuel Geibel, Carl Julius Milde and Karl von Schlözer, the writings – private and published – of famous Lübeck citizens, town plans and maps which can be researched in a card catalogue, annual school reports, a collection of theatre flyers, and heraldry.

## From a Monks' Dormitory to a Ceremonial Room

“My library in an archive of longings.”  
Susan Sontag

The architectural history of Lübeck's city library makes it unique in Germany for a library of its kind. The ensemble of buildings comprises constructions from the middle ages, the 19th century, and the early and late 20th century, all in the architectural styles typical for each respective period.



## Scharbau Room and Consistorial Room

The oldest rooms of the city library are the Scharbau Room and the Consistorial Room. In the 14th century, they were originally used by the monks of the St. Catherine's Monastery as a dormitory. The rooms were painted with frescoes, which was typical for the period. In 1622, the first public library of Lübeck, the "Bibliotheca publica," was opened in the front area. The shelves here were made in 1618/1619 and are still lined with books today. The friezes are artfully decorated with the names and heraldry of the library's patrons and benefactors. Some medieval tiles from the monastery can be seen in the floor; today's wooden floor was laid in the 19th century. There were work desks in the middle of the room, typical for hall-type libraries at that time. Following restoration work, the room is not only for storing books but is also the library's impressive architectural gem.



The two Blaeu globes are of special interest. The astronomical globe is from 1616, the geographical globe is from 1622. The latter is missing a continent which had not been discovered at the time. See if you can (can't) find it too.

At the back of the medieval dormitory is the Consistorial Room, which was separated by an additional wall in 1573 so that the consistorial court could use it to convene. In 1759, the court moved to make room for the library of Hinrich Scharbau, senior vicar of the church of St. Aegidien. He bequeathed the library his collection of over 6,000 volumes and a substantial sum of money. The books were put on simple shelves, the walls whitewashed, beneath which five layers of colour were found during restoration work. The first three painted layers were from the monastery period, the last two were for the use of the room as a court.



**Church Anteroom**

The next room is already part of St. Catherine’s Church. It has been used by the city library since 1823. It is the south side-choir, which was decoratively painted in the early 16th century. The paintings on the vaulted ceiling show angels and other figures which seem to emerge from flowers, surrounded by stylised vines. There is latin writing on the banderoles which show that the room was used as a sacristy.

**Mantels Room**

The new-gothic Mantels Room follows on from the architectural examples of the medieval period. The room was planned as a hall-type library and was finished in 1877. It wasn’t long before free-standing shelves were put up in the room due to lack of space. The gallery, added later when the room was renovated, is not only an eye-catching architectural feature but it also supports the room as an internal steel corset. The room is named after Friedrich Wilhelm Mantels, the library’s director from 1862 to 1879, who achieved the realization of the library’s first extension.



**Tours**

There are free tours of the historical rooms on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding public holidays). The tours start at 17:30 in the foyer of the Central Library.

**Kücknitz**

Centrally located, with a bus stop directly in front of the building, the 470 m² library has around 20,000 media, and provides learning, information and entertainment. Books, magazines, cds, board-games, audiobooks, ebooks, dvds, Wii, Nintendo and Tonies are available on site. WLAN and internet



access are free and there are PCs which are free to use. The library also has printers and photocopiers, for which fees are charged. For school classes, kindergartens, and groups there are introductions to the library with a quiz tour, and a picture-book cinema. We are happy to put together media boxes and provide class set-texts for children and young adults. Including advice and support with research, this offer applies to all age groups. The library has wheelchair access and a baby-changing table. Numerous work desks and cosy reading corners complete the picture.



**Marli-Brandenbaum**

The Marli-Brandenbaum branch library, close to Kaufhof, is 427 m² and shares a building with a kindergarten. It has more than 18,000 contemporary, diverse media. We have Tonies for young children and if you don’t have a tiptoi pen, you can borrow one here. Tours for school classes and kindergartens can always be arranged.



## Moising

The Moising branch library is in the "Haus der Mitte" and is 330 m<sup>2</sup> over two floors. Around 19,000 books, games, magazines and much more can be used and borrowed. WLAN and a computer for working are available. The collection is continually kept up-to-date, for example Tonies are now available for children.

Every second Wednesday we invite you to join a friendly handicrafts group and every second Friday of the month, except during school holidays, there is a story-reading session at 16:00

for children aged 3-8 years old. For school classes and kindergartens, tours can always be arranged. In the next few years the branch library will be part of the project "Neue Mitte Moising" and will move out of the present building into a new location.

## Travemünde

Travemünde's 200 m<sup>2</sup> branch library invites local users and holiday visitors to browse and borrow from a collection of 16,000 media. If you don't want to read, we have audio cds to listen to, and if you don't want to listen, there are games which can be borrowed.

We have 40 magazines and an e-book reader. For kids, in addition to our comprehensive collection of media, we have Tonies and tiptoi pens.



## Society of Friends of Lübeck's City Library

The society has supported diversity in the library for 30 years. Whether it is for cultural events or the restoration of a work from the historical collection, the Society of Friends supports the institution financially and in its aims. The society's social media channels give the library a platform on Instagram, Facebook and Youtube. You can follow the channels for background information, the latest news and much more.



Cultivate your friendship with books and become a member of the Verein der Freunde der Stadtbibliothek e. V.

For further information visit:

<https://www.bibliotheksfreunde.de/>

or pick up one of the flyers available in all the libraries.