## About

Central Library blends the best of traditional library services with new technology and innovative spaces, making it a vital centre for learning and culture. Thousands of people visit us each day to enjoy a performance or lecture, engage with each other in lively debate, or simply to relax and appreciate a great book.

Our award-winning, architecturally stunning building includes:

A large collection spread over multiple floors (there are elevators).

A beautiful performance space in Paul O’Regan Hall—a 300 seat auditorium acting as a hub for both Library and community-hosted events.

The Halifax Living Room—a reading and relaxing space that overlooks Spring Garden Road and (in the distance) the Halifax Citadel.

2 sound-resistant studios with instruments and technology for music and video making, podcasting, recording, and editing.

14 study pods spread across floors 2-4 that offer comfortable seating for conversation, studying, and meeting.

A First Nations Circle and displays celebrating First Nations culture.

The Local History Room, which houses research material focusing on Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Atlantic Canada.

A Books of Remembrance display dedicated to Halifax County's military men and women who fell during World War I through to present day.

Displays celebrating African Nova Scotian as well as Acadian/Francophone heritage and culture.

120 public-use computers throughout floors 1-4.

What to expect

People of all ages and backgrounds gather in this vibrant space. You'll find members of the business community, seniors, parents and young children, newcomers, teens, and university students. Many tourists visit Central daily to use the free WiFi, take a tour of this spectacular building, or simply enjoy one of the most beautiful spaces in Halifax.

On a typical day, you may find:

A group jamming in the Media Studio or creating a podcast.

Students collaborating on a project in one of our bright green study pods.

Someone researching their ancestry in the Local History Room.

Youth engaging in a lively gaming session with the Xbox and PS4 games.

Hundreds attending a lunchtime symphony concert in Paul O’Regan Hall.

The Women for Peace group gathered in the First Nations Circle to recite sections of the Truth and Reconciliation report.

People enjoying coffee and taking in the gorgeous views from the rooftop patio.

Readers enjoying their favourite book curled up in a cozy chair overlooking the city from the 5th floor.

Fast facts

Central Library opened in December 2014 and reached 2 million visitors within just a little over 1 year.

It has received LEED Gold Certification from the Canada Green Building Council.

Sign up today

If you’re a resident of Nova Scotia, you can get a Halifax Public Libraries card for free.

Your library card is your passport to our collections. You can borrow items, use our computers and other devices, and access our digital collections from home.

Need a replacement card? If your library card is lost or stolen, you should let us know immediately.

What you need to sign up

When you visit us in person or online to request a card:

You'll need one piece of identification. For example, a driver's license.

If you're under 14, an adult (age 19 or older) needs to sign for you and they'll be responsible for what you borrow. You and the responsible adult will both need one piece of identification.

If you don’t have the necessary identification or don't live in Nova Scotia, you may be able to get a different type of library card.

Apply For A Card

Online

Click the button below to apply for a library card. You'll be issued a temporary digital library card that you can use to create an account on our website and access most of our online resources. Your temporary digital card number will also be emailed to you. This is your permanent library card number and there is no need to visit a branch to complete your registration.

Once your application is reviewed by our staff (within 1-2 business days) your registration will be complete. Additionally, the next time you visit a library branch, you can provide this number and your identification to library staff to upgrade your registration to full membership status.

Central Library’s Media Studio

Halifax Central Library’s Media Studio is the place where your digital dreams become reality—for free.

About the space

Located on the 2nd Floor of Central Library, the Media Studio has two recording spaces and two workstations filled with the finest equipment and software to master your next jingle, chart-topper, podcast, video, or design. Bring your own instruments and tools, or use ours.

Whether you’re trying your hand at something new or a seasoned pro, our friendly staff will be on hand to provide virtual assistance before and during your session. All you need is your library card.

Request a booking

Have your library card on hand. No card? No problem! Sign up for a temporary digital card here, and visit us soon to get your physical card.

Review our updated health and safety procedures below. We've worked hard to make all Library spaces safe and welcoming.

Visit our booking request page to watch our orientation videos and fill out our Media Studio request form.

We’ll be in touch! Our staff will connect with you to confirm and discuss your booking.

Before you visit, bring what you need. Bring any instruments or tools of your own. You’ll also need to bring your own large-capacity thumb drive to save your work. All files will be wiped from computers after your session.

Studios and equipment

The Media Studio has two recording spaces equipped with everything you need to start recording, and two fully-loaded iMacs complete with all the software you need for your audio, video, and design projects.

Media Studio Inventory

Our 2 acoustically treated recording studios are equipped with Apple M1 iMac computers, Condenser microphones, Focusrite Scarlett 8 channel audio interfaces, ART 6 channel headphone amplifiers, KRK studio monitors, and AKG K77 Perception monitor headphones.

The equipment listed below is also available on a first come, first served basis.

Instruments

Accordion - Sonata (10 button row)

Acoustic guitar - Epiphone DR-100 (natural)

Acoustic guitar - Epiphone DR-100 (sunburst)

Alexander James - Xylon (Double cutaway, humbucker pickups)

Bodhran Irish Drum - Walton’s 18”

Egg shakers - Meinl Percussion

Electric bass - Fender Precision Bass

Electric bass - Fender Mustang Bass

Electric bass - Squire Vintage Precision

Electric bass - Squire Vintage Jazz

Electric drums - Yamaha DTX400K (2)

Electric guitar - Alexander James, Ursa

Electric guitar - Epiphone Les Paul LP-100

Electric guitar (left-handed) - Epiphone Les Paul Special II

Electric guitar - Fender Stratocaster

Electric guitar - Gibson Les Paul Deluxe Goldtop

Electric guitar - Glen Bergman, Stratocaster

Electric guitar - Glen Bergman, Cocobolo

Electric guitar - The Heritage Les Paul

Electric guitar - JK Lado, Solo 1 (1980's)

Electric guitar - Ken Francis, Twin One

Electric guitar - Les Paul copy (Tiger Maple)

Electric guitar - Squire Stratocaster (MIJ 1981 - Maple neck)

Electric guitar - Squire Vintage Stratocaster

Electric guitar - Telecaster copy

Keyboard - Roland Juno DS

Synthesizer - Korg MS-20 Mini

Synthesizer - Behringer Odyssey

Theremin - Burns B3

Ukelele - Mahalo

Ukulele - Enya X1 (Soprano)

Ukulele - Kala KA-T (Tenor)

Audio Recording

Dynamic microphone - Shure SM58 (4)

Dynamic microphone - Electro Voice RE-20

Condenser microphone - Warm Audio WA-47

Lapel microphone - Sennheiser XS wireless presentation set

Apogee One Audio Interfaces (with built-in microphone)

Apogee Jam Audio Interfaces (guitar/bass)

M-Audio Midi Keyboard Controllers

AKG Monitor headphones

Audio Software

Spitfire Audio

LABS - An infinite series of FREE software instruments, made by musicians, for musicians — for anyone, anywhere.

Izotope

Neutron 4 - Modern. Intelligent. Your complete mixing suite.

Cableguys

HalfTime - Instant creative halif-speed.

Kickstart 2 - The fastest plug-in for pro sidechaining.

Waves Audio

CLA Classic Compressors - Four models based on classic compressors: CLA-2A, CLA-3A, CLA-76 Blacky & CLA-76 Bluey.

SSL 4000 Collection

Magma BB Tubes - Beautiful to Beastly Tube Saturation.

Manny Marroquin Signature Series - EQ, Delay, Reverb, Tone Shaper, Triple D & Distortion plugins.

NX Virtual Mix Room - Virtual mix room over headphones.

API Collection - includes the API 550A 3-Band EQ, API 550B 4-Band EQ, API 560 Graphic EQ, and API 2500 Stereo Compressor.

CLA MixHub - Mix musically, within the context of a song, as swiftly and effortlessly as your ideas come.

CLA MixDown - Simple-to-use mix buss plugin for finalizing and enriching your mixes.

Eddie Kramer Tapes, Tubes, Transistors - featuring three meticulously-modeled vintage plugins: Kramer Master Tape, HLS Channel, and PIE Compressor.

Clarity VX - Revolutionary AI noise removal for vocals.

V-Series - Based on the legendary 1066, 1073, 1081 and 2254 modules.

Waves Harmony - Real-time vocal harmony playground.

OVox Vocal ReSynthesis - next-generation voice-controlled synth and vocal effects processor.

JJP Analog Legends - Four audio plugin models of legendary analog hardware. Based on the Fairchild 660 & 670, Pultec EQP-1A and Pultec MEQ-5.

and many more options too.

Amplifiers and speaker cabinets

Ampeg BA-110 Bass Combo Amplifier (2)

Orange - 12” Speaker Cabinet

Phaez - 4 Watt Tube Amplifier Head (custom-made)

Vox - 12" Speaker Cabinet

Video recording and photography

Canon Rebel DSLR Camera

Canon Vixia HFG20 Camcorder

8MM/Super 8 film reel to reel digital converter

Erin Manning Studio Lighting Kit

Chromakey Green, White, Black, and Grey Screens

Wacom Bamboo Capture Pen and Touch

Camera tripod (assorted)

Smartphone/Tablet tripod mount (assorted)

Neewer Reflector (5 in 1 - 60x90cm)

Widetone Seamless Photography Backdrop - Pure White

Neewer Studio Lighting Kit