

## Services

### Information and Reference

Professional Library staff, trained to assist with research and fulfilling information needs are on duty at the George Town Library. Library assistants will provide help and referral at branch libraries.

### Borrowing and Returns

Library cards must be presented each time you wish to borrow or renew materials from the library. Library materials are checked out for three weeks. The Librarian on duty may limit the number of books borrowed on specific, high demand subjects.

### Renewals:

Books and other materials may be renewed once, unless they have been reserved for other patrons.

### Fines:

Adult borrowers and the parental sponsor of student borrowers are responsible for the timely return of library materials. Overdue items accrue fines daily and fines are charged as follows:

Adult materials : 10 cents per day  
*Maximum fine* . \$2.00  
Juvenile materials: 5 cents per day  
*Maximum fine* . \$1.00

### Books by Mail:

Island residents who do not have ready access to library services, especially those living on Little Cayman are entitled to register to borrow books by mail. This is a free service provided by the library to its members. *Books by Mail* borrowers are sent a maximum for five books at one time. Postal irregularities are taken into account when assessing fines for mail borrowers.

## Cayman Islands Collection

Each of the libraries has a Local History Reference collection (not available for loan) devoted to the Cayman Islands. This collection contains items relating to the history, heritage and culture of the Cayman Islands. The George Town Public library has the largest Local History Collection, and also holds local laws, regulations and programmes.

For historic research and rare original documents please contact:

Cayman Islands National Archive  
37 Archive lane  
Grand Cayman  
Cayman Islands  
t: (345) 949-9809  
f: (345) 949-9727

For information concerning cultural heritage and life in Old Cayman, please contact:

National Trust for the Cayman Islands  
558 South Church Street  
P.O Box 31116  
Grand Cayman KY1-1205  
Cayman Islands  
t: (345)949-0121  
f: (345)949-7494

## Cayman Islands Public Library



## Cayman Islands Public Library

P.O. Box 1172  
KY1-1100  
George Town  
Grand Cayman  
Tel. (345) 949- 5159  
Fax (345) 946- 0972

A Guide to Library Services

## History

Cayman's Public Library system started in George Town in 1920 when the government included an annual grant of 40 pounds in the budget for the establishment of a subscription library. The library was located in a room above the old jail next to the old court house. At the end of 1937, plans were made for building a larger library at George Town to include reading and reference rooms.

The new building was designed by Captain Rayal Bodden, an accomplished shipwright, and completed in 1939. The distinctive timbered ceiling shows the evidence of a shipbuilder's skill, as it is fashioned after a ship's hull turned upside down (right). The ends of the hammer beams are decorated with the shields of prominent British Institutions of learning



(left).

These are thought to be original, as is the fan over the entrance door. The ceiling beams are original, but the boards have been replaced to reduce leaks.



The front façade of the building was originally flat, with the entrance foyer being added more recently, when the original keystone and fan were reinstalled.

The new library opened its doors to the public in 1940, and for a long time the main source of printed matter was the Ranfurly Library in England. Lady Ranfurly, wife of a colonial governor, started the project of collecting used books for shipment to British territories where books were in short supply. In 1980, the first trained librarian took over the running of the public library.

Sources:

Newstar, October 1989, p64.

National Trust. Historical Review Tour, p.11.

## The Cayman Islands Public Library

The Cayman Islands Public Library (CIPL) is a service-oriented institution committed to provide services and reading materials in all formats, to encourage life-long learning, literacy and the joy of reading within the population of the Cayman Islands.

The Cayman Islands are served by one full service library located in downtown George Town, Grand Cayman and four branch libraries in East End, North Side, Bodden Town and Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. The George Town Library has the most comprehensive collection of materials. The Branch libraries contain current and popular books as well as some periodicals and audiocassettes.

Little Cayman is served by a *Books-by-Mail* service. Also, circulating materials can be sent from one library to another, via inter-library loan.

## Membership

Library membership is available to persons who will be resident in the Cayman Islands for at least six months each year. Adult members (17 years and older) pay a \$2.00 annual fee and there is no charge children (5-16 years). Your library card entitles you to borrow from any Cayman Islands Public Library location.

The Library also offers institutional membership to organizations such as pre-schools and homes who wish to borrow items collectively.

## Programmes

All libraries offer free programmes designed to be of interest to children and adults of various ages periodically through the year. The Summer Reading Programme is held during the summer break and is open to all school aged children. Pre-registration may be required for some programmes. Please check your district library for upcoming events.

*Cayman Islands Public Library*

## Public Library Hours



**George Town Library**  
949-5159  
**Monday – Friday**  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm  
**Saturday**  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



**East End Library**  
949-7729  
**Monday & Tuesday**  
10:00 - 1:00 / 2:00 - 7:00  
**Wednesday & Thursday**  
10:00 - 1:00 / 2:00 - 5:00  
**Saturday**  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
(Internet Available)



**North Side Library**  
947-9362  
**Monday & Thursday**  
10:00 – 1:00/2:00 – 5:00  
**Tuesday & Wednesday**  
10:00 – 1:00 / 2:00 – 6:00  
**Saturday**  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm



**Bodden Town Library**  
947-0966  
**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday**  
10am–1:30 pm/3:00–7:00 pm  
**Wednesday**  
9:00 am–12:00 / 1:00 - 5:30 pm  
**Friday**  
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
**Saturday**  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
(Internet Available)



**Cayman Brac Library**  
948-0472  
**Mon:** 9am - 12 pm & 2pm- 6pm  
**Tues:** 9am - 12 pm & 1pm- 4pm  
**Wed:** 9am - 12 pm & 1pm- 5pm  
**Thur:** 9am - 12 pm & 2pm- 6pm  
**Sat:** 10am - 1pm  
(Internet Available)