

# HISTORY OF QUEZON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Quezon City Public Library started as a small unit, a joint venture of the National Library and Quezon City government during the incumbency of the late Mayor Ponciano Bernardo and the first City Superintendent of Libraries, Atty. Felicidad Peralta by virtue of Public Law No. 1935 which provided for the “consolidation of all libraries belonging to any branch of the Philippine Government for the creation of the Philippine Library”, and for the maintenance of the same.



**Mayor Ponciano Bernardo**  
**1946-1949**

June 19, 1949, Republic Act No. 411 otherwise known as the Municipal Libraries Law, authored by then Senator Geronimo T. Pecson, which is an act to “provide for the establishment, operation and Maintenance of Municipal Libraries throughout the Philippines” was approved.



**Mrs. Felicidad A. Peralta**  
**1948-1978**  
**First City Librarian**

Side by side with the physical and economic development of Quezon City officials particularly the late Mayor Bernardo envisioned the needs of the people. Realizing that the achievements of the goals of a democratic society depends greatly on enlightened and educated citizenry, the Quezon City Public Library, was formally organized and was inaugurated on August 16, 1948, with Aurora Quezon, as a guest of Honor and who cut the ceremonial ribbon. The Library started with 4, 000 volumes of books donated by the National Library, with only four employees to serve the public. The library was housed next to the Post Office in a one-storey building near of the old City Hall in Edsa. Even at the start, this unit depended on the civic spirited members of the community who donated books, bookshelves and other reading material.

As the city grew, the library services have to expand in order to cope with the needs of the increasing library patrons. The City Librarian requested the opening of more branches, so in 1953 under Mayor Ignacio-Santos Diaz, the Project 3 branch was established.

Upon the assumption to office of Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto, the development and progress of the Quezon City Public Library was hastened because of numerous requests from the people. Mayor Amoranto approved the establishment of eight (8) branch libraries scattered in the different districts of Quezon City.

In 1957, the main office moved to a more spacious place at the second floor of the old City Hall. The City Council then approved Ordinance No. 3559, prescribing the powers and duties of the City Librarian promulgating the rules and regulations.



**Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto**  
**1954-1976**

From the old City Hall building, the main library moved to the Lion's International Building in Bernardo Park in 1968. The space was donated by incumbent Lion's official to the City government.

In 1969, the Law Research Center was organized to answer the needs and request of law students, law practitioners, City personnel and other researchers who were in dire need of law books and other related materials. When the QC Hall building was constructed in January 1972, the Main Library was transferred to the ground floor of the new building in April 1976, still under the stewardship of Mayor Amoranto and stayed there for ten (10) years.

In 1978, Atty. Peralta retired and Mrs. Paciencia J. Buendia took over as the second Superintendent of Libraries.



**Mrs. Paciencia J. Buendia**  
**1978-1985**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> City Librarian**

With the growth in collection of reading materials and personnel, the space became small. Fortunately, in 1982, through the representation of Mrs. Pacencia J. Buendia, Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez worked for the construction of the main library building right at the back of the City Hall. In less than a year, the building was finished to the delight of the reading public and it was inaugurated on August 16, 1983. The Quezon City Public Library (main), during this period, is one of the biggest public library maintained by a city government in Metro Manila. The reading area is composed of the Reference Section, Children's Section, Law Research Unit, Filipiniana and Local History Collections, the Periodical Section. The former conference room was converted into a technical working area where books are processed for the use in the reading area, a binding section where back issues of important publications and worn-out books and other reading materials are bound for future reference and research, and the Administrative Services which include records and property and supplies and finance.



**Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez**  
**1976-1986**

During the term of Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez, two (2) branch libraries were opened which increased total number of branch libraries from eight (8) to ten (10) operating in the city.

In 1985, Mrs. Relinda A. Feliciano assumed the superintendence when Mrs. Pacienca J. Buendia retired. During her term three more branch libraries were added in barangays Damayan, Krus na Ligas, and Camp Aguinaldo.



**Mrs. Relinda A. Feliciano**  
**1985-1988**

The administration of Mayor Brigido Simon, Jr. (1986-1991) provided the whole building with air conditioning units making it more conducive to learning. Also, more than **one million** (1,000,000.00) **worth of books were purchased.**



**Mayor Brigido R. Simon Jr.**  
**1986-1992**

During his administration, three branch libraries were established the Lagro Library (1991), Barangay Damayan Branch Library (1989) and Krus na Ligas Library (1989). Unfortunately in January 1990, Barangay Damayan was closed to the public.

Upon the retirement of Mrs. Feliciano in 1988, her assistant Ms. Blaquita L. Del Barrio took over. During her term four (4) branch libraries were opened to the public. More activities and projects were intensified like book distribution, storytelling sessions, exhibits, declamation contest, etc.



**Ms. Blaquita L Del Barrio**  
**1988-1998**

Ms. Del Barrio organized the Friends of the Library in 1989. This group is composed of Civic Spirited Citizens and wives of City Councilors. They have been supporting the needs of the library financially and materially. Through this, the city library was able to acquire additional furniture and equipment such as electric fans, reading tables, chairs, books and computer for students in all levels and others. The FOL serves or as the Library Board.

When Ms. Del Barrio retired in December 1998, Mrs. Rosario R. Vicente took over. She was the City Librarian for two years and she had her compulsory at age 65 on November 2000.



**Mrs. Rosario R. Vicente**  
**1998-2001**

After two years, Mrs. Emelita L Villanueva became the City Librarian by virtue of Resolution NO. 1505 confirming her appointment as City Government Office Head of the Quezon City Public Library, which was adopted on January 23, 2001. She is an aggressive and the youngest City Librarian to assume the position.





**Mrs. Emelita L Villanueva**  
**2001-present**

The administration of Mayor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. (1992 to June 30, 2001) has been supportive to the needs of the Library. Funds for the purchase of books, vehicle, repair and other services for the library were approved and provided.



**Mayor Ismael A. Mathay Jr.**

**1992-2001**

On June 17, 1994, the existence of Public Libraries was improved thru the approval of RA # 7743, which is an “Act for the establishment of Congressional, City and Municipal libraries and Barangay reading centers throughout the Philippines, appropriating the necessary funds.”

On July 1, 2001, Hon Feliciano Belmonte, Jr. became the 10<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Quezon City by landslide votes of the Quezon City residents. It is in his administration that the Quezon City Public

Library undergone remarkable changes. The building that was untouched neither renovated nor enhanced, for the past 21 years was fully renovated in 2003. It was repainted, tiles were installed, lightings and ventilations were improved, and baggage counter was fabricated to ensure that clienteles' belongings are properly secured. It is during this period that the vision of the Quezon City Public Library was formally realized, providing library users with the latest technologies using Internet and multi- media facilities for easy access and retrieval of relevant information. From year 2001-2003, budget for books was given on a yearly basis amounting of 1M in 2002 and 1.5M in 2004, not to mention that aside from the approved budget, Mayor Belmonte set side additional funding for books from the Mayor's Office. Thus, for the 3 years of the Belmonte administration, the City Library has continuously updated its book collections by a total of 1089 volumes purchased. It was also during his administration that the vision of the Quezon City Public Library was fulfilled, which is "to provide the library users with facilities where they can use the latest technologies like internet and multi – media to enhance research and facilities information access and retrieval.



**Mayor Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr.**  
**2001-2010**

The Multi- Media Section was opened to the Public on March 26, 2004, with internet access and use of multi- media facilities. Ten (10) computer units were being used by the users for the internet and three (3) units were used for the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), which serves the bibliographic index for the library collections

Today, QCPL has now its own program/system, the Open Biblio, which has different modules like the OPAC, Circulation and Cataloguing modules, and also has its own website which contains information about the QCPL and its branches, and also about information and history of Quezon City.

Branch Libraries are also being developed and improved through the E-Library system, which eventually will also offer internet and multi-media services to the constituents in their respective Barangay.

In July 2008, Novaliches Branch Library was inaugurated. This building was through the initiative of Mayor Belmonte. It is one best infrastructure projects provided to the City Library during his term. It is a two-storey building with same services offered by the Main Library. This is the most modern branch library we have.

On September 15, 2008, QCPL received a letter from Atty. Antonio M. Santos, Director of the National Library and Chairman on the committee for the Search for 2008 Outstanding City Libraries of Metro Manila, requiring the QCPL to submit documents needed as one of the candidates. QCPL became one of the Most Outstanding Libraries in Metro Manila. The other two were the Pasig City Library and Marikina City Library.

In November 2008, ten (10) brand new flat-screened computers were provided by the City Government, replacing the old computers acquired in 2004. Early in the first quarter of 2009, another 38-new flat screened computer were received and were distributed to the different sections and branch libraries.

It was also in 2008 wherein QCPL underwent renovation. Part of the Building which gives way to the construction of the twin in city hall extension building was demolished, but an extension on the other side simultaneously constructed and was completed during the first two quarters of the year. It housed the Multi- media and Internet services and the Technical Services.

QCPL is now intensifying the E-Library project in congruent to Quezon City as Information Technology Capital of the Philippines.



**Mayor Herbert M Bautista**  
**2010-Present**

In October 2010, construction of the part 2 extension of the library building from the Sulu Hotel was finished. It was divided into four (4) rooms, the conference room, the Law Research, Binding and a Mini canteen.

The administration of Mayor Herbert M. Bautista in 2010 was another milestone in the history of the Quezon City Public Library. Library Infrastructures were proposed to house the District Libraries. More books and equipment were purchased and trainings and out of the country library tours and seminars were funded that will definitely upgrade and professionalize the skills and capacities of the Librarians.

In 2012, another site for the Q Public library located along the East Avenue in front of the QC Hall was constructed. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the building was supposed to be allocated for the library, but then there were changes of plans and was given to other offices.

In January 2014, a portion of the former space of the MIS was converted into a coffee shop named “Café@Lib”. It is a concept wherein a reader can read books or magazines over a cup of coffee. The mini conference room was utilized to be MIS section.

The Payatas Branch Library building, (formerly a Multi-Purpose Hall donated by Cong. Dante Liban) had undergone renovation.

On March 24, 2014, Ordinance No. 2291, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 3559, series of 1957, entitled “An Ordinance prescribing the power and duties of the City Librarian and superintendent; Quezon City, and promulgating rules and regulations for the operations thereof.” was enacted and approved by Mayor Herbert M. Bautista on June 23, 2014.

Said ordinance amended certain sections like the name of the Quezon City Public Library (QCPL) to Quezon City Public Library and Information Center (QCLIC); library card application, privileges, validity, fees and fines.

It was during the administration of Mayor Herbert M. Bautista that the Ordinance for the bookmobile through Councilor Onyx Crisologo was approved. It was turned over to the City Library on June 9, 2014.

Mayor Herbert Bautista also approved the renovation of the Project 7 Branch Library.

In 2016, the construction of the new three-storey state-of-the-art library building has started and was finished in 2017. It was later on inaugurated and blessed on February 6, 2017 with no other than Mayor Herbert Bautista who cut the ceremonial ribbon. It was attended by City Officials and Department Heads, librarians and other library partners.