

Jones Memorial Library

Posted by Jennifer Mays on July 21, 2022

Space and Physical Access

The Jones Memorial Library is a library that specializes in genealogy and local history. This library mainly focuses on the family history within the Central Virginia area. It also focuses on genealogical information throughout the state of Virginia as well as the surrounding states. The library is located on the second floor of the Lynchburg Public Library. The entrance to the library is at the corner of Lakeside Drive and Memorial Avenue in Lynchburg, Virginia. In order to enter the library, you have to take the elevator up to the second floor. Before entering the library, there are policies that need to be followed. These policies are shown on a sign next to the elevator, a sign outside of the library, and on the library website.

The library is small and cozy. The space is welcoming and has a historical air to it. The library consists of an open area with tables and chairs in which patrons can come and do research. There are also comfortable chairs in which to lounge. When you come into the library, there is a patron register on a table that patrons are to sign. It has pamphlets on it and has two comfortable chairs on either side of it. On one of the walls, there is a display of paintings. These paintings bring color and art into the room. These paintings depict the historical buildings and scenery of Virginia. There are some computers near the reference desk that patrons can use to research their family history. There are also machines used to look at old newspapers, microfilm, and other resources available for patrons to use.

There are offices on both sides of the library, for staff members only. At the back of the library, there is a room where most of the collections of books and pictures are stored to be accessed by staff only. If there is a picture or book that patrons need, the staff will go to the back room and collect it for them. Towards the back of the library are desks where the reference clerk works.



Library Policies (Jennifer Mays, 2022)



Sign outside of Jones Memorial Library (Jennifer Mays, 2022)

People

The Jones Memorial Library serves the public, no matter their race, gender, disabilities, and ethnicity. There are hardly any restrictions in who is allowed inside the library. The only restriction is that children under the age of 12 are not to enter the library unless prior arrangements have been made.

The staff of the Jones Memorial Library consist of middle aged and elderly male and female workers. The library staff are friendly toward patrons and are willing to help them. The reference clerk, an elderly gentleman, asked if I needed any help. While I was observing the library, he would bring up some polite conversation. He was a nice man who was willing to help others and converse with them. Otherwise, it was really quiet in the library.

I didn't see much diversity in the library. There weren't any diverse people in the library when I was there. There were only white men and women there. There weren't many people at the library when I was there. There were three patrons and at least three staff members. The reference clerk worked at his desk, occasionally going to one of the offices or to the back room. The female staff members were in their offices working at their computers.

Services and Intellectual Access

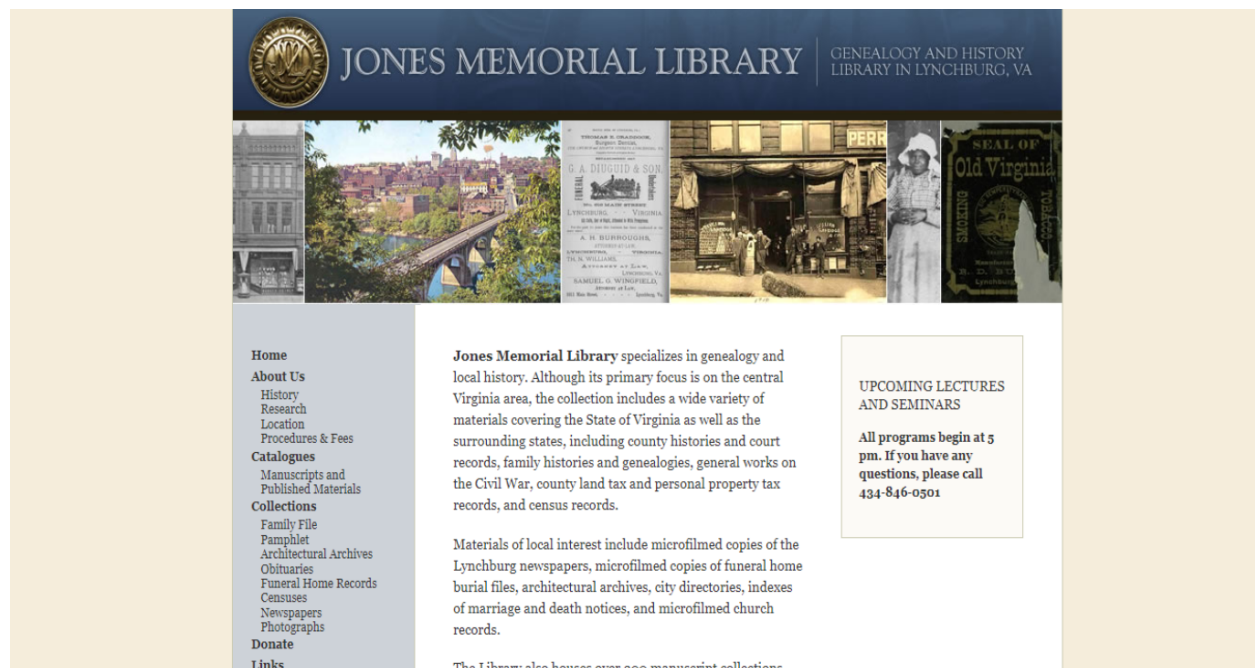
The library's catalog is available on their website through the "Manuscripts and Published Materials" link. There is signage by the pictures on the walls, the stained glass windows, and the books within the glass cases. There is also signage on the back door to inform patrons that it is off limits to them. I'm not completely sure how the library was organized. There are only limited resources available to the public. Most of the other resources were in the back room. The only ones available were reference books, newspapers, and microfilm. The newspapers were organized by the year and type of newspaper. The microfilm was organized based on the year and the reference books were organized by topic.

Digital Access

This is the link to the Jones Memorial Library website: [Jones Memorial Library \(jmlibrary.org\)](http://jmlibrary.org)

The library website is detailed and organized, which makes it easy to navigate.

On the left hand side of the website, there are several links that patrons can use to do research and gather information needed. Patrons will have access to information on the different collections that the library provides, information about the library, and how to contact the library. The link "Links and Additional Resources" gives the public links to local, state, and national websites that will help them find ways to do research on their genealogy. This link also provides the contact information of local researchers.



Jones Memorial Library website (Jones Memorial Library)

Collections

The library provides multiple collections. The collections include family files, pamphlets, architectural archives, obituaries, funeral home records, newspapers, censuses, and photographs. These resources are mostly available in the back room. The Jones Memorial Library also has reference books in which patrons can access and read. However, the resources are not to leave the library.



World War I books (Jennifer Mays, 2022)

Others

I liked my visit to the Jones Memorial Library. I have never been to this library, so it was interesting to see what it looked like and the services it provides. I liked the art work on the wall as well as the stained glass windows. I also liked how there are comfortable reading chairs for patrons to relax in. I'm glad that there is a genealogical library in which the public can go to do research on their family history. Genealogy is important in learning about our families and their histories and stories. I would like to learn how to use the machines the library has to look at newspapers, microfilm, and other resources.



Wall of Paintings (Jennifer Mays, 2022)



Study Area of Jones Memorial Library (Jennifer Mays, 2022)

References

Jones Memorial Library, n.d. *Jones Memorial Library*. [Jones Memorial Library \(jmlibrary.org\)](http://jmlibrary.org)

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