



CHRISTCHURCH CITY LIBRARIES – WE’VE COME A LONG WAY



The first public library established in Christchurch was Lyttelton library which opened in 1851. However as Lyttelton did not join the city network until 2006, we date the history of Christchurch City Libraries from 1859, with the beginnings of the Mechanics Institute in Christchurch.

By the early 1900s, there were a number of independent lending libraries throughout Christchurch, and many of them later became branches of Canterbury Public Library.

Neighbouring local authorities amalgamated in 1989 and in 2006. This resulted in the libraries joining the Christchurch City Libraries network. We’ve come a long way in 150 years!

