



# KEEPING TRACK

LIBRARIES WORK SO WELL PARTLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE DEVELOPED EFFICIENT WAYS OF KEEPING TRACK OF THEIR BOOKS AND THEIR BORROWERS.

When the Mechanics Institute first opened in 1859, all the books were listed in a catalogue that was printed each year. As the library grew, a card catalogue was developed and stored in large wooden cabinets. With the introduction of computers, the catalogue went online, making it easier to find a particular book and even to search from home.

In the early days, most of the books could not be borrowed. Those that could were issued by writing down the name of the book and the borrower's name. Membership cards were then given to each borrower and each book was allocated a card, so that names and titles could be matched and tracked. As library technology developed, new automated systems were adopted, making the issuing of books faster and more efficient. Today, customers can check online and see which books they have out and when they are due back at the library.

Find the library online at [christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://christchurchcitylibraries.com)

