



For more information

Erin Sullivan, Public Relations Administrator, Orange County Library System
sullivan.erin@ocls.info
407.835.7480

**One hundred years ago, a donation of 12,000 books planted a seed
that grew to be Orange County Library System**

(Orlando, Florida – October 27, 2021) The seeds for Orange County Library System (OCLS) were planted 100 years ago with a book donation from Captain Charles L. Albertson. The library is recognizing the 100th anniversary of his generosity by highlighting its related collection and collaborating on a commemorative beer.

OCLS collaborated with Ivanhoe Park Brewing Company on the creation of special release beer called Captain Albertson Ale. The release of the beer will be celebrated with a proclamation declaring Captain Albertson Week in the City of Orlando from Mayor Dyer. The release will occur at Ivanhoe Park Brewing Company, 1300 Alden Road in Ivanhoe Village on Wednesday, November 10 at 5 p.m. Captain Albertson Ale will be sold exclusively through the brewery, while supplies last. Proceeds from the beer sales will benefit the Friends of the Orange County Library System.

The library's digital collection includes many articles and photographs regarding Captain Albertson, including his typewritten autobiography, and handful of digitized volumes from his original collection. A catalog of the books and a few volumes from his collection will be on display at Orlando Public Library throughout November.

For more information on Captain Albertson and the recognition of the anniversary, customers can visit ocls.info/albertsonanniversary.

The History

Captain Charles L. Albertson (1856–1932) was a New York City police inspector who started wintering in Orlando in 1913. An avid collector of books, he had amassed 12,000 volumes. "I have thought frequently that my pleasure of book buying came very near being a disease," he wrote in his autobiography. "I felt when passing a second hand book store the same as the inebriate did when passing liquor store."

On November 10, 1921, Albertson offered his collection of books to the City of Orlando which did not have a library at the time. His generous offer came with provisos. The City had to build a new fireproof

library to house the collection. That library would be called Albertson Library which “shall be put in large letters over the front entrance.” And Capt. Albertson would serve as advisory superintendent for a period of one year without remuneration.

Just two days later, on November 12, Mayor Duckworth and City Commissioners unanimously agreed to Capt. Albertson’s terms. Albertson Public Library opened on November 9, 1923 on the corner of Rosalind Avenue and Central Boulevard. By the 1960s, the population of Orlando had outgrown the Albertson Public Library and the Brutalist structure you see today replaced it. Capt. Albertson is honored with a meeting room in his name which exists to this day.

From that gift 100 years ago, Orange County Library System was born. From 12,000 books and one building, our collection has grown to 1.7 million multimedia items and 15 locations.

About Orange County Library System

Orange County Library System is a public library system that operates 15 locations in Orange County, Florida. Its mission is to create a learning environment that fosters personal growth and development so that customers have opportunities to learn, explore and become the best that they can be. For more information about the Orange County Library system, visit ocls.info. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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