

in View of ...

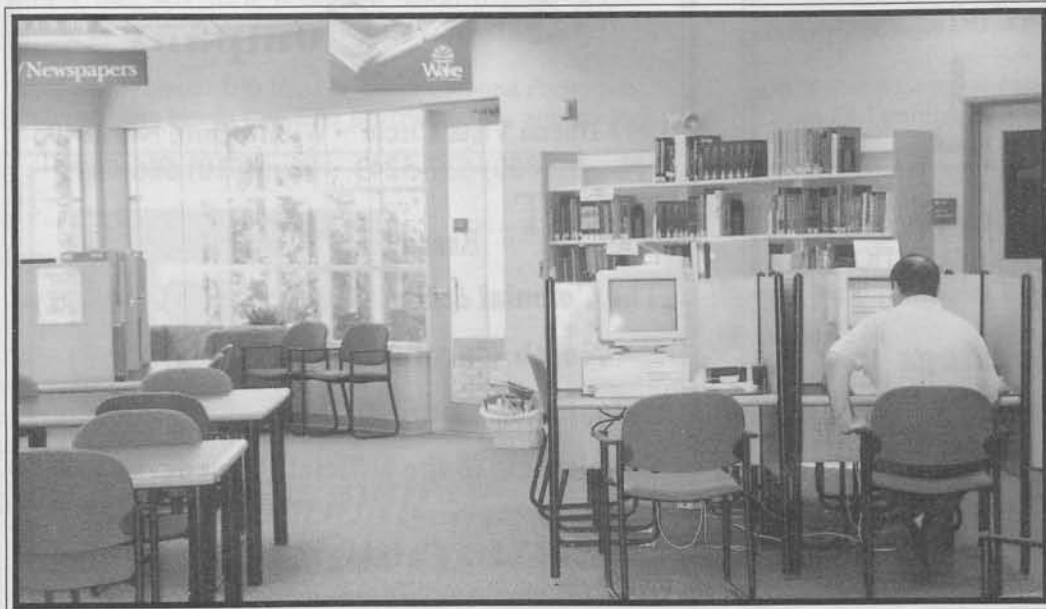
The Olivia Raney Local History Library

The Olivia Raney Library <<http://www.co.wake.nc.us/library/locations/orl/default.htm>>, was the first library to open in Wake County, in 1901. Located in downtown Raleigh, it was the gift of R. Beverly Raney as a memorial to his wife, Olivia Cowper Raney. It was relocated to its present site, in the Wake County Office Park, in 1996, and renamed the Olivia Raney Local History Library. The mission of the library is "to collect and preserve materials that tell the story of Wake County, North Carolina and surrounding areas. We specialize in local history and genealogy, also providing materials on N.C. history, U.S. history, African American history, the Revolutionary War and the Civil War."



The library affords adequate study areas and a pleasant setting for conducting genealogical and historical research. The Wake County Genealogical Society meets at the library monthly; in addition, library staff offer programs for schoolchildren and community groups.

Among the library's printed resources are old telephone books, yearbooks from Wake County schools, and Raleigh city directories. Sources on microfilm include census records from 1790; numerous Wake County documents, including marriage records, death certificates, tax lists, and court and estate records; and early Wake County newspapers. North Carolina Colonial and State Papers are available on microfiche. Vital records from many states, as well as from Ireland and Canada, and other documents of interest to genealogists are available on CD-ROM. Computers with Internet access have bookmarks to selected genealogical sites and university library catalogs.



If you have suggestions for photographs of library buildings or activities that could be shared with others through this column, please contact Joline Ezzell at (919) 660-5925 or joline.ezzell@duke.edu