

State Library Courses

Fall 2026

To register for courses, please follow the link below:

<https://showcase-5419032-a407.sites.kaltura.com/>

You must register for classes **using an individual email**. Our system will not allow for shared emails. Please cancel registration two weeks in advance to avoid being invoiced. Library systems will be invoiced the month following the class. Individuals doing self-pay must submit payment in advance before registration is approved. For more information, contact libdev@library.la.gov or call 225-342-4931.

In-Person Workshops

Fall Administrative Librarians' Conference

This is a day-long conference for administrators to explore solutions to problems in Louisiana's public library management. Conference will feature guest speakers and a roundtable to discuss emergent issues and changes in the library landscape.

Maximum class size: 100

Cost: \$75.00 per participant (breakfast/lunch provided)

Date/Time: Friday, October 2, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Main Library
7711 Goodwood Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

New Directors' Boot Camp

The New Directors' Boot Camp will be an intense, two-day workshop valuable to new directors and those needing a refresher course. Topics include library laws and governance, policies and procedures, planning, media basics, human resources and staffing, and facilities/building maintenance.

Maximum class size: 25

Cost: \$75.00 per participant (breakfast/lunch provided)

Date/Time: Thursday, August 20, and Friday, August 21, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: State Library of Louisiana
701 N 4th St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Online Webinars

Can it Canva?: More Than Just Social Media (New!)

Looking to revitalize signage or displays? Need an easier way to make handouts? Join us as we deep dive into the ways Canva can make your workload a little lighter.

Trainer: Brittany Whitfield, Library Development

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Children's Services Roundtable

Join fellow library staff for an informal roundtable focused on children's services. Held in September, this is a space to share ideas, ask questions, and talk through challenges related to programs, outreach, collections, and more. Whether you're new to the field or have years of experience, all are welcome to join the conversation.

Trainer: Addyson Smith, Library Development

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times: Thursday, September 24, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Confident Is Not the Same as Correct: Practical methods of evaluating AI-generated information (New!)

AI tools often sound confident and polished, but that's no guarantee they're right. This session gives public librarians practical ways to evaluate AI-generated content.

Trainer:, Giovanni Tairov, Deputy State Librarian

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Thursday, December 3, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

De-escalation & Conflict Management in Public Spaces (New!)

Difficult interactions can arise in any library setting. This webinar equips frontline library staff with practical strategies to recognize early signs of escalation, communicate effectively during challenging situations, and maintain professional boundaries. Participants will gain tools to reduce conflict, promote safety, and respond with confidence in public service environments.

Trainer:, Aaron Anderson, Licensed Master Social Worker

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Directors' Roundtable

Join fellow library administrators at this informal roundtable focused on all things library. Held on the second Thursday of each month, this is a chance to share ideas, ask questions, and discuss current highs and lows with peers. Link to be sent out through the Public Listserv.

Trainer: Kelly LaRocca, Associate State Librarian, and Giovanni Tairov, Deputy State Librarian

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times: Second Thursday of every month, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Do You Want to Build a Program? (New!)

From designing a program your community will enjoy, to giving your program a name or description, programming can be rough. This webinar will present tips and tricks for creating, implementing, and promoting programs at your library!

Trainer: Brittany Whitfield, Library Development

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Tuesday, December 1, 2026, 9:00 - 10:00am

E-Government: Family Resources

This webinar will help you assist your patrons in identifying online resources that benefit the growth, development, and well-being of children and young families.

Topics covered in this session are the following:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- The WIC Program
- Child Support Enforcement
- Housing Assistance
- Utility Assistance

Trainer: Kirsten Campbell, Louisiana Collection

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Exploring Gale Presents: Udemy – On-Demand Learning for Louisiana Libraries

This session introduces Gale Presents: Udemy, a powerful platform offering thousands of video-based courses in business, technology, personal development, and more. Learn how to navigate the interface, search for relevant content, and support patrons in accessing high-quality, self-paced learning.

Trainer: Tammi Burke, Cengage/ Gale

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times: Dates To Be Announced

Genealogy: Ancestry.com/Library Edition (New!)

Want to help your patrons discover their family history but not sure where to begin? Join us for an introductory webinar on Ancestry Library Edition, one of the most powerful genealogy research tools available through libraries. This beginner-friendly session will provide an overview of the platform's features and demonstrate how to search historical records, census data, military records, immigration documents, and more. Participants will learn basic search strategies, tips for evaluating records, and techniques for building a family history research plan.

Trainer: Samuel Ayers, Louisiana Collection

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Date/Time: Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Genealogy: Family Search (New!)

Ready to help your patrons discover their family history using one of the world's largest free genealogy resources? Join us for an introductory webinar on FamilySearch, a powerful platform that provides access to billions of historical records from around the globe. This beginner-friendly session will introduce participants to the website's key features, including searching historical records, building a family tree, accessing digitized collections, and utilizing research tools and resources. Attendees will learn effective search techniques, best practices for documenting family connections, and strategies for overcoming common genealogy research challenges.

Trainer: Samuel Ayers, Louisiana Collection

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Date/Time: Thursday, October 1, 2026, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Get Ready for iREAD 2027: Reading Expands Our Universe (Update!)

Join us for an re-introduction to iREAD, the summer reading program selected for Louisiana libraries! iREAD team members will introduce themselves, highlight the upcoming year's theme, and walk participants through accessing and downloading the summer reading manual.

Trainer: iREAD Team and Addyson Smith, Library Development

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times: Thursday, October 22, 2026, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

HomeworkLA taught by Tutor.com

These are webinars to demonstrate the many features of HomeworkLA, and anyone (educators, librarians, parents, councilors, etc.) may attend. The sessions will be recorded, and a link to the recording will be emailed to anyone who registers. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Trainer: Ashlenn Wellbrock, Tutor.com

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times: Wednesday, August 19, 2025, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

How to A.I.: A Brief Explanation (New!)

Does it feel like A.I. is popping up everywhere you look and you need a little help navigating? In this session, participants will review terminology, basic function, and possible problems in the use of generative AI.

Trainer: Reference Department

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Interview at the Reference Desk (New!)

Improve your aim in targeting the needs of your library (library's?) patrons. This session offers step-by-step guidance to help you conduct a good reference interview.

Trainer: Reference Department

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Let's Get LYRC-al! – What are the Louisiana Readers' Choice Awards? (3 sessions)

Learn all the ins and outs of the Louisiana Readers' Choice Awards Program and how you can get free promotional materials to best implement this program at your library or school.

Trainer: Jamie Hebert, Center for the Book

Cost: Free of charge

Date/Times:

Session A: Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Session B: Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Session C: Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Library Services for the Justice Involved

This webinar will discuss the foundations for understanding the carceral environment, carceral facilities in Louisiana, and the guidelines/constraints for carceral libraries. The presentation will provide suggestions for how to build relationships with local jail facilities.

Trainer: Michele Jones, Institutions

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Tuesday, December 8, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Louisiana Student Resources

This session will help you assist your patrons with ensuring their academic success.

Some of the topics covered in this session are the following:

- Academic preparation and testing
- Louisiana Education Loan Authority (LELA)
- Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Louisiana Education Loan Authority (LELA)

Trainer:, Kirsten Campbell, Louisiana Collection

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Basics for Frontline Library Staff (New!)

Have you ever wondered why a routine interaction suddenly becomes tense or emotionally charged? This webinar explores how stress, emotions, and mental health can influence behavior and communication in library settings. Through practical examples and interactive reflection, participants will gain tools to respond with confidence, reduce conflict, and foster positive patron experiences.

Trainer:, Aaron Anderson, Licensed Master Social Worker

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Millage Campaign Basics (New!)

Does your library have a millage that will be before the voters soon? Not sure where to start? Get an overview of millage elections in Louisiana, how to equip your team for the campaign, the do's and don'ts of messaging, and tips for reaching as many voters as possible.

Trainer:, Kelly LaRocca, Associate State Librarian

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Thursday, October 8, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Partnerships that Work: Building Sustainable School and Community Connections Through Public Library Outreach (New!)

Strong partnerships between public libraries and schools do not happen by accident—they are built through intentional outreach, consistent communication, and a shared commitment to student success. This webinar explores how public libraries can move beyond one-time visits and create meaningful, long-term collaborations that benefit students, educators, families, and communities. Participants will learn strategies for initiating partnerships, building trust with educators and administrators, and developing sustainable outreach practices that strengthen existing relationships and create new opportunities for impact.

Trainer: Angela Greer, Children’s Service Coordinator, Ouachita Parish Public Library

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times: Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Showcase Your Library - Using the State Annual report and your library's statistics to showcase your library (Updates!)

Does your library have a millage that will be before the voters soon? Not sure where to start? Get an overview of millage elections in Louisiana, how to equip your team for the campaign, the do’s and don’ts of messaging, and tips for reaching as many voters as possible.

Trainer: Kelly LaRocca, Associate State Librarian

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

Dates/Times: Thursday, August 27, 2026. 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Social Innovation in Libraries (New!)

This session explores how libraries harness their role as civic connectors to creatively and inclusively address community challenges. This session will highlight key types of social innovation in libraries, including participation, outreach, partnership, learning, and creative making. Participants will explore foundational principles of social innovation, strategies for communicating (“selling”) the concept within their organizations, and share their own innovative practices.

Trainer: Jessica Styons, Guest Presenter, Director of Jefferson Parish Library

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times: Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Talking Books and Braille Library

Do you think your patrons might benefit from the Talking Books and Braille Library? This free webinar will explain the services that the State Library provides to blind and physically handicapped at no cost to users. Join us for more information about how to register patrons.

Trainer: David Rainey, TBBL

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times: Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Teen Services Roundtable

Connect with fellow library staff at this informal roundtable focused on teen services. Held in October, this is a chance to share ideas, ask questions, and discuss topics such as programs, outreach, collections, and more. Whether you're just getting started or have years of experience, all are welcome to be part of the conversation.

Trainer: Addyson Smith, Library Development

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times: Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Youth Summer Reading Program Roundtable

Join library staff for a roundtable focused on this year's youth summer reading program. For this meeting, we'll go over all things 2026 Summer Reading, sharing highs and lows, and looking ahead as we transition to the new summer reading theme for 2027, "Reading Expands Our Universe."

Trainer: Addyson Smith, Library Development

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times: Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

2026 Louisiana Book Festival Preview (New!)

Join us for a look at what's to come for the 22nd Louisiana Book Festival. Both sessions will include general information, tips to plan your day, and ways to become more involved. The adult session will highlight the Louisiana Writer Award recipient, the State Poet Laureate program, cooking demonstrations, and a sneak peek at our featured authors. The youth session will cover the Louisiana Readers' Choice Award ceremony, planned activities for the Young Readers Pavillion and Teen HQ, costume characters, and a sneak peek at our featured children's, middle grade, and YA authors.

Trainer: Jamie Hebert, Center for the Book

Cost: Free of charge

Dates/Times:

Adult Session: Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 9:00 - 10:00am

Youth Session: Thursday, September 3, 2026, 9:00 - 10:00am

Library Support Staff Certification

Registration for Library Support Staff Certification courses is limited to one course per person per semester. Please be aware that each course is 11 weeks and contain assignments to be completed outside of class time and will conclude with a final exam. All classes are limited to 15 participants and require a passing grade for completion certificate.

LSSC Communication and Teamwork (10-Week Series Online)

This course introduces the basics of interpersonal relations, communication, and teamwork. Emphasis is on providing excellence in customer service and effective communication in real life library situations. The course will consist of 9 weekly webinars with homework assignments, readings, a team project, and a final exam on week 10. This meets the requirements for LSSCP certification and is a core course.

Trainer: Michele Jones and Brittany Whitfield, Library Development

Cost: \$200.00 per participant for Louisiana public library staff | \$300.00 for others

Dates/Times:

Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 7, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

*Review and Final exam will be held together on Tuesday, October 13, 2026

LSSC Supervision and Management (11-Week Series Online)

This course will focus on supervision and management themes, including personnel employment laws, staff development planning, policies and procedures, short and long-range planning, managing interpersonal relationships, staff evaluation, basic marketing concepts, budgeting, and team building. There will be assignments and opportunities for interaction. This course may be taken in conjunction with LSSC or as a standalone.

Trainer: Kelly LaRocca, Associate State Librarian, and Giovanni Tairov, Deputy State Librarian

Cost: \$200.00 per participant for Louisiana public library staff | \$300.00 for others

Dates/Times:

Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

*Final exam will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2026

LSSC Introduction to Library Technology (11-Week Series Online)

This course introduces the basics of library technology. General technology concepts will be explained in relation to their use and applicability to the library field. The course will consist of 10 weekly webinars with homework assignments, readings, a project, and a final exam. This fulfills a required competency for the LSSC program, although anyone can take the course. All activities will be online. It is required that the students have basic computer skills including the ability to use email, search the Web, save a file, open a file, attach a file, use MS Word, and search a library catalog.

Trainer: Riley Bordelon & Kasandra Woods, Information Technology

Maximum class size: 15

Cost: \$200.00 per participant for Louisiana public library staff | \$300.00 for others

Dates/Times:

Thursday, September 24, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 1, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 8, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 15, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 22, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 5, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 12, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 19, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 3, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 10, 2026, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

* Final exam will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2026

Save the Date!

Adult Summer Reading Program

This workshop will review next year's theme, "Reading Expands Our Universe", and will cover a variety of programming, promotion, and SRP tracking ideas that can be applied to your library's summer reading. Light breakfast and snacks will be provided.

Trainer: Brittany Whitfield, Library Development

Cost: \$25.00 per participant

Date/Time:

Thursday, February 11, 2027, 9:00am - 12:30pm – South Louisiana

Tuesday, February 16, 2027, 9:00am - 12:30pm – Central Louisiana

Thursday, February 18, 2027, 9:00am - 12:30pm – North Louisiana

Youth Summer Reading Program

This workshop is for library staff who conduct summer reading for children and teens. Next year's theme will be "Reading Expands Our Universe". The session will cover preparation for summer reading, story times, performers, crafts, practical program ideas, decorations, and community partnerships. Participants will leave inspired and prepared to conduct their own summer reading programs.

Trainer: Addyson Smith, Library Development

Cost: \$45.00 per participant

Date/Time:

Tuesday, January 19, 2027, 9:00am – 3:30pm – South Louisiana

Thursday, January 21, 2027, 9:00am – 3:30pm – South Louisiana

Tuesday, January 26, 2027, 9:00am – 3:30pm – Central Louisiana

Thursday, January 28, 2027, 9:00am – 3:30pm – Central Louisiana

Tuesday, February 2, 2027, 9:00am – 3:30pm – North Louisiana

Thursday, February 4, 2027, 9:00am – 3:30pm – North Louisiana

Staff Day 2026 (Now in April!)

This event allows the opportunity to participate in a variety of trainings reflective of current library trends while also giving staff the chance to network, share, and learn with peers from across the state. Agenda to be released in early March. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Cost: \$45.00 per participant

Dates/Times:

Tuesday, April 6, 2027, 9:00am – 3:30pm – South/ Central

Thursday, April 8, 2027, 9:00am – 3:30pm – North/ Central

Tech Fest 2026

The new year of Tech Fest is here! Tech Fests past have featured keynote speakers on malware, phishing, security issues, securing networks, networking, hardware, software, and the adoption of new technologies for public libraries. Discussions include consultations with experts in the field, as well as the experiences of library IT staff. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Cost: \$45.00 per participant

Dates/Time: Friday, May 7, 2027, 9:00am – 3:30pm – State Library (Baton Rouge)