

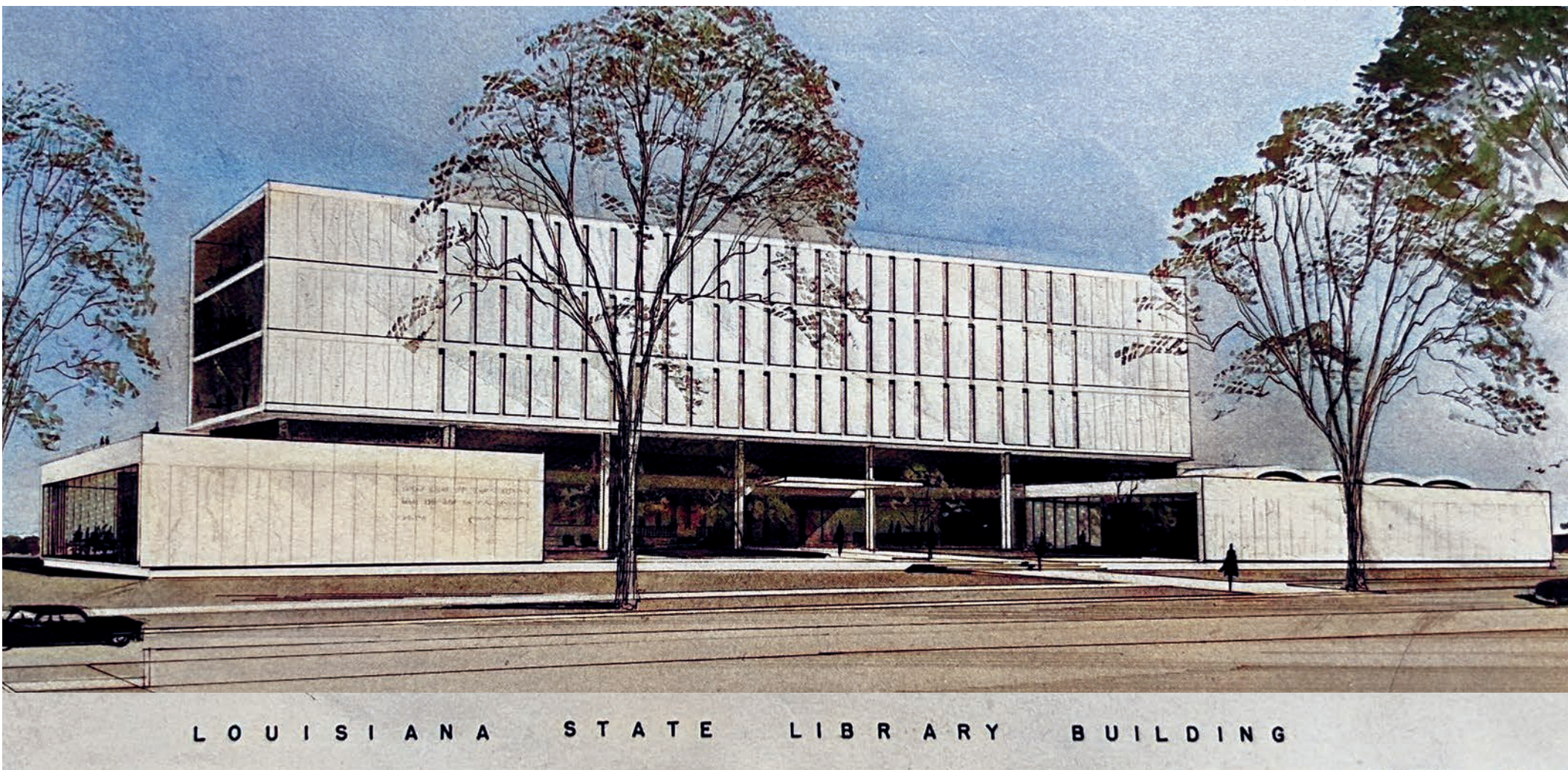


A GUIDE TO SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC, PUBLIC LIBRARIES & STATE AGENCIES





COURTESY EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY



L O U I S I A N A S T A T E L I B R A R Y B U I L D I N G

THE STATE LIBRARY has had four homes since it began operating almost a century ago: the Old State Capitol (1925-1931), the 18th floor of current State Capitol (1931-1940), Hill Memorial Library across from the Capitol (1940-1956), and the current building, which opened in 1958 on the same site as Hill Memorial and underwent a major renovation and expansion in 1999.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

The State Library of Louisiana began operating on Nov. 1, 1925. That's when the Louisiana Library Commission, as it was known at the time, began the work of helping to set up parish libraries around the state. There were just five at the time.

Louisiana now boasts 68 parish and municipal library systems, with 334 locations and 29 bookmobiles, and the State Library's role has changed as the number of libraries grew.

We are still a support system, offering consulting services and training, but there's so much more.

Members of the public, state employees, and lawmakers ask thousands of questions every year that our reference librarians answer.

Since 1998, we have hosted the Louisiana Library Connection, a collection of free electronic databases that are used millions of times a year.

No single library can have all the materials patrons will want. LoanSHARK, our interlibrary loan system, allows borrowing and lending among libraries across the globe. If it's in print, we can get it.

More than 6,000 people, who can't easily read standard printed material due to a visual impairment or physical disability, use our Talking Books and Braille Library.

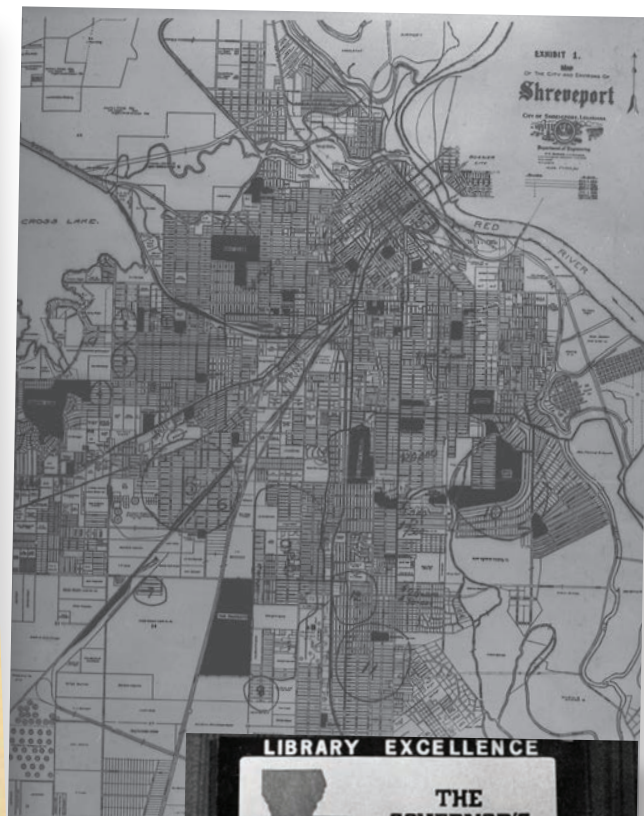
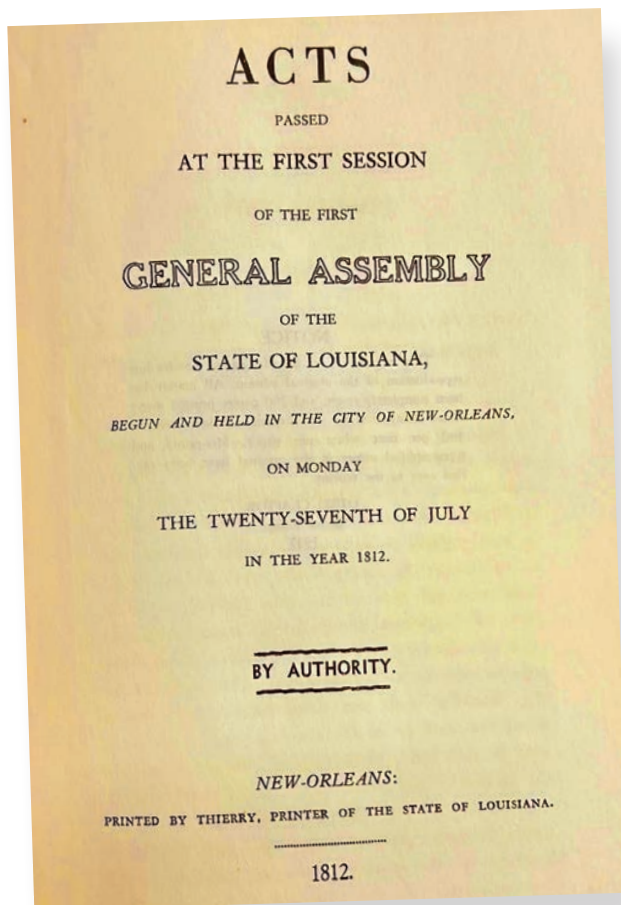
The Louisiana Center for the Book works to improve literacy through the Summer Reading Program and Louisiana Readers' Choice Awards. The Center also organizes the Louisiana Book Festival, held every fall at the State Library, State Capitol, State Museum, and surrounding Capitol Park area.

Those are just some of the services your State Library provides. We hope you'll explore the following pages to learn more.

Meg Placke
Assistant Secretary/State Librarian



ITEMS IN THE LOUISIANA COLLECTION include historic maps, photographs, and documents that tell the story of the state from its founding to today. Scan the QR code below to learn more about the Louisiana Collection.



STATE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

The State Library has a collection of more than 1 million items. Some of the more fascinating materials are housed in the Louisiana Collection.

LOUISIANA COLLECTION

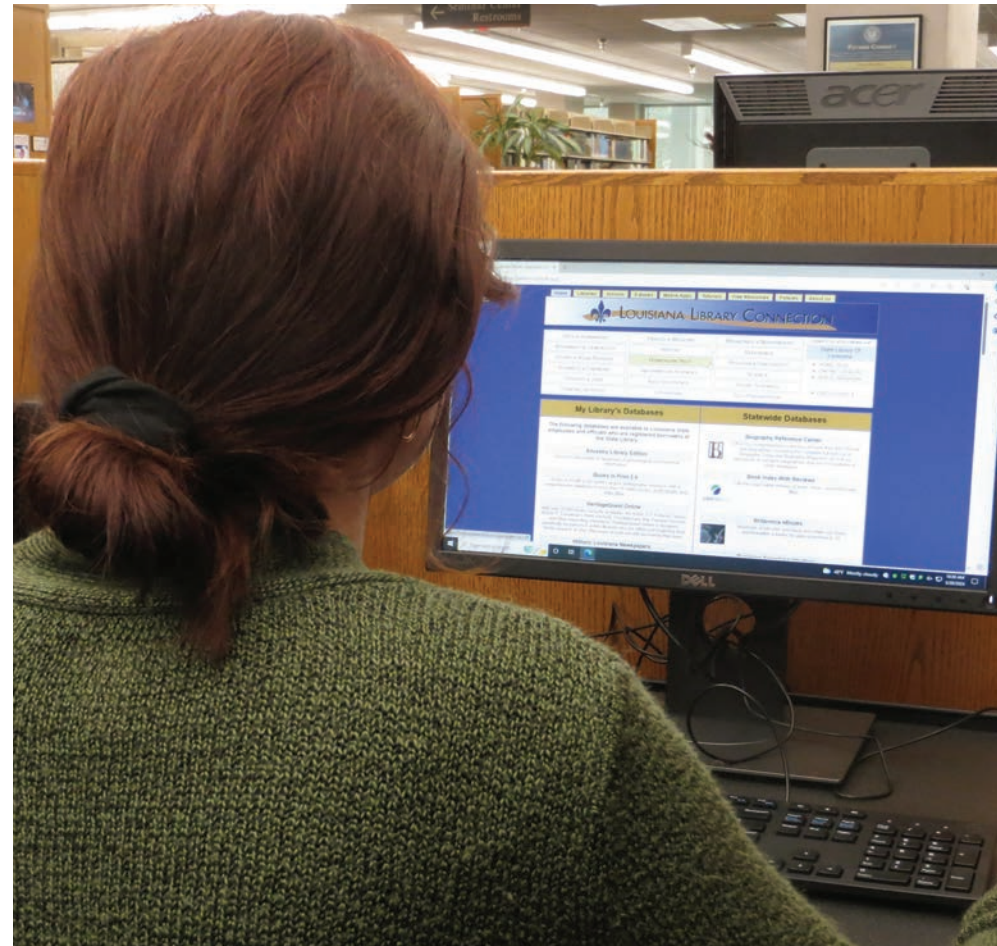
The Louisiana Collection includes publications related to the state and books by Louisiana authors. It also houses historic and current legal and legislative documents, as well as other state publications that are collected by the Recorder of Documents.

For people interested in local history or genealogy, the Louisiana Collection has newspaper clippings from the 1920s to today. Newspapers as far back as the 1800s are available on microfilm as well as on electronic databases. There is also

a collection of genealogy books and journals and historic city directories.

Historic maps, including those from Colonial times, detail the growth of Louisiana. Works Progress Administration files offer similarly fascinating glimpses into the state's history.

Louisiana Collection staff members have scanned 22,344 historic photographs and documents. While available to view in person, many of those photos and documents are available to the public through the Louisiana Digital Library (LouisianaDigitalLibrary.org).



LOUISIANA LIBRARY CONNECTION DATABASES are among the free services that the State Library makes available to public libraries and their patrons.

STATEWIDE SERVICES

Many of the services public libraries provide are made possible by the State Library, leading to significant savings for taxpayers.

LOUISIANA LIBRARY CONNECTION

The Louisiana Library Connection (lalibcon.state.lib.la.us) is a collection of electronic databases that are free to anyone with a card from one of the state's 68 public library systems.

The databases include job preparation materials, newspapers, language-learning tools, research materials, legal resources, and more. The Louisiana Library Connection databases were accessed more than 13 million times in 2022.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

No single library can have all the materials patrons will want. The State Library's interlibrary loan system can help with that. Known as LoanSHARK, the service lets public libraries borrow materials from other libraries, whether across the state or around the world. This program allowed borrowing and lending among libraries more than 132,000 times in 2022.

HOMWORK LOUISIANA

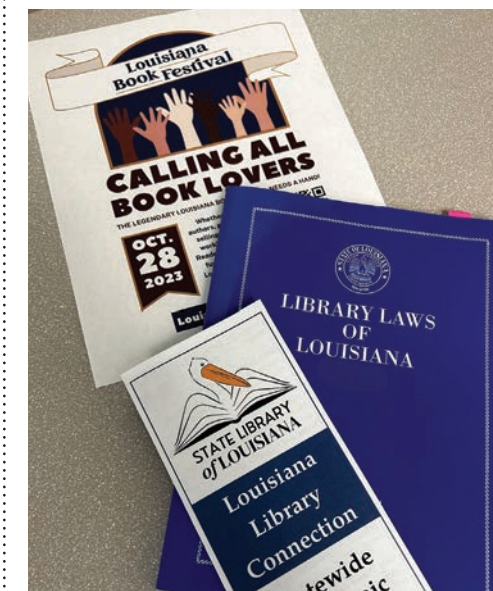
HomeworkLa.org, a free service, provides live online tutoring in math, science, social studies and English for students from kindergarten to college whether at home or a library. An adult Skills Center offers help in resume writing and interview practice. Tutoring in Vietnamese is available, as are Spanish-speaking tutors. People across the state accessed Homework Louisiana almost 60,000 times in 2022.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

The State Library provides various consultative services and training to public and institutional libraries across Louisiana.

CONSULTING AND I.T. ASSISTANCE

Consultants from the Library Development Division regularly visit public libraries and advise directors, staff, and trustees on planning, programs, services, and more. The State Library's consultants also help libraries apply for discounts for internet service and host hundreds of training sessions every year. The Information Technology staff manages the State Library's technology and provides that same assistance to libraries. The I.T. department also regularly hosts computer training seminars.



COMMUNICATIONS

The communications department manages public relations and social media for the State Library and Louisiana Book Festival. In addition to contributing to the State Library's website, the staff produces various publications and promotional materials. Help with similar efforts is available to public libraries.

LOUISIANA WRITER AWARD

Among the highlights of the Louisiana Book Festival is the presentation of the Louisiana Writer Award.

The award has been given annually for 25 years by the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana to recognize the extraordinary contributions to the state's literary heritage exemplified by the artist's body of work.

The presentation of the award serves as the opening ceremony of the book festival.

Past recipients are

- 2000** Ernest J. Gaines
- 2001** William J. Smith
- 2002** James Lee Burke
- 2003** Carl Brasseaux
- 2004** Shirley Ann Grau
- 2005** Lewis P. Simpson
- 2006** Elmore Leonard
- 2007** Yusef Komunyakaa
- 2008** William Joyce
- 2009** Tim Gautreaux
- 2010** Valerie Martin
- 2011** James Wilcox
- 2012** John Biguenet
- 2013** Christine Wiltz
- 2014** Darrell Bourque
- 2015** Tom Piazza
- 2016** Christina Vella
- 2017** Johnette Downing
- 2018** Sheryl St. Germain
- 2019** Richard Campanella
- 2020** John M. Barry
- 2021** Fatima Shaik
- 2022** David Armand
- 2023** Maurice Carlos Ruffin
- 2024** David Kirby



THE LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL is the marquee event of the Louisiana Center for the Book and State Library. Almost 200 authors and presenters participate in the annual celebration of readers, writers and their books.

LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL

A fan favorite on the fall calendar, the Louisiana Book Festival has been the state's flagship book festival for two decades.

Since its debut in 2002, the Louisiana Book Festival has attracted thousands of authors, poets, panelists, chefs, musicians, and storytellers to become a major literary event in the state. It is also recognized as one of the premiere book festivals in the country.

More than 200 authors and presenters take part in the free daylong festival, which is held in the Louisiana State Capitol, State Museum, State Library, and the

surrounding Capitol Park.

Some of the participating authors are homegrown. Others have name recognition on a national level.

Among those who have participated are Rick Bragg, Donna Brazile, Ernest J. Gaines, Elmore Leonard, and Cokie Roberts.

WORDSHOPS

WordShops are held the day before the festival. These work shops allow festival attendees to devel-

op their writing skills one-on-one with authors. In recent years, WordShop work shops have focused on topics including narrative non-fiction writing, flash fiction, how to craft compelling long-form fiction, and how elements of fiction can be used in poetry.

ONE BOOK, ONE FESTIVAL

Another fest favorite is the One Book, One Festival discussion group. Begun in 2008, the goal is to have participants read the same book in advance and then join a scholar-led discussion with others at the festival. Each book has a tie to Louisiana.

Among the books that have been featured before are Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men*, Ernest Gaines's *A Gathering of Old Men*, Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and John Kennedy Toole's *A Confederacy of Dunces*.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

The Louisiana Book Festival features dozens of children and young adults authors. A Young Readers Pavillion and Teen HQ are also set up in and around the State Library for presentations and activities.

Visit LouisianaBookFestival.org to learn more.

YOUTH SERVICES CONSULTANT MEGAN THOMAS conducts Summer Reading Program training at the State Library.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

The State Library has several programs to increase literacy and instill a love of reading in young people.

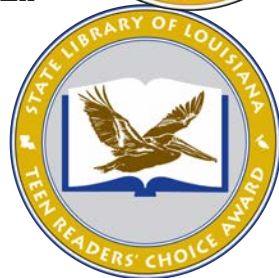
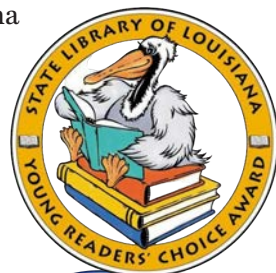
Each year, about 90,000 children and teens participate in the statewide Summer Reading Program and the Teen Reading Program. State Library consultants offer training for the programs.

More than 13,000 students read 46,275 books and voted for their fa-

vorites in 2022 through the Louisiana Readers' Choice Awards Program. The State Library also offers training and support for public library services to young people.

Homework Louisiana (Home-workLa.org) offers free tutoring in math, science, social studies, and English from live, qualified tutors.

Crib to Crayons is an early-literacy program available through the Talking Books and Braille Library. It helps parents work with their visually-impaired or blind children to develop skills essential for reading success.



LOUISIANA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

Established in 1994, the Center is the state affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Its goal is to stimulate public interest in reading, books and libraries.

The Louisiana Center for the Book's main program is the annual Louisiana Book Festival. The Center also participates in the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., selecting books to represent Louisiana.



CARLA HAYDEN, THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS (third from left), visits the Louisiana Center for the Book's table at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., in August 2023.

The Center presents the Louisiana Writer Award to a living Louisiana writer whose work represents a distinguished contribution to the state's literary heritage.

It also hosts a National Poetry Month reading, presented in partnership with

the state Poet Laureate, and Black History Month and Women's History Month programs.

The Center also supports the Summer Reading Program. The authors of winning books are honored at the Louisiana Book Festival.



SERVICES FOR STATE AGENCIES & EMPLOYEES

While anyone may visit the State Library to do research, or use the internet, the main patrons are state employees and lawmakers.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Technical Services Department is responsible for adding items to the collection and getting them ready for patrons to borrow. If it's on the shelves, Technical Services staff have received it and cataloged it to make it easy for patrons to find.

RESEARCH HELP

The State Library directly assists patrons by providing research assistance and answers to questions, conducting in-depth research for state employees, officials and Louisiana public and institutional libraries.

RECORDER OF DOCUMENTS

The Recorder of Documents oversees the Louisiana State Documents Depository Program. Through this program, state government documents are made available to the public by distributing them to designated depository libraries. Archives of digital-only state publications are available through our online catalog.

INTERNET ACCESS

Visitors may use one of more than 15 computers with Internet access. Wireless access is available in most areas in and around the State Library.



RECORDER OF DOCUMENTS ERIC CARTIER (far left) and Documents Specialist Wendy Bourg prepare a shipment of state documents that will go to a depository library. Shontate Jackson (center) prepares books to be sent out through the Interlibrary Loan program. Errin Levingston (bottom) head of the Reference Department, and Reference Librarian Brittany Russell are among those who can provide research assistance.





TALKING BOOKS AND BRAILLE LIBRARY SPECIALIST GORDON LOYD prepares to place cartridges of audiobooks in the stacks after patrons returned them to the State Library. **RIGHT:** Participants in Project COPE, which helps elderly residents with vision problems live independently, tour TBBL and meet with their reader advisors.

TALKING BOOKS & BRAILLE LIBRARY

The State Library offers specialized services to Louisiana residents of all ages who are visually impaired, legally blind, have reading disabilities, or are unable to handle traditional books through a special library-within-a-library.

An affiliate of the Library of Congress's National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, the Talking Books and Braille Library provides access to more than 164,000 audio and braille books, 25,000 large-print books, and playback machines to anyone with permanent or temporary disabilities.

Reader advisors help patrons select materials. An online catalog is also available. Additionally, TBBL dedicates a staff member to serve children up to age 18, allowing them to participate in statewide summer reading programs. The Crib to Crayon program helps parents work with their blind or visually-impaired children to develop reading skills.

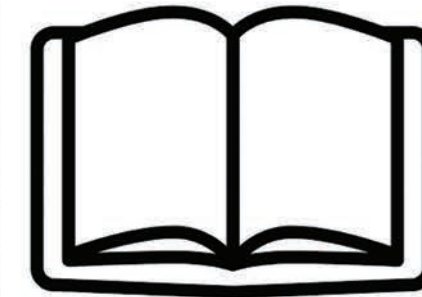


BY THE NUMBERS

There is little doubt that Louisianans love their local libraries.



9.2 MILLION
library visits



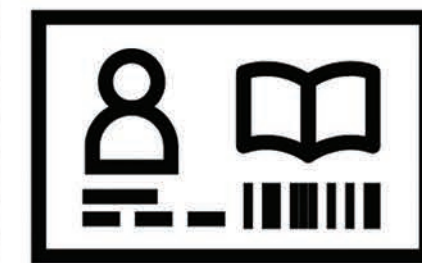
Items checked out
46.8 MILLION TIMES



68 PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS
334 locations, 29 bookmobiles



Computers used
1.8 MILLION TIMES



2.4 MILLION
library cards
(About 54% of the state's population)



2.5 MILLION
Reference questions answered

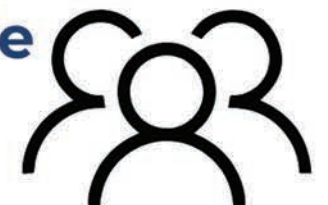


4.7 MILLION
Wi-Fi sessions



Databases accessed
26 million times

2.1 million people
attended about
75,000 events



SOURCE: 2022 Public Libraries in Louisiana: Statistical Report



STATE LIBRARY
of **LOUISIANA**

WWW.STATE.LIB.LA.US

7 0 1 N . F O U R T H S T .
B A T O N R O U G E , L A . 7 0 8 0 2
(2 2 5) 3 4 2 - 4 9 1 3

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM

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