Louisiana Libraries
Committed to the Future of Our State
The story of Louisiana libraries is ultimately the story of people.
Libraries have been called “the great equalizer in society.”
Libraries are the “cradle to the grave” institution.
The purpose of the library is to enlighten, educate, and open up new worlds to Louisianans - young, old, black, white, and brown, rich, poor, or in-between, rural or city dweller.
All have free access to local library services.
Libraries support . . .

• the small business man who needs information;
• the mother who needs parenting resources;
• the young student needing help with researching for a school report;
• the senior citizen who needs to learn basic computer and Internet skills.
Libraries support. . .

- the jobless person who needs to search online for job postings;
- the scholar who needs access to expensive journals in his field that only a specialized library can provide;
- the retiree who loves to read and discussing books with other book lovers.
The list never ends because every day a new library user appears with a unique need.

Libraries welcome and help each one.
Americans go to school, public and academic libraries nearly three times more often than they go to the movies.
So many people in Louisiana, so many ways libraries are there to help them …. Like a good cup of coffee, there is no substitute for a good library just when you need it.
Reading & Literacy
Read Across America at the Library!
Free, entertaining and educational programs are offered year round for citizens of all ages at Louisiana's public libraries, such as this free puppet show as part of the summer reading kickoff celebration.
Summer reading clubs help support crucial reading skills and create life-long learners.
Manga Club members create their own comics to display in the school library.
A Fun Way to Read!
Students read independently after selecting favorite books at the school library.

Students enjoy reading in their school library’s Literacy Garden.
Celebrating Reading and Favorite Books in the Library!

Fancy Nancy and Clifford the Big Red Dog visit the library.
Therapy dogs visit the library to share reading time.
Students vote for their favorite books on the Louisiana Young Readers’ Choice booklist.
A library staff member shows a patron the various formats for use by those who are blind or visually impaired.
A library’s video magnifier provides assistive technology products for visually impaired library patrons.
Education & Lifelong Learning
Academic librarians answer 56.1 million reference questions each year.
Academic libraries provide authoritative online resources and professional texts and journals for students.
Law students learn about the unique materials in the library.
A librarian shows college students a rare book from the Special Collections Department.
A university library’s coffee shop offers a relaxed atmosphere for individual and group study.
Students go on a field trip to the public library to learn about available resources.
Public and school libraries partner to bring students into the public library for training in using the online catalog and databases for their assignments.
A resident displaced by Hurricane Katrina used the public library’s resources to successfully complete an online degree to start a new life for herself and her family.
A Boy Scout troop visits a local academic library to learn about their resources.

Girls Scouts visit the public library’s bookmobile to check out books.
Tweens and teens enjoy computer offerings at their public libraries.
Online research databases provide reliable sources of information for students.
Students make 1.5 billion visits to school library media centers during the school year—this is 140 million more than attendances made to movie theatres in 2008.
Community Engagement and Outreach
A public library’s Open House promoting the digital services available online 24/7 was attended by over 475 people.
A Teen Advisory Board meets to plan library activities for other teens in the community.
Teens participate in Open Mike Night at the public library.
Residents attend a Health Fair at their local public library.
Seniors learn computer skills at a public library’s technology workshop.
Public libraries offer meeting rooms to local groups in towns still recovering from hurricane damage.
Santa arrives at the public library to visit families displaced by Hurricane Katrina.
University students learn how to create oral histories.
Local residents visit the rare books collection at their university library.
A College Library Club sponsors the Toys for Tots Drive
Family Literacy
Families participate in a Bilingual Family Literacy program.
Prime Time Family Reading funded by a LEH Grant promotes family literacy.
Multi-Generation Family Literacy Night at the Public Library
Building 21st Century Skills
Students use the library’s resources to develop important thinking skills, such as brainstorming, problem solving and critical thinking.
As U.S. schools and students strive to remain competitive in the global economy, smart integration of technology in the classroom grows increasingly critical.

Classrooms include school libraries!
Students interview a holocaust survivor via Skype in the library.
High school students share favorite picture books with elementary students at another school via Skype.
Students learn to communicate new knowledge in innovative ways.
Previewing Books for Summer Reading with QR Codes
Local & State Issues & Interests
Public libraries are the number one point of online access for the 43% of people in Louisiana without Internet connections at home, school or work.
Public libraries were true information centers in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
“Louisiana’s cities, like cities across America, include many residents who cannot afford Internet service, even when the technical capacity for such services is already in place in their neighborhoods. That’s why offering free Internet service at local libraries is so important.”

Citizens gather at their local library to hear a presentation about the importance of the railroad in their community.
Because Hurricanes Rita and Ike destroyed most of the parish, teens don't have a place for activities. This library's meeting room is used for a fishing sports meeting teaching youth, not only how to fish, but encourages learning about the environment and coastal erosion. This program gives the youth something to do while learning about issues they will soon face, as well as everyone else on the Gulf Coast.
The library staff in a Special Collections Department helped other libraries affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita salvage and preserve their collections that were damaged in the storms.
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