

# CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

900 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[library.ca.gov](http://library.ca.gov)

## Table of Contents

Message from the State Librarian .....	4
What We Do.....	5
2019 By the Numbers .....	6
Mission .....	7
History.....	7
Services for California Public Libraries.....	8
Programs for Children and Families.....	9
Early Learning and Out-of-School Time .....	9
Early Learning with Families .....	9
Reimagining School Readiness.....	10
Lunch at the Library .....	10
Supporting Literacy and Workforce Readiness.....	11
Library Literacy Services.....	11
Career Online High School .....	11
Working Scholars .....	12
Services for State Government Officials and Employees .....	13
California Research Bureau.....	13
Witkin State Law Library .....	13
Information Services .....	14
Promoting Good Governance .....	15
California Grants Portal.....	15
CA.GOV Archive .....	15
Government Publications .....	15
Digitally Empowering All Californians.....	17
California’s K-12 Online Content Project .....	17
High-Speed Broadband Project.....	17
Ensuring Equitable Access.....	19
Braille and Talking Book Library.....	19
Braille Institute Library.....	19

Veterans Connect at the Library .....	19
Seguimos Creando Enlaces .....	20
Preserving California’s Cultural Heritage .....	21
Google Arts & Culture .....	21
California Revealed .....	21
California History .....	21
Sutro Library.....	22
Preservation & Exhibits.....	22

## Message from the State Librarian

Age is just a number.

The California State Library may have just turned 170 but we aren't your typical 170-year-old. In fact, the state's oldest cultural heritage agency is more innovative, creative and dynamic than ever.

From bringing high-speed broadband to libraries across California to placing virtual reality stations in the state's least resourced communities, the State Library is finding new ways to connect the people, libraries and government of California to the information and tools they need to succeed in the 21st century.

In a big step toward "California For All," the State Library is providing the state's 6.2 million K-12 public school students with access to online databases like Encyclopedia Britannica. By the end of the 2018-2019 school year, the program's first year, online research tools were available to 86 percent of those students.

The State Library continues to promote innovation at California's 1,124 public library branches through programs supporting early childhood learning, family literacy and workforce readiness.

Our touchstones are accessibility and transparency. In 2019, the State Library implemented a state-of-the-art, cloud-based library management system and electronic library cards, allowing state employees to access our resources at any time, from any device — including mobile tablets and smartphones.

Of course, all of this innovation doesn't mean we've forgotten our past. A key focus of the State Library is our continued work to collect, preserve and share our rich and uniquely diverse cultural heritage with all Californians. Our latest project on this front is CAL@170, a collection of 170 stories that help define California in celebration of the 170th anniversary of statehood.

As we step into the new decade, the State Library will keep seeking more impactful ways to fulfill our mission of meeting California's information needs, preserving our unique history and supporting libraries in this dynamic and diverse state.

Like California itself, we're only getting better with age.

Respectfully yours,

Greg Lucas, State Library

## What We Do

The California State Library serves the state of California by:

- Supporting transparency and accountability in government by preserving and ensuring access to California state government publications, federal government information and patent and trademark resources.
- Investing more than \$33 million in state and federal funding each year to support local libraries, including early education initiatives, high-speed broadband access and literacy programs.
- Helping policy leaders make informed decisions by providing specialized research to the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and their staffs.
- Providing state government employees with the information and training resources they need to be effective, efficient and successful.
- Ensuring access to books and information for Californians who are visually impaired or otherwise print disabled.
- Connecting Californians to the state's history and culture by collecting, organizing and preserving essential information on California and beyond.

## 2019 By the Numbers

- 170 Years serving the people of California
- \$33.2 million in state and federal grants to support local library programs & services (2018-19 fiscal year)
- 289,587 summer meals served to children through Lunch at the Library
- 900+ public libraries connected to high-speed broadband
- \$64.5 million annual operating budget (2018-19 fiscal year)
- 140 employees
- 5.3 million public school students with access to K-12 online research tools
- 15,668 adult learners participating in local library-based literacy programs (2018-19 fiscal year)

## Mission

The California State Library empowers the people of the nation's most diverse and populous state by:

- Providing credible information services to all Californians, especially those in state government and the Legislature, libraries, academia and persons with disabilities.
- Leading and establishing partnerships with California libraries through funding, program development and support.
- Preserving and providing access to California's unique history to enrich the lives of current and future generations.

## History

In 1850, California's new Legislature decided that a secure, central location was needed to protect the state's facts, figures and documents. The State Library was created.

Originally housed in the State Capitol, the library outgrew its space. In 1910, a new building was authorized nearby. That building at 914 Capitol Mall was completed in 1928. A second building was later built at 900 N Street to accommodate the continuing growth in the library's collections.

Today, the State Library has in its care more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps, and 250,000 photographs. It has an extensive collection of documents from and about California's rich history and is one of the major genealogical reference libraries on the West Coast. It also holds significant collections from Mexico and Europe, with manuscripts dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries.

The State Library is both a State and Federal Depository Library, providing free and open access to government information. It is a US Patent and Trademark Resource Center and home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library, the Braille and Talking Book Library and the Sutro Library in San Francisco.

State and federal funds also support local public libraries and statewide library programs and services.

## Services for California Public Libraries

The state's public libraries are community gathering places, information hubs, and lifelong learning centers for Californians in every community across the state – large, small and in-between.

At the State Library, specially trained consultants gather data from the library community and partnering agencies to assess the needs of communities and local libraries. This data is used to develop a [five-year plan aligning state and federal programs](#) to better guide the State Library's strategic investment of grant funds.

The State Library develops and administers state and federal grant programs for California's libraries, working to enhance collaboration and resource-sharing at all levels of government.

Here are a few ways the State Library supports California's 184 public library jurisdictions and 1,124 library branches:

- Connecting libraries to the same high-speed broadband network as the University of California, state university system, community colleges and public schools through the [State Library's broadband project](#). Over the past five years, more than 900 of the state's 1,124 libraries have been or are being connected.
- Investing more than \$33 million each year in state and [federal grants to public – libraries](#) to promote innovation, increase access to information and improve customer service. These funds have helped place more than 300 virtual reality stations in libraries in the state's least resourced communities.
- Using the online marketplace to deliver books faster to library users, particularly in rural parts of the state. Through [Zip Books](#), instead of coming to the library for a book, a person requests a copy, the library buys it and the book arrives at that person's residence – usually within 48 hours.
- Providing front-line library staff with training, webinars and other resources through the [State Library's Mental Health Initiative](#) so that staff are more effective in identifying and addressing mental health issues, from depression and PTSD to dementia and Alzheimer's.
- Offering \$1 million annually in community grants through the [California Civil Liberties Public Education](#) program to increase public awareness of civil liberties and the injustice of incarcerating Japanese Americans during World War II.
- Ensuring that every Californian gets counted in the 2020 Census. The State Library funded the ["Census and Sensibility" Toolkit](#), created by a team of librarians for use in California libraries.
- Helping libraries bring literacy, technology and other services to Californians facing challenges visiting their local library through "Bringing the Library to You," a new program providing \$3 million for mobile library solutions.



## Programs for Children and Families

Each year, California’s public libraries are visited by almost 8 million young children and their families. In fact, libraries are second only to public parks as the most frequented destination by families with young children. This makes libraries an ideal setting for delivering early learning opportunities, strengthening at-risk families and connecting children, youth, families and caregivers with the services they need to thrive.

### Early Learning and Out-of-School Time

In 2020, \$5 million in state funding is being made available to help libraries implement [early learning and after school programs](#)—areas in which libraries play key roles.

Early Learning grants help libraries create and strengthen partnerships with other critical community service providers and institutions, including local elementary schools, health clinics, First 5 organizations, apprenticeship programs and mental health services agencies. By better integrating the work of libraries and other organizations, these grants ensure young children and their families are connected to the resources they need, where and when they need them.

Out-of-School Time grants focus on supporting and expanding the vital role libraries play for children and teens during the 40 percent of their waking lives they aren’t in school. These grants support after-school, weekend and summer programs designed to improve the social-emotional development of children and the workplace preparedness of teens.

### Early Learning with Families

[Early Learning with Families](#) supports local library services for young children (ages 0-5), as well as their families and caregivers, during the critical stages of their growth and development.

Through this long-running investment of federal grant funds, libraries across the state provide learning opportunities that support families and help children develop the language, cognitive and socio-emotional tools they need to succeed. These funds support a diverse range of programs and services, including:

- Parent-child workshops led by specialists in child development, health, early education and parenting.
- Storytimes for children of all ages, featuring songs, rhymes, books, movement, puppets and musical instruments.
- Early learning STEAM stations and developmental play centers for self-directed exploration.
- Multilingual, multicultural programs including Chinese and Spanish-language story hours.

## Reimagining School Readiness

The State Library partnered with the innovative Center for Childhood Creativity at the Bay Area Discovery Museum to develop the [Early Learning: Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit](#). These research-backed resources were designed specifically for librarians to help families prepare young children for success in school and in life.

The toolkit can be downloaded in six languages and is being adopted in other states with support from the federal [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#).

## Lunch at the Library

The library [summer meal program](#) helps local libraries provide children and teens with access to free, healthy food and learning opportunities essential to their development while school is out. The program also brings new families to the library where staff can connect adult family members with essential resources and services. In 2019:

- 289,587 summer meals and 39,737 snacks were served to children and teens.
- 219 branch and main libraries and bookmobiles in 63 library jurisdictions in 30 counties participated, a 30% increase over 2018.
- 8,507 learning and enrichment programs for 260,867 participants were presented at summer meal sites.

Nevertheless, only one in five children in California who receive a free or subsidized meal during the school year gets one in the summer. Thirteen percent of families participating in Lunch at the Library report that they do not get lunch anywhere else but their local library.

There is a significant and immediate need to provide more healthy meals and learning opportunities each summer. Libraries alone can't meet that demand. A larger investment and a more comprehensive action plan are necessary.

## Supporting Literacy and Workforce Readiness

As trusted, stigma-free community hubs, public libraries offer a unique setting for Californians to achieve their literacy goals, earn high school diplomas and career certificates and develop the workforce readiness skills they need to succeed in the 21st century.

With support from the State Library and outside partners, public library staff and volunteers can reach and engage those who may not have access to traditional learning environments.

### Library Literacy Services

Families are becoming stronger readers through a \$7.3 million investment by the state in local [library-based literacy programs](#). Family literacy was targeted in 2019 because the most successful intervention strategies in breaking cycles of poverty and illiteracy involve both adults and children. During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019:

- 107 library jurisdictions provided services to 15,668 adult learners and their families.
- 8,018 tutors and 1,901 additional volunteers contributed more than \$18 million worth of service hours.
- The state's \$7.3 million investment was matched with \$23.3 million in local funding.
- Library literacy programs worked with 981 partnering agencies, including schools, community colleges, homeless shelters, and juvenile justice departments.

### Career Online High School

[Online High School](#) helps adults earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate online at no cost. The program provides a pathway to success for some of the 5 million Californians whose lack of a high school diploma means they can't go to college or career schools, qualify for many jobs or be promoted at the jobs they now have.

The flexibility of online learning allows adults with one or more jobs to still find ways to "go to school," as can caregivers to children, the elderly and those with disabilities. To date:

- 1,334 California adults have received a high school diploma through Career Online High School at their local libraries. Close to 1,500 are currently enrolled.
- 51 library jurisdictions, including 695 branches, currently offer the program. More libraries participate each year.
- Nearly 80 percent of graduates intend to pursue higher education, using their new diploma as a springboard to explore lifelong learning and career success.
- Local libraries, businesses, and nonprofits have matched the state's investment with over \$2.6 million in additional scholarships.

## Working Scholars

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the State Library is piloting an online college degree partnership with [Working Scholars](#), a program administered by Study.com and participating accredited online universities.

Eighty Career Online High School graduates and local library staff will have the opportunity to pursue bachelors' degrees, selecting from majors ranging from information technology and computer science to business and liberal arts. The State Library provides \$2,000 scholarships for each student during their first two years of study.

## Services for State Government Officials and Employees

The State Library is the research center for state government, ensuring that public health scientists, regulators, attorneys and other state policy makers have the resources they need to do their jobs effectively. A State Library card allows everyone in California government to remotely access State Library catalogs and online resources as well as borrow books, magazines, journals and training videos.

### California Research Bureau

The [California Research Bureau](#) provides confidential, nonpartisan and authoritative legislative research, policy analysis and information services for lawmakers and the executive branch.

Working directly with members and staff of the Legislature and the Governor's Office, the Research Bureau delivers timely and relevant information designed to inform the decisions of legislative and executive branch policy makers.

California Research Bureau projects and materials include policy research, academic and media summaries and data analysis.

In 2019, the bureau:

- Fulfilled hundreds of requests for information from legislative and gubernatorial clients, including fact-checking, spatial and quantitative analyses, 50-state policy summaries, media/news collections, reviews of scholarly research, and summaries of legislative and legal histories.
- Created an [interactive tool providing an in-depth data snapshot](#) of each California Senate and Assembly district highlighting demographic, economic, education and environmental information.
- Published four public reports, including an updated, interactive tool displaying the [demographics of the California Legislature](#).
- Provided webinars and training on State Library resources and Research Bureau services to legislative and gubernatorial staff.
- Published a weekly digital newsletter of high-quality research and surveys on policy issues relevant to California.

### Witkin State Law Library

The [Witkin State Law Library](#) is the most comprehensive law library in state government. With an extensive collection of primary and secondary sources and a focus on California law, the Witkin is frequently consulted by lawmakers and state agency staff when tracing legislative or regulatory histories.

Holdings include virtually all California legislation dating back to 1867 as well as access to dozens of online legal databases. In 2019, the law library expanded its outreach to state agencies and conducted training for state employees on researching legislative intent and accessing other legal resources.

## Information Services

State employees have access to a wide range of reference and bibliographic materials including newspapers, periodicals and scientific journals; e-books from industry-leading technical publishers as well as U.S. and state demographic and government statistical information and data tools. Information Services also coordinates interlibrary loans to libraries across the world and serves as the library's first point of contact for many state employees and the general public.

In 2019, the State Library transitioned to a cloud-based library management system that makes it easier to find whatever you're looking for. The library is in the process of incorporating a digital asset management system (pioneered by the National Library of New Zealand), to better protect and store the digital materials of the library and, eventually, other state agencies.

A new electronic library card allows state employees to access library resources from any device – including tablets and smartphones. In the first three months of implementation of this new system, there were more applications for library cards than in the entire previous year.

## Promoting Good Governance

The California State Library supports transparency and accountability in government by preserving and ensuring access to California state government publications, federal government information and patent and trademark resources.

The State Library collects legislative proceedings, hearings, and research reports; state agency reports; budgets and financial reports; statistical compilations; directories and organization charts; and periodicals. It has been doing so for 170 years.

### California Grants Portal

The State Library is constructing the [California Grants Portal](#), an interactive tool to help all Californians easily find all grants and loans offered on a competitive or first-come basis by California state departments. The portal will give users the ability to search for all current grant and loan opportunities, save their searches and receive notices of new grants being offered.

During all key phases of design and development, the State Library collected comments and ideas from more than 1,000 grant seekers and 100 state grant makers, who are the driving force behind the site's design. A beta site will be launched in the spring and a fully operational portal will be live by July 1, 2020.

### CA.GOV Archive

This seven terabyte and growing repository contains the [digital content of all California state government](#) agencies, commissions and departments as well as the Legislature and constitutional officers. The material is regularly refreshed by "crawling" state websites to develop a comprehensive series of digital information snapshots, an important record to maintain particularly in the volatile world of politics.

### Government Publications

[Government Publications](#) promotes open and free access to public information by providing a single primary location for government documents. As California's only regional depository for federal government information and a complete depository for California state government publications, the State Library collects, preserves and makes publicly available huge amounts of government-disseminated information.

The Government Publications team also operates a Patent and Trademark Resource Center that offers one-on-one patent search training and information from the US Patent and Trademark Office.

In November 2019, Government Publications launched a [web interface for state government agencies](#) to make it easier to share publications, reports and other documents with the public. The State Library also created an interactive [executive orders search tool](#) to search for the executive orders and proclamations issued by every governor from 1850 through 2007.



## Digitally Empowering All Californians

Digital empowerment is necessary so that Californians of all ages can be better connected to their families, communities and the information they need to succeed. This is especially true in California's least resourced communities, where residents often lack online access, digital literacy, or both.

The State Library is using technology to help bring the world into California classrooms and libraries, connecting the state's more than 39 million children and adults with the tools – from high-speed broadband to online educational content – they need to become true digital citizens.

### California's K-12 Online Content Project

Through the State Library, California provides public schools with quality online educational content and research tools from Britannica, TeachingBooks and ProQuest. By laptop, tablet or phone – at school, at the library or at home – students are able to research, analyze and use information and media in a way that is self-directed and student-focused, developing both digital literacy and critical thinking skills. Teachers are better able to build content geared to the interests and needs of their students.

In the 2018-2019 school year, the first year of the [K-12 Online Content Project](#):

- 82 percent of all California public schools, representing 5.3 million K-12 public school children, signed up for access to the online educational databases.
- Students and educators used the K-12 online content over 7 million times and logged over 33 million clicks, downloads and views.
- More than 75 online training resources and webinars were provided for teachers, administrators and parents on how to utilize and maximize these learning tools.

In 2020, the State Library will continue building capacity to provide schools and students with additional K-12 online content and databases. These efforts will include increased outreach to teachers, administrators, technicians, parents and students.

### High-Speed Broadband Project

The State Library is connecting public libraries and the communities they serve to the California Research and Education Network, operated by CENIC – a high-capacity, 3,800-mile, fiber-optic-based network serving more than 20 million users across California.

Over the past five years, more than 900 of the state's 1,124 libraries have been or are being connected to the network, which is also used by the University of California, the state university system, community colleges and public schools.

As a result of this partnership, libraries have high-speed, affordable broadband, enabling them to offer services like unlimited wireless access, videoconferencing, streaming media, content creation, specialized software and longer sessions on terminals.

Vaulting from this platform, the Los Angeles Public Library became the first public library in the world with a 100GB connection.

## Ensuring Equitable Access

Equitable access means connecting all people – regardless of age, ethnicity, race, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender identification, disability or geography – to the information and resources they need. The State Library works with libraries across California to create safe and welcoming places of knowledge and information for all.

### Braille and Talking Book Library

The [Braille and Talking Book Library](#) provides access to alternate reading materials and other information for Californians in 48 Northern California counties who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. This collection of audio and braille books can be accessed free of charge by mail, download or other assistive devices and technologies.

Volunteers, some of them visually impaired or otherwise disabled, contributed more than 4,500 service hours last year to ensure prompt delivery of books and other materials.

In 2019, the Braille and talking book team:

- Circulated 529,986 digital and Braille books and descriptive videos to 9,445 registered, active users.
- Facilitated 167,908 digital book and magazine downloads to 2,113 registered BARD (Braille and Audio Download) subscribers.
- Launched a “duplication-on-demand” system, streamlining the borrowing process by allowing patrons to check out multiple titles on a single cartridge.
- Held a Summer Reading Challenge, with participants reading almost 500 books.

### Braille Institute Library

The Braille Institute Library serves children and adults in Southern California who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. With six regional branches, this library offers more than 100,000 titles and 1.2 million volumes, including a wide range of free services, such as a Telephone Reader Program that allows users to listen to national and local news, magazine articles and other publications in both English and Spanish.

### Veterans Connect at the Library

Working in partnership with the California Department of Veterans Affairs and public libraries, [Veterans Connect at the Library](#) links veterans and their families to state and federal education, employment, housing, health, disability and other benefits. There are 60 Veteran Resource Centers staffed by trained volunteers at libraries across the state. Seven more are scheduled to open this year.

Programs like this help California veterans reintegrate into the workforce and their communities but limited federal funding impedes developing a stronger network of resource centers.

### Seguimos Creando Enlaces

Librarians from the US and Mexico come together at the annual [Seguimos Creando Enlaces conference](#) to exchange ideas, build partnerships, and develop programs primarily for Latinx, Spanish-speaking, refugee and immigrant communities. The theme for the Seguimos Creando Enlaces 2019 conference was “Librarians as Educators – Impacting the Underserved.” Presentations focused on supporting the educational goals of binational, immigrant and refugee communities, connecting multi-language library users to services and reaching underserved communities. The 2020 conference – “Civic Engagement in Action” – will be held May 28-29 in San Diego and Tijuana.

## Preserving California's Cultural Heritage

As one of California's anchor cultural institutions, the State Library helps tell the unique story of the nation's most populous and diverse state. The library protects and preserves more than 4 million books, 250,000 photographs, manuscripts and government publications from before the Gold Rush to the present day.

But the State Library does more than that.

### Google Arts & Culture

Google Arts & Culture is the newest place some of the State Library's collections can be accessed. In January 2020, the State Library joined more than 1,400 cultural institutions – from the Musée D'Orsay in Paris to the Sydney Opera House in Australia – that showcase their holdings on the Google Cultural Institute's online platform. In celebration of California's unique diversity, the State Library's first two Google Arts & Culture exhibits are ["Shikishi Haiku"](#) and ["Daguerreotypes: The First Photographs."](#)

### California Revealed

Supported through federal grant funds, [California Revealed](#) preserves and digitizes photographs, written materials and analog audio and video tapes from cultural heritage institutions across the state. Its 250 partners to date include the Computer History Museum in Silicon Valley, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, San Diego Zoo and many more public and private libraries, museums and historical archives.

Among its nearly 19,000 online-accessible items are movie footage of the aftermath of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, multiple oral histories and recorded audio of ethnic musical groups in California and around the world.

### California History

The [California History](#) team is responsible for the State Library's extensive collection of books, diaries, manuscripts, maps, newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs, posters, sheet music and other materials from and about this state's uniquely colorful past.

A few of the highlights are an original bible carried by Pony Express riders; Gold Rush-era diaries and letters; Japanese internment evacuation and resettlement records; 1960's protest correspondence and posters and work by famous California photographers like Carleton Watkins. Some of these treasures, like James Marshall's hand-drawn gold discovery map, can be viewed at the [State Library's online catalog](#).

## Sutro Library

The [Sutro Library](#) is the State Library's only "branch." Located on the top floor of the undergraduate library at San Francisco State University, its vault holds more than 90,000 books and manuscripts purchased in the 19th century by Adolph Sutro, a businessman and former mayor of San Francisco.

The eclectic collection includes a Shakespeare First Folio, one of only 232 in the world, as well as a first edition King James Bible and the only known copy of a world map by famed 17th century cartographer Pieter van den Keere.

Through its partnership with San Francisco State University, the Sutro Library hosts genealogy classes and events and provides faculty and students with specialized archival research training. The library also organizes physical exhibits of works from its collection for public display and is increasing the number of unique treasures it shares online and with scholars and researchers around the world.

## Preservation & Exhibits

The Preservation & Exhibits team is responsible for ensuring that the cultural treasures entrusted to the State Library will be accessible to Californians today and into the future. Preservation & Exhibits team members also organize physical and online exhibits for public display.

[Preservation & Exhibits current digital exhibits](#) include "Iron Trails: California and the Railroad" and "Lift Ev'ry Voice: Tarea Hall Pittman and the NAACP," which features photographs and documents from the Civil Rights Movement.

Other digital exhibits include "Elected Women: 100 Years in California Legislature," "Breaking Up California: A History of Many Attempts," and "50 Years Ago – At Folsom Prison," which chronicles Johnny Cash's prison concerts, his visits with six U.S. presidents and his testimony before Congress on prison conditions.

The State Library is a member of Sacramento Area Museums and offers docent-led tours to the public and school groups. The library also hosts numerous events from book signings to lectures centering on California policy, culture and history.