

Annual Report 2021-2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN

When I introduce myself as State Librarian, one of the responses I get is, “I didn’t know California had a State Librarian.”

I don’t mind because what’s more important to know is that California has a State Library. In fact, creating a State Library was one of the first actions taken by the Legislature after California became a state 173 years ago.

A lot has changed since then – who could have predicted in 1850 that we would be building a statewide library of eBooks or providing our workforce with virtual job training – but one thing remains constant: the State Library’s commitment to connecting Californians with the knowledge and resources they need to succeed.

The State Library supports early learning and local literacy programs and provides online resources and online tutoring for California’s 5.8 million school children. But kids can’t learn on empty stomachs. That’s why we also help local libraries feed children during summer months through Lunch at the Library. The State is investing another \$5 million in this program so that school-aged children eligible for free meals don’t go hungry when school is out.

We’re also expanding the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which sends a free book every month to every kid under the age of five who wants one. Home libraries lead to stronger readers, which leads to a lifetime of knowledge-seeking. The statewide program goes live in early June. California has 2.4 million children under age five, so this is quite an undertaking.

Last year we awarded more than \$310 million in grants to renovate and modernize local libraries, with another \$175 million being awarded this year. This is the largest investment California has ever made in its network of 1,127 libraries. Hundreds of millions more are still needed for branches to deliver the 21st Century services Californians need, but it’s a start.

Elsewhere in the report you’ll see multiple collaborations in which the State Library is improving the way state government delivers services. We created – and maintain – California’s Grants Portal, which makes it easier to find grant and loan opportunities offered by the state.

We’re the first state library in the country to establish a special team to deal with digital documents. We are currently working with State Parks to expand online access to their amazing photographs, as well as getting more of our own treasures online for Californians to use and share.

As this annual report demonstrates, the California State Library is anything but a musty repository of old books (although we have some of those, going back 400 years or more.)

From free, high-speed broadband access to virtual reality stations in local libraries, we are continuing to innovate as we fulfill our mission of meeting California's information needs, preserving our unique history and supporting libraries in this dynamic and diverse state.

Exactly what we've been doing for 173 years and counting.

Your State Librarian,

Greg Lucas

ABOUT THE STATE LIBRARY

Founded in 1850, the State Library collects stories about who and what California is: Millions of books, Gold Rush-era maps, suffragist diaries, immigration logs, periodicals, photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also stores and organizes federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library, and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California.

The California State Library:

- Invests more than \$125 million in state and federal funding annually to support local libraries, including early education initiatives, high-speed broadband access and literacy programs.
- Supports transparency and accountability in government by preserving and ensuring access to government publications, information and patent and trademark resources.
- Informs the decisions of policy makers by providing specialized research to the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and their staff.
- Supplies state government employees with the information and training resources they need to be effective, efficient and successful.
- Ensures access to books and information for Californians who are visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled.
- Connects Californians to the state's history and culture by collecting, organizing and preserving essential information on California, the United States and the world.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

- 173 Years Serving the People of California
- 5.8 Million Public School Students with Access to K-12 Online Research Tools
- 147,689 Public Programs at Local Libraries
- 1,127 Public Libraries in California
- \$313 Million Awarded to Renovate & Modernize Local Libraries
- 21+ Million Californians with Library Cards
- 263,000 Summer Meals Served to Children Through Lunch at the Library
- 12,241 Adult Learners Participating in Library-Based Literacy Programs
- 963 Public Libraries Connected to High-Speed Broadband

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

Building Forward Library Infrastructure Program

Local libraries are cornerstones of California's communities. However, outdated and unsafe facilities in many public libraries prevent them from meeting the needs of 21st Century Californians. It is estimated that California libraries require \$5 billion to address maintenance, modernization, expansion and replacement needs.

In 2021, the State made its single largest investment in public libraries and the communities they serve. The Building Forward Library Facilities Improvement Program, administered by the State Library, includes \$489 million in much-needed local library maintenance and modernization grants.

The State Library awarded more than \$313 million to 246 libraries in 182 cities and 34 counties in the fall of 2022. Funded projects range from roof replacements and electrical upgrades to library expansions and, in some cases, new library facilities. For example, the City of Porterville, whose library was destroyed in a fire in 2020, received \$7.3 million to help rebuild.

Many more libraries still need improvement. The State Library has launched a second round of Building Forward grants to put the remaining \$175 million in funding into California communities.

ESL in Local Literacy Programs

Using \$15 million in one-time state funding, the State Library launched a five-year pilot of English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) programs in California public libraries. This investment is helping library literacy programs provide limited English proficiency Californians the language skills necessary to succeed in school, in the workplace and in life.

Demand for ESL programs is high, particularly in areas with large immigrant populations. Almost 45 percent of Californians speak a language other than English at home, and 38 percent report they speak English "less than well." Effective ESL programs can facilitate social and economic mobility for those who struggle with basic literacy skills and do not speak English proficiently.

So far, 53 library jurisdictions provide ESL services, including one-to-one tutoring, large classes, and small group workshops where attendees can improve their communication skills, build vocabulary, discuss current events, and learn other life skills such as how to access health care resources.

Protecting Cultural Collections From Disaster

The State Library launched the [Ready-or-Not Disaster Preparedness Program](#) to offer free help to local archives, historical societies, libraries, museums and tribal nations protecting their collections from destruction and ensuring that they are available for future generations of Californians.

California is home to more than 1,200 local cultural heritage entities, which are charged with preserving the state's rich and diverse history. The State Library estimates that half of those organizations lack disaster response plans, a major need given the risks posed by fires, floods, earthquakes and simple decay over time.

The Ready-or-Not Disaster Preparedness Program helps these organizations create disaster preparedness plans that protect historically and culturally significant collections. In 2023, funds will be available to support organizations in implementing their plans, helping to ensure that collections aren't lost when disaster strikes.

State Library Parks Pass Program

Californians can now check out free day-use passes for state parks from their local public libraries through the [State Library Parks Pass Program](#), a partnership between the State Library, State Parks and the Office of First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom.

The program is part of Gov. Newsom's [Outdoor Access for All initiative](#), which enables safe and equitable access to state parks and open spaces for all Californians. Four of every 10 Californians have no access to open space within walking distance of their home and six of every 10 Californians live in park-poor neighborhoods, or areas with less than three acres of parks or open space per 1,000 residents.

The Parks Pass Program was an instant hit with communities and the first 5,000 Parks Passes were checked out over 14,000 times between July and September 2022. Local libraries added discovery backpacks for community members to check out and take to a State Park, story walks that display book pages along outdoor pathways, and outdoor learning opportunities including star-viewing parties, landscape painting, and scavenger hunts.

Another 28,000 passes have been made available to help even more Californians discover their state parks and libraries.

California Imagination Library

Thanks to legislation authored by Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins and Sen. Shannon Grove and signed by Gov. Newsom, 2.4 million children in California are eligible for free books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

The Imagination Library sends age-appropriate books to children every month, free of charge, from birth until their 5th birthday. The program encourages a love of reading and helps families build home libraries, which increase children's literacy and academic success.

The Imagination Library program is already available in a few areas in California, but beginning in June 2023, it will be expanded statewide. To learn if Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is already available in your area or to sign up to be notified when the program becomes available, visit the [Imagination Library's Find My Program page](#).

Supporting Communities Impacted by Hate Crimes

The State Library, in partnership with the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, awarded nearly [\\$6 million in grants](#) to 50 ethnic media outlets and organizations.

The funding is part of the Asian and Pacific Islander Equity Budget, a three-year investment of \$166.5 million supporting critical resources and services to counter the sharp rise in hate crimes. Grantees are expected to increase public awareness of the California Department of Social Services' "Stop the Hate" program, which provides services for victims of hate incidents and hate crimes.

The grants have funded specialized reporters, fellowships, and internships at ethnic media outlets, news briefings and roundtables, digital and social media content, community gatherings and partnerships with grassroots organizations and community-based organizations. Grantees include media outlets and organizations serving California's Asian American and Pacific Islander, Latino, Black, Native American and LGBTQ+ communities.

The State Library will award an additional [\\$9 million in grants](#) to ethnic media outlets in subsequent fiscal years.

Statewide eBook Library

[eBooks for All California](#) makes more eBooks available free of charge to Californians and is creating the infrastructure for a world class statewide eBook collection accessible through any California public library.

As of December 2022, 109 public library jurisdictions have opted to be part of the project, meaning that more than 18 million Californians will have access to the collection.

Although additional state investment is needed to grow the number of books to properly serve a state of California's size, the State Library will continue to provide local libraries with grants to purchase new titles for the statewide collection in 2023.

Closing the Opportunity Gap for California Students

In July 2022, the State Library reported to the Legislature on the success of the K-12 Online Educational Resources Program. A partnership with the Riverside County Office of Education, the program gives every California public school student, educator, and family unlimited access to millions of research and literary resources from Britannica, ProQuest, and TeachingBooks. In just three years, 93% of all California public school students have gotten connected to these resources—at no cost to schools or libraries.

Since the program's launch in July 2018, students, educators and families have conducted more than 284 million unique investigations—more than 145 million since the pandemic started in March 2020. The project is an example of California's ongoing commitment to making educational opportunities available to all students, families, and residents.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS & FAMILIES

California's 1,127 public library branches provide all kinds of resources for children and teens, from story times and puppet shows to online tutoring and 3D printers. Local libraries are also centers for parent and caregiver education, family support and community connection.

Each year, the State Library invests millions in public library programming to ensure that California children, teens, parents and caregivers get the resources and services they need to thrive.

Lunch at the Library

[Lunch at the Library](#) targets food insecurity by providing children and teens with free, healthy meals and learning opportunities when school is out.

Through this program, the State Library is working with the California Department of Education to increase the number of Californians who access free summer meals through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program. In 2022, California libraries:

- Served more than 263,000 free summer meals;
- Set up 400 pop-up community meal sites;
- Presented more than 5,400 arts, science, technology, and reading programs; and
- Distributed 95,000 activity kits and 111,000 free books.

The state budget includes a new ongoing investment of \$5.4 million in Lunch at the Library to help more families experiencing food insecurity access nutritious meals and other wraparound services every summer.

Summer @ Your Library

[Summer programs](#) in public libraries build communities of readers and help prevent "summer slide," the learning loss that can happen when school is not in session. They also give families something free, fun and educational to do during the summer months.

In summer 2022, California's public library summer reading programs were back to pre-pandemic numbers. Highlights include:

- 749,000 summer reading sign-ups
- 38,000 live summer reading and learning programs, both in-person and virtual
- 8,000 hours contributed by teen volunteers
- 500,000 free books distributed to help families build home libraries

In 2022, the California Library Association, in partnership with the California State Library, received a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services to bring equitable summer programming to libraries in other states. Over the course of the three-year project, state library agencies and public libraries will work together to re-envision summer practices and co-design equitable summer services for and with youth and families in their communities.

First Partner's Summer Book Club

Last summer, the [First Partner's Summer Book Club](#) promoted literacy and encouraged children to take part in summer reading at their local library. The Book Club featured 21 titles for children and teens from preschool to 8th grade, elected by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom. The books included important social and emotional learning themes and highlighted key values like diversity and acceptance, and were available to check out from every public library jurisdiction.

In 2023, the First Partner's Summer Book Club will continue to support and encourage positive values and actions through stories and poems and raising awareness of public library summer programs and resources.

DIGITALLY EMPOWERING ALL CALIFORNIANS

Bridging the digital divide is more critical than ever before. Access to the internet and technology is necessary for distance learning, job-seeking, getting important personal and public health information, and simply staying connected with the outside world.

The State Library is working with local libraries to empower all Californians, regardless of circumstance, with the tools and resources they need to become true digital citizens.

Broadband for All

The [California Library Connect](#) program provides Californians with access to high-speed internet through their local public libraries and partnerships between libraries and other community anchors like healthcare organizations and educational institutions.

This year, the program maintained internet connections for over 963 libraries, brought an additional 57 library buildings onto the state's high-speed CalREN network, and awarded over \$2.8 million in grant funds to help 31 libraries purchase equipment and cover other costs of connecting.

California Library Connect is helping the state achieve the goals set in the [Broadband for All Action Plan](#): "All Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses and All Californians have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices."

The State Library is also working with the California Department of Technology on other initiatives that contribute to the state's [Broadband for All](#) program including the Affordable Connectivity Program, [enrollment drive](#) and the development of the state's Digital Equity plan.

Supporting Digital Equity with American Rescue Plan Act Funds

During the pandemic, schools went online and many California households lacked the technology their students needed to succeed. With funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), libraries were able to respond directly and immediately to economic and community needs that were created or exacerbated by the pandemic. One way they did so is by providing Chromebooks and hotspots to patrons.

Through the [Home Connectivity Kits](#) project, 1,488 Chromebooks and almost 1,306 hotspots were made available to check out from local libraries, helping bridge the digital divide and provide families with access to essential tools.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Public libraries offer a welcoming and stigma-free setting for Californians looking to achieve their literacy goals, earn high school diplomas and college degrees, 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 reach and engage those who may not have access to traditional learning environments.

California Library Literacy Services

[Literacy programs](#) in California's public libraries transform the lives of thousands of California families every year. They help adults gain basic literacy skills, achieve learning goals they set for themselves, and use library services effectively. They strengthen communities and help families grow and succeed.

Last year, the State Library invested \$8.3 million in library-based literacy services, with a focus on family programs that attempt to break the intergenerational nature of illiteracy. During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2022:

- 104 library jurisdictions provided services to 26,406 adult learners, ESL learners and their families. Of the nearly 7,000 adult learners served, 48% were Latino, 67% were women, and 62% were 40 years of age or older.
- 3,978 volunteer tutors and 253 other volunteers supported these local programs contributing almost \$7.7 million worth of volunteer hours.

- The state's \$7.7 million investment was matched with \$19.5 million in local funding.
- Library literacy programs worked with 345 partnering agencies, including schools, community colleges, homeless shelters, and juvenile justice departments.

Career Online High School

[Career Online High School](#) brings nontraditional and adult learners back into the educational system and prepares them for jobs in growing sectors of the economy. Many of these students faced barriers in obtaining a high school diploma, including transportation limitations, family responsibilities, restrictive schedules, and educational trauma. Career Online High School allows them to earn high school diplomas and career certificates at no cost to them and develop the workforce readiness skills they need to succeed in the 21st Century.

In 2022, 887 students pursued a high school degree through the Career Online High School program at their local library. Students take an average of 11 months to receive their diploma and 76 percent of graduates report they are interested in post-secondary education.

Career Pathways

[Career Pathways](#) is a suite of online job training, workforce development, and educational resources available—for free—to any California, either at the library or from home.

In the first year of the project, Californians logged over 400,000 hours of online using Career Pathways learning platforms - the equivalent of 833 years of community college.

As an example of the value of these services, the annual cost of subscriptions to access all of Coursera's more than 5,000 online classes, Skillshare's 35,000 videos, GetSetUp's interactive classes, and LinkedIn Learning's suite of courses would cost an individual over \$1,000 per year.

In 2022, the State of California invested an additional \$10.2 million to expand the project, ensuring that Californians will have free access to these life-improving programs through September 2024.

ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS

Ensuring equitable access means connecting all people—regardless of age, background, geography, disability or circumstance—to the information, services and resources they need. The State Library is continuously working to eliminate barriers to library access and implementing new ways to bring literacy, technology and other library services to all Californians.

Eliminating Barriers to Library Access

Last year, libraries expanded access to their collections and services through new vehicles and technologies with support from the State Library's [Shared Vision](#) and [Stronger Together](#) grant programs.

By 2024, more than 30 new mobile libraries will bring library services and programming into California communities; over 20 of these will be fueled by sustainable energy sources. Library cardholders at 23 library branches will be able to pick up materials after hours from book lockers or by swiping their cards to enter library buildings when staff are not present, using the Open+ library access system.

The [Zip Books](#) program provides a quick and easy way for library users to access materials not currently owned by their local library. Patrons request an item, the library purchases the item, and a vendor ships it to the patron's address. When finished, the patron returns the book to the library and adds it to their collection or shares it with another library. Because Zip Books is user driven, the purchases are closely matched to the needs of the local community.

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 via other assistive devices and technologies.

In 2022, the Braille and Talking Book team:

- Circulated 181,131 audio and braille books and descriptive videos to 8,946 users.
- Facilitated 177,810 audio and braille book and magazine downloads to 2,066 patrons.
- Implemented Phase Two of a three-year assistive technology service to provide internet access and technology to patrons isolated by the digital divide, including device loans, training materials, and online instruction.
- Created new partnerships with stakeholders including the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services, Village Movement California, California Area Agencies on Aging, and the California Teachers Association Special Education Conference.
- Developed a Spanish language brochure, distributed Spanish language outreach materials to partner agencies, and presented to the Well Connected Español program for Spanish speaking blind and low vision Californians.
- Partnered with the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled to launch the BARD Veteran Affairs Rapid Intake Pilot Program, enabling instantaneous access to the collection for eligible veterans of the Armed Forces.

Braille Institute Library

The Braille Institute is the State Library's partner in serving adults and children in Southern California who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. With six regional branches, the institute offers more than 100,000 titles and 1.2 million volumes in its library plus 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.

SERVICES FOR STATE GOVERNMENT

As the research center for state government, the State Library provides regulators, attorneys, scientists and other elected and non-elected policymakers with the information and resources they need to do their jobs.

Information Services

The [Information Services](#) team provides virtual and in-person reference service; assistance with library cards and search tools; print and eBooks, a suite of databases, print and eJournals and other periodicals; and eResource support to the public and State of California employee patrons. They also loan materials to state employees and institutions around the world through interlibrary loan.

In 2022, Information Services received new funding to provide more eResources to state agency employees and streamline the research article request process. Information Services staff also helped establish a Scientific Advisory Group consisting of librarians from science-based agencies, to determine what resources best fit their needs and how to use library funding most efficiently to benefit the State's researchers.

Information Services librarians provide virtual e-resource demonstrations and walkthroughs for state agency employees, as well as one-on-one sessions to help users search the library's catalog and website. The section conducted the State Library's first-ever library card drive during National Library Card Signup Month in September 2022, resulting in a 70 percent increase in active cardholders.

Bernard S. Witkin State Law Library

When California lawmakers or state agency staff need to research legislation or regulations, they look to the [Witkin State Law Library](#). With primary and secondary sources and a focus on California case law, it is the most comprehensive law library in state government.

With so many state employees working hybrid or telework schedules, the Law Library now has a robust online presence and answered nearly 2,000 questions last year—more virtual reference questions than any other section in the State Library. Questions

came from the public, the legal community, and staff at over 40 state agencies. The Law Library's online newsletter also continues to grow its subscriber base, which is up 25 percent from 2021.

In 2022, the Law Library's outreach and programming included well-attended webinars about the legal history of book challenges and water law in California, as well as a joint webinar with the Law Library of Congress about historical legal collections.

California Research Bureau

The California Research Bureau provides nonpartisan, confidential public policy research, analysis and information services to the Governor's Office and the Legislature.

Requests include researching legislative intent, legal precedent, and regulatory history, as well as locating, analyzing, synthesizing, and curating data to help address the public policy questions and information needs of legislative and gubernatorial staff.

The Research Bureau provides online training and consultations to legislative and gubernatorial staff on how to conduct their own research. The bureau also produces weekly newsletters highlighting free public policy talks and new research of interest to California policymakers.

In 2022, the Research Bureau:

- Produced the [California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts study](#) showing national security activity generated an estimated \$158.2 billion in economic activity statewide in fiscal year 2021. The bureau was tasked with the study by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Governor's Military Council, with financial support from the Department of Defense and Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation.
- Published a report sought by the Legislature, [Prescription Drug Pricing and Cost Transparency in California](#), assessing the effectiveness of legislation—[SB 17](#) (Hernandez, 2017)—aimed at promoting transparency in prescription drug prices and spending trends as well as in helping the state manage prescription drug costs.
- The California Homeless Youth Project, an initiative of the Research Bureau focused on helping policymakers understand the numbers and characteristics of homeless youth in the state, launched the [You Count Dashboard](#), a prototype to track the numbers of youth experiencing homelessness across California. The dashboard has received accolades from the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, Innovations for Youth, the Center for Cities and Schools, and the Institute for Urban and Regional Development.
- Under a training agreement with the University of California, Berkeley, Research Bureau staff have been trained in the fundamentals of R and Python programming languages to assist with data analysis and visualization of large data sets.

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; all state agency publications; budgets and financial data; statistical compilations; directories, organization charts, and periodicals. It has been doing so for over 170 years.

Government Publications

The [Government Publications](#) section promotes open and free access to public information by providing a single source for government documents, which can include everything from nonpartisan, statewide voter guides and tax forms to statistics about health and education in California.

As California's only regional depository for federal government information and a complete depository for California state government publications, the State Library collects, protects and makes publicly available enormous amounts of government-disseminated information. Convenient and reliable access to these documents and publications creates a more transparent government and a more informed state.

In 2022, the Government Publications section made California the first state library in the country to create a digital publications team, specifically focused on collecting and making accessible government publications in electronic format.

The Government Publications team also operates a Patent and Trademark Resource Center that offers one-on-one patent search training and tools. The center offers virtual patent and trademark consultations and makes online resources available to the public—at no cost.

California Grants Portal

In 2020, the State Library launched the [California Grants Portal](#), an interactive online tool to help Californians easily find state grant opportunities. Since then, the California Grants Portal has attracted over 1 million users per year, including nonprofits, businesses, public agencies and tribal governments.

- In its second year, the California Grants Portal published 487 grant and loan opportunities from 59 state government entities.
- Currently, more than \$68 billion in state-administered funding is available on the California Grants Portal, 25 State Library grant opportunities.
- State agencies received over 1 million applications for grants and loans published on the California Grants Portal.

New legislation implemented in July 2022 requires grant makers to submit a selection of post-award data to the California State Library, including data on the destination of state funding, a first for the state. This will allow the State Library to provide unprecedented transparency on the destination of state-administered grant dollars.

Digital Concierge Program

The Digital Concierge Program is a content-creation, digitization, and digital preservation center dedicated to preserving and sharing the collections hidden throughout California state government. The Digital Concierge team collaborates with state agencies to identify and showcase the most culturally significant, sought-after or at-risk parts of their collections and records.

In 2022, the Digital Concierge Program:

- Continued a partnership with the Capital District of California State Parks to digitize and make publicly available some of the agency's significant historical materials, including items from the Governor's Mansion and the California State Railroad Museum. Digital Concierge anticipates the completion of the first digitization projects in 2023.
- Connected with 17 California state agencies to explore possible partnerships including the Department of Finance, the California Highway Patrol, the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, Patton State Hospital, and the Department of Aging. To date, Digital Concierge has networked with more than 30 state agency departments to promote the benefits of digitization, digital preservation and sharing historic collections online.

PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

As one of California's anchor cultural institutions, the State Library cares for an 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. Highlights include Gold Rush-era diaries and letters; mass removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II; 1960s protest posters; and work by famous California photographers like Carleton Watkins.

More and more of these resources, like James Marshall's hand-drawn gold discovery map, are being made available through the State Library's [online catalog](#).

Preservation

The Preservation & Exhibits Section ensures that cultural treasures entrusted to the State Library will be accessible to Californians today and into the future. This includes the day-to-day work of physically preserving the library's collections by repairing, rebinding, and creating custom enclosures for books and other material. But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

In an effort to make more of the State Library's collection available to the public, Preservation continues to digitize rare and significant items, including U.S. General William Tecumesh Sherman's "Forty Acres and a Mule" wartime order and photos from the many famous WPA projects in San Francisco.

The Preservation team created several exhibits and displays in 2022, including posters by the Royal Chicano Air Force, a collective of artists and activists celebrating cultural affirmation as well as Chicano civil rights and labor organizing.

Californians also helped out the Library's Preservation team by participating in FromThePage, a crowd sourcing transcription project that allows members of the public to transcribe text from digitized, often handwritten texts online. Transcription allows these invaluable materials to be searched and viewed by researchers, scholars, and anyone else with Internet access. Thanks to this software—and the generous work of interested Californians—several of the State Library's Gold Rush collections were digitized last year.

There's more work to be done. Go [here](#) to help out.

California History

In a continued effort to ensure the State Library's collection reflects California's diversity, in 2022 the [California History](#) team prioritized collection development and assessment with a focus on underrepresented communities and histories.

This led to the acquisition of books and rare materials – like newspapers, journals and art – by or about California African Americans, Chicano/a and Latino/a Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, LGBTQ+ people and women.

California History continues to inventory existing collections to discover items of interest and make more of these materials available to the public.

In 2022, the California History Speaker Series featured several talks with authors and artists, including a conversation with members of the [Royal Chicano Air Force](#), a collective of artists and activists supporting free artistic expression, cultural affirmation and Chicano civil rights.

Sutro Library

The [Sutro Library](#), the State Library's only "branch," acquires, preserves, and makes accessible rare and unique resources for scholarship and the education of students, faculty, and independent researchers.

Located on the top floor of the undergraduate library at San Francisco State University, Sutro's 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.

Sutro Library hosts both genealogy and academic classes, online cultural enrichment events, and provides faculty and students with specialized archival research training.

In 2022, the Sutro Library held three online events, which can be found on the State Library's [YouTube page](#), and mounted three in-person exhibits.

California Revealed

California Revealed digitizes and preserves photographs, written materials, and audiovisual recordings from more than 370 cultural heritage institutions across the state. The resulting collection includes 109,000 objects representing a diverse array of constituencies and communities. These items span diverse formats, geographies, time periods, and cultural perspectives; there is something here for everyone.

Some collection highlights include radio spots produced by the United Farm Workers Union; oral histories and personal diaries of individuals incarcerated at Manzanar; parade footage of the Oakland Black Cowboys; and "Colliding Worlds," a documentary about the Mono Indians of Central California and their work to maintain their cultural traditions.

Because California Revealed represents a multitude of partner organizations and collections, it is an excellent resource for California educators looking for local perspectives on teaching topics. California Revealed continues to build and strengthen the program's connections with educators and students through partnerships with Teaching California and the California History-Social Science Project at University of California, Davis.

Preserving LGBTQ+ History

[The LGBTQ+ Preservation and Accessibility Project](#) provided \$750,000 to 11 museums, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations to help preserve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer materials relating to the LGBTQ+ movement, culture, experience, and history in California. These multi-year projects include preserving rare, historical LGBTQ+ periodicals at UC Davis, the preservation of Silicon Valley's queer

political and social history by the Bay Area Municipal Election Committee (BAYMEC) Community Foundation, and a collaborative, cross-generational archive by Color Compton, an organization working with Compton youth to build community among people of color through history and art.

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