

# Annual Report 2023

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

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# MESSAGE FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN

As you'll see in the pages of this report, 2023 was a busy year for the California State Library.

We were busy providing research, reference, and circulation services to state employees, policymakers, and the public, both online and in person.

We connected Californians across the state with free access to highspeed internet through their local public libraries.

Working alongside local museums and historical societies, we made sure to protect California's unique history.

And we invested \$487 million in local libraries in 278 communities across the state to jumpstart long-delayed, much needed life-and-safety facility improvements.

Those facility grants are largest single investment California has ever made in its network of 1,127 local libraries. But it represents just a fraction of the \$4 billion needed to modernize and renovate California's libraries, half of which are 50 years of age or older.

Similarly, without action by state policy makers one-time funding that provides California school kids with 24-hour-a-day online tutoring in five languages will end on August 25, 2024. It's a \$3.2 million expense in a \$300 billion state budget—to make sure every school kid gets the help they need to succeed, not just the ones whose families can afford it.

Without continued support, the same thing will happen this fall to the suite of online job training, workforce development, and educational resources available to all Californians at their local library. In today's fast-changing economy, these tools for success are more important than ever, especially with the rise of artificial intelligence.

Here at the California State Library, we understand how crucial libraries are to the people they serve. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, public libraries in California received over 74 million in-person visits and almost 103 million visits to library websites.

When budgets get tight, making smart choices becomes crucial. Investing in public libraries is one of the smartest moves the state can make. It's an investment in our communities and in every Californian who relies on libraries for support and success.

Respectfully yours,

Greg Lucas, State Library

# ABOUT THE STATE LIBRARY

Founded in 1850, the State Library collects stories about who and what California is, including millions of books, Gold Rush-era maps, suffragists' 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 Braille and Talking Book Library, and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California.

The California State Library:

- Invests millions of dollars 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 staffs.
- Supplies state policymakers 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.

# BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

## Building Forward

California's [Building Forward Library Facilities Improvement program](#) is a game-changer for cities and counties, empowering them to transform and construct libraries to meet 21st Century needs and expectations. Over the past two years, the program has awarded more than \$484 million in grants to 278 local libraries for facility infrastructure needs. It's a forward-thinking initiative that's reshaping California's library landscape.

Focusing on high-poverty areas, the initiative prioritizes capital projects that address life safety and critical maintenance needs, improve energy efficiency and sustainability, expand digital access, and physical access. From upgrading 17 library branches in Kern County to making seismic repairs in Sonoma County and creating a reliable cooling center at the City of Hemet's public library, the program is helping strengthen California's libraries and the communities they serve. The funds are also helping build 14 new libraries, including a much-needed replacement for Porterville after a fire destroyed its library in 2020.

## Broadband for All

Bridging the digital divide is more critical than ever. Internet access is necessary for distance learning, job-seeking and just 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.

The [California Library Connect](#) program provides Californians with access to highspeed internet through local public libraries and partnerships between libraries and other community anchors like healthcare organizations and schools. This year, the program maintained internet connections for over 968 libraries, brought an additional 31 library buildings onto the state's high-speed CalREN network, and awarded over \$4.7 million in grant funds to help 130 library jurisdictions buy equipment and cover other connecting costs.

The State Library is also working with the California Department of Technology on 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, which recognizes the important part libraries play in connecting Californians and communities.

## Sustainable California Libraries

California is leading the way in addressing climate change, and local libraries are no exception.

Public libraries across the state are reducing their carbon footprint and rallying communities to action through initiatives like the [Sustainable California Libraries](#) grant program.

Now in its second year, the program is supporting local projects at 15 library systems working with other local partners to build and share community sustainability solutions. Projects span the state from National City to Shasta, with a focus on climate education, environment-focused civic engagement, water conservation, air quality improvement, energy efficiency, reducing waste, and supporting local climate action and resilience plans.

Projects include teaching gardens, seed libraries, sustainability lecture series, and workshops on building a healthier, more resilient future for all community members.

# SUPPORTING CHILDREN, TEENS & FAMILIES

## Building Equity-Based Summers

During summer 2023, more than 1 million Californians registered for summer reading, while nearly 2 million engaged in free summer library programs.

Summer reading programs help children and teens retain and enhance their reading skills when school is out. They also provide a haven and a community for readers; and are a valuable outreach tool for libraries.

The [Building Equity-Based Summers](#) initiative helps California libraries prioritize equity when planning summer activities and working with communities to address their unique needs and strengths. It emphasizes inclusive opportunities for underserved youth, families, and communities in areas including literacy, arts, science, math, technology, and social skills.

Additionally, local libraries received books from the [First Partner's Summer Book Club](#) to add to their collections. These titles were hand-picked by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and librarians across the state for kids from preschool through high school. Each book exposes readers to important social and emotional concepts and highlights values such as diversity, equity, and inclusion.

2023 highlights include:

- 1.1 million summer reading sign-ups—a return to pre-pandemic numbers
- 58,708 live summer reading and learning programs, both in-person and virtual
- 185,066 hours contributed by teen volunteers and interns; and
- 592,839 free books distributed to help families build home libraries.

## Lunch at the Library

Food insecurity has a direct impact on a child's ability to learn, as well as their physical and emotional well-being. Unfortunately, more than 2 million California children who qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches do not receive free meals during the summer.

[Lunch at the Library](#) is working to help close that gap by serving free summer meals and snacks to children and teens while school is out. The program also delivers summer reading and learning programs for children and teens, along with wraparound services for their families.

In 2023, California libraries:

- Served more than 271,000 free summer meals;
- Set up 412 pop-up libraries at community meal sites;
- Presented 10,609 arts, science, technology, and reading programs; and
- Distributed more than 125,000 books to families.

Besides supporting children's academic progress, these programs help counteract the negative impacts of poverty on students' physical health, emotional well-being, and overall growth.

## Imagination Library

Having books at home makes a big difference in children's lives. Studies show that kids with access to books tend to do better in school and develop stronger reading skills, particularly those from low-income families.

To help ensure that all of California's children have access to books at home, the State Library leads a statewide expansion of [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#). The program provides free monthly books to children from birth to age five, regardless of family income. All 2.4 million children in California under the age of five will become eligible as local programs expand across the state.

This expansion includes a dollar-for-dollar match from the state to support local organizations partnering with the Imagination Library. All books are carefully selected for age-appropriateness and diversity and are now available in both Spanish and English. The program is currently available in over 40 locations and reaches every child in 20 counties, with the goal of reaching every child in the state.

## Exploring California State Parks

California has abundant natural resources, including state parks, an 840-mile coastline and thousands of campsites and trails. But many Californians lack access to nature, which can have negative effects on their mental and physical health.

Through a partnership with California State Parks, patrons can check out [Parks Passes](#) from any of California's 1,127 library branches and receive free day-use vehicle access to over 200 participating locations. This program, part of Gov. Newsom's [Outdoor Access for All](#) initiative, provides safe and equitable access to state parks for all Californians. It's a hit in communities, with thousands of passes checked out regularly.

In 2023, the 30,725 passes were checked out more than 130,000 times. Local libraries added "discovery" backpacks and kits featuring hiking and outdoor gear. Libraries also created story walks that display book pages along outdoor pathways and organized additional outdoor learning opportunities such as guided nature walks, author talks, and outdoor-inspired crafts.

# EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## COMPASS

The State Library provides teachers, students and parents with free, easy access to online educational resources through [COMPASS: The California Online Media Program for Access and Student Success](#). Resources include research content, audio and video, interactive modules, and teaching support for all grades, K-12. COMPASS content and tools may be accessed on school devices, personal laptops, smartphones, or tablets through public schools and local libraries. There are 20 distinct resources that include some familiar names in education like Britannica, National Geographic Kids, and PBS.

In 2023, new resources were added to support performing arts education and early literacy in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). A dozen collections of performing-arts audio and video content from ProQuest support music, theatre, and dance education. And the STEM interactive platform PebbleGo Science from Capstone is available in both English and Spanish for pre-kindergarten through second grade students.

COMPASS highlights in 2023 include:

- Approximately 94 percent of all California public school students are enrolled in districts or charters that signed up for access to COMPASS resources.
- There were 123,292,478 investigations and searches in COMPASS resources during the 2022-2023 school year, a 16% increase over the prior year.
- Educators attended COMPASS training sessions more than 3,000 times, with others viewing recordings online.

## Online Tutoring

HelpNow offers exactly that: Live, online, free-of-charge tutoring in English and Spanish 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Through HelpNow, any California student – with or without a library card -- can get help whenever they want it in Language Arts and Mathematics. Other subjects like chemistry and history are available from 10 am to 10 pm every day.

In 2023, there were nearly 250,000 tutoring sessions. Ten thousand of those tutoring sessions were for learners working on subjects taught in 3rd grade or below.

HelpNow's other services like practice tests and virtual study rooms were used more than 1.5 million times in 2023. Tutors reviewed over 7,000 papers submitted by students and conducted an average of 781 sessions each day.

Tutoring in additional languages such as Tagalog, Vietnamese, Cantonese, and Mandarin, is available 12 hours each day. Currently, more than 80 percent of California public libraries participate in the program.

Offering HelpNow statewide is a pilot project that is succeeding at making tutors available to all California students -- regardless of family income.

Absent continued state investment, the pilot project concludes on August 25, 2024.

## California Library Literacy Services

California's public library [literacy programs](#) positively impact thousands of families annually, strengthening Californians' reading and writing skills and helping them achieve their personal, academic, and professional goals.

Last year, the State Library invested \$10 million in local library-based literacy services, including critical investment in English as a Second Language (ESL) services. With 44 percent of Californians speaking a language other than English at home, the need for ESL learning opportunities is strong and this funding helps libraries at least partially meet community demand.

After falling sharply during the pandemic, enrollment in literacy services at 104 library jurisdictions saw significant growth in 2023, thanks to this investment. Adult enrollment surpassed 10,500, with participants benefiting from over 386,000 hours of free tutoring and instruction. Family literacy programs served 6,743 adults and 9,083 children.

## Career Online High School

California has one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the country, with only 85 percent of adults 25 years or older holding a high school diploma or equivalency. These Californians are excluded from opportunities in the workplace and higher education, preventing them from reaching their full potential.

[Career Online High School](#) enables Californians to earn a high school diploma, free of charge, through their local public library. Now offered in 852 public libraries across the state, the self-paced program is available online, 24/7. This allows students to complete their degree on their own schedule, which is critical for those juggling childcare, employment, and other obligations.

Currently, more than 1,000 Californians are enrolled in Career Online High School. Another 3,280 have already earned their diplomas. Graduates of the program, which usually takes less than a year to complete, can earn career certificates in high-demand fields. They also receive career guidance and resources, including assistance with creating resumes and career portfolios.

## CAreer Pathways

California's public libraries are helping shape a future-ready workforce through [CAreer Pathways](#). This suite of online job training, workforce development, and educational resources is available—for free—to any Californian, either at the library or from home. CAreer Pathways users can obtain professional certificates, study for exams, update resumes and cover letters, and explore courses in fields including digital literacy, business, law enforcement, graphic design, and management.

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Californians logged more than 534,000 hours of online learning and participated in more than 900,000 lessons using CAreer Pathways learning platforms, which include Coursera, Skillshare, GetSetup and LinkedIn Learning. 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.

Thanks to a one-time \$10 million investment by the state, Californians have free access to these life-improving programs through September 2024. This access ends without additional funding.

# WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

## 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. To create this one-stop funding destination, the State Library collaborated with more than 60 state agencies, departments, commissions, and bureaus to understand and respond to their needs as well as the needs of Californians seeking state funding.

Now in its third year, the California Grants Portal published 722 grant and loan opportunities from state government entities in 2023—a jump of 48 percent from the previous year. The number of users increased by 25 percent to 1,652,285. Currently, \$18.7 billion in state-administered funding is available on the portal.

New legislation requires grant makers to submit post-award data to the California State Library, including data on the destination of state funding, a first for the state. This allows the State Library to provide unprecedented transparency on state-administered grant dollars. Comprehensive, up-to-date post award grant information is available on the [California Grants Portal Statistics Dashboard](#).

## Government Publications

The [Government Publications Section](#) is a key resource for accessing government documents and helping both state employees and the public with their research needs. As the primary hub for federal and state publications in California, the Government Publications Section ensures free and easy access to a wide range of government data, promoting transparency and civic awareness.

In 2023, the Government Publications Section expanded its digital publications team, which was the first of its kind in the United States to focus on “born digital” government publications. The section developed and published new online research guides, making it easier to access frequently requested and unique government resources. The team also held a joint online series with California State Parks, connecting the public with government resources in a responsive online format.

The Government Publications Section also manages a Patent and Trademark Resource Center that offers valuable, cost-free tools to innovators and entrepreneurs, including personalized patent search training and virtual consultations.

## Ethnic Media Outreach Grants

In 2023, the State Library awarded \$8.1 million in [grants](#) to 62 ethnic media outlets and media collaboratives serving communities impacted by hate incidents and hate crimes.

A joint venture with the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, the grants aim to raise awareness of the [Stop the Hate Program](#) administered by the California Department of Social Services. The Stop the Hate Program helps survivors of hate incidents and hate crimes – and works to prevent those incidents from happening in the first place.

The grants pay for 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. Grantees include, but are not limited to, media outlets and organizations serving California's Arab, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Black, Latino, Native American, Slavic, and LGBTQ+ communities, providing coverage in 21 different languages.

Absent a new influx of cash, this \$8.1 million is the second and last round of funding in the Ethnic Media Grant Outreach Program. In May 2022, the State Library awarded nearly \$6 million in grants to 50 ethnic media outlets and collaboratives.

# IMPROVING STATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

## Information Services

The [Information Services](#) section of the State Library provides reference and circulation services to State of California employees and the public, both virtually and in person. That's no small task when the State Library's collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps, and 250,000 photographs. Information Services librarians also offer training sessions and one-on-one help for state agency employees on using these resources.

In 2023, Information Services implemented new technologies allowing state employees to be served from wherever they are located throughout California. These include purchasing an eBook platform and collections that can be checked out and read online, as well as interlibrary loan services allowing state employees to request and obtain materials needed for their work from other institutions 24/7, using the State Library's online catalog.

The section also gathered feedback from state employees to recommend new e-resources to add to the State Library collection. These resources include historical maps and construction data for engineers; eBooks on computer science and wildlife biology for scientists; and psychology and psychiatry collections for mental health professionals.

In September 2023, National Library Card Signup Month, Information Services conducted the second annual State Library Card drive for eligible cardholders, resulting in a 30 percent increase in signups over 2022.

## Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library

When California lawmakers or state agency staff require in-depth research on legislation or regulations, they turn to the [Witkin State Law Library](#). Recognized for its extensive collection of primary and secondary sources, particularly in California case law, it's the premier law library in state government.

In 2023, the Law Library responded to more than 2,000 often-complex research requests. The Law Library also reaches thousands of legal professionals, state employees and interested Californians through its online newsletter. It expanded its current law collection by 20 percent and added new research and public access databases, including Westlaw and Continuing Education of the Bar ONLaw.

With more people entering the library through its virtual doors, the Law Library continues to expand its online offerings. Last year, the Law Library worked with staff at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law to conduct an online session on cannabis law. The Law Library also showcased its historic legal collections in a webinar in collaboration with the Law Library of Congress.

## 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, and curating data to help address public policy questions and information needs.

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 research of interest to California policymakers.

In 2023, the Research Bureau:

- Updated the [You Count Hub](#), a dashboard that tracks and consolidates data on youth experiencing homelessness across California. The hub was developed by the California Homeless Youth Project, an initiative focused on helping policymakers understand the numbers and characteristics of homeless youth in California.
- Produced the [California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts study](#) showing national security activity generated an estimated \$189.8 billion in economic impact statewide in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The bureau was tasked with the study by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Governor's Military Council.
- Launched a monthly survey of legislative and gubernatorial staff to gauge satisfaction with the Research Bureau's research and information products, customer service, and deadline performance.
- Worked with the Office of Data Innovation interviewing Research Bureau staff, and legislative and gubernatorial staff, to better understand and improve the research and information request cycle.

## ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS

### Braille and Talking Book Library

The [Braille and Talking Book Library](#) provides access to alternate-format 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, as well as audio playback and electronic braille reader equipment, can be accessed free of charge by mail, download, or other assistive technology devices.

In 2023, the Braille and Talking Book team:

- Supplied 572,317 audio and braille books, magazines, and descriptive videos to 8,194 patrons.
- Provided equitable and inclusive library services to incarcerated Californians.
- Expanded its assistive technology device lending program, which increases reading opportunities for Californians, and held 84 technology trainings for patrons.
- Relunched its recording studio, which recruits volunteers to record books about California and makes them available to library users around the United States.
- Participated in 40 outreach events and created new partnerships with stakeholders, including non-profits focusing on Spanish-speaking populations.
- Hosted the 2023 National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled Western Regional Conference.

### 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.

# PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

## California Revealed

California Revealed digitizes and preserves materials from hundreds of cultural heritage institutions across California. It now shares a digital collection of more than 129,000 diverse objects at [www.californiarevealed.org](http://www.californiarevealed.org).

Highlights include recordings of Spanish language folksongs from the early 1900s, home movies depicting rice farming in California's Central Valley from 1945 to 1964, newspapers documenting San Francisco's late 1960s culture, and audiovisual materials from Constance Wofsy, a pioneer in AIDS care.

California Revealed emphasizes cultural diversity and community experiences, making it a valuable resource for educators seeking local perspectives. Collaborating with the California History-Social Science Project at UC Davis, California Revealed launched an Educator Fellowship to develop teaching materials using primary sources from its collections.

The project also provides workshops, training, and mentorship for collection caretakers, library staff, and community members. It supports initiatives like Memory Labs, DIY digitization stations, and community archiving workshops, particularly benefiting marginalized communities by enabling inclusive pathways to preservation and access. These efforts aim to preserve California's history and ensure all Californians see themselves represented.

## California History

In 2023, the [California History](#) Section focused on ensuring that its collections and outreach efforts represent and celebrate the diversity of California and its people. They expanded their collections of primary sources and nonfiction materials, with a particular emphasis on including works by underrepresented communities. Additionally, they enriched their holdings of cultural history materials either created by Californians or focused on California, including fiction, memoirs, poetry, music, and art.

The section also continued its California History Speaker Series, hosting four events aimed at exploring the state's complex history. Topics included women's contributions to social justice within the Black Panther Party, Indigenous perspectives on California's environmental history, the history of Hmong Californians through textile art, and the impact of urban renewal policies on multicultural neighborhoods in Sacramento. All talks were recorded and are available on the [State Library's YouTube channel](#).

The California History Section also worked on inventorying existing collections to making more materials easily available to the public, including digitization. These efforts are making California's rich history more accessible to people locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

## Ready – Or Not

In 2021, the State Library surveyed California's local archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and tribal nations about challenges they face in protecting the irreplaceable pieces of California's story in their care. The results showed that nearly half of surveyed institutions lack disaster response plans, leaving them vulnerable to risks like fire, flood, earthquakes, and storage inadequacies.

In response, the State Library in partnership with the Northeast Document Conservation Center developed the "[Ready-Or-Not](#)" [Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Program](#), which helps communities protect at-risk collections from natural and human-caused disasters. Ready — Or Not preservation consultants assist cultural heritage organizations in evaluating risks to their collections

and begin taking preparatory or remedial steps. Funding is also available through [Groundwork Grants](#) to equip organizations with the necessary tools and resources to implement disaster preparedness recommendations effectively, helping safeguard California's cultural heritage for generations to come.

All a local archive, museum, library, historical society, or tribal nation has to do is ask and a team of emergency response, collection protection and curating best practices experts will assess collections and facilities and help create a [disaster readiness plan](#)—free of charge.

## Digital Concierge

[Digital Concierge](#) is a content creation, digitization, and digital preservation center dedicated to protecting and sharing the photographs, maps, videos and documents hidden throughout California state government. The Digital Concierge team works with state agencies to identify and showcase the most culturally significant, sought after or at-risk parts of their collections and records.

In 2023, the Digital Concierge Program:

- Worked with the Governor's Mansion State Historic Park to digitize rare photographs from Edmund G. "Pat" Brown's first year as California's 32nd governor. Highlights can be viewed on the Library's [Google Arts & Culture page](#).
- Continued a partnership with the Capital District of California State Parks to digitize and make publicly available significant historical materials from the California State Railroad Museum.
- Surveyed and networked with state agencies to identify new potential partners, assess their collections, and learn more about how Digital Concierge's services can best meet their needs.

## 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 rare books and manuscripts purchased in the 19th century by Adolph Sutro, a businessman and former mayor of San Francisco.

One highlight is a Shakespeare First Folio, printed in 1623. Sutro's Mexicana collection is one of the most comprehensive anywhere on early Mexican history and politics. And Sutro has one of the largest genealogy collections in the United States. The Sutro Library hosts both genealogy and academic classes, online cultural enrichment events, and provides faculty and students with specialized archival research training.

## Preservation & Exhibits

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.

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 the [Gold Rush collections](#), and their firsthand accounts of traveling overland and by sea in 1849 to reach the California gold fields. In 2023, Preservation & Exhibits digitized collections of letters written by women, providing insight into a historically overlooked perspective.

Californians can play a role in preserving history by participating in [FromThePage](#), an online crowd-sourcing transcription project that allows members of the public to transcribe text from handwritten documents like diaries or letters. Transcription allows these invaluable materials to be searched and viewed by researchers, scholars, and anyone else with Internet access.

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This report covers activities during the 2023 calendar year. Some initiatives and partnerships may have changed since that time. For information about any of the programs and projects included here, visit the State Library's website.

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