



## **Fun Free Stuff for Back-to-School: More Access to Online Dance Instruction, Performing Arts, Historical & Current Events Documentaries and Plays**

For Immediate Release:

August 19, 2024

Contact: Jeff Barbosa

(279)-399-8981

[press@library.ca.gov](mailto:press@library.ca.gov)

**[Sacramento, Calif.]** – Students returning to California public schools – and every Californian with a library card – now have free access from their phones or their laptops to a large collection of performing arts videos, Ken Burns’ documentaries, world music and 11,000 plays.

The expanded arts, history and social studies collections are part of COMPASS – California Online Media Program for Access and Student Success – which provides a broad range of online resources to local schools and libraries that includes [Britannica](#), [TeachingBooks](#), [National Geographic for Kids](#) and [PebbleGo Science](#).

“COMPASS is an incredible service that already digitally puts the world at the fingertips of every student and every Californian,” said Greg Lucas, California State Librarian. “Now it’s even cooler with even more wonderful musical and cultural adventures to explore.”

COMPASS and all the new material just added to it is available to more than 90 percent of California’s almost 6 million public school students and available through 95 percent of California’s public libraries. COMPASS has generated more than 607 million unique investigations and searches over the past five years.

This new content will expand on collections already offered to schools and libraries through the ProQuest Alexander Street platform, a part of Clarivate.

“Statewide arts resources such as thousands of drama texts and hours of dance instruction video for public schools – and anyone with a California library card – is something to celebrate,” said Julie Baker, CEO of [California for the Arts](#).

“The arts, like libraries, are public goods. Every person in California should have access to the health and economic benefits of arts participation and arts education. Our goal now is to ensure that folks who benefit from these free resources know they exist!”

Some of the new Alexander Street content highlights are:

- Thousands of drama texts, including 20th Century classics and culturally diverse plays;
- History and social studies videos, including over 1,000 mini-documentaries from CNN and full-length history documentaries from producers such as Ken Burns, PBS and The History Channel;
- Expansions of various professional performing arts video and audio collections of classical music, folk, jazz, and world music; and
- Dance instruction videos encompassing hundreds of hours of instruction.

“At Clarivate, we connect students, teachers and communities to trusted content that inspires and transforms their perspectives and our world,” said Susan Bokern, Vice President, Product Management, at Clarivate. “We are honored to bring high-quality history, social studies and performing arts content to California public school students and public library patrons. The COMPASS team’s selection of diverse content, in alignment with new state standards, is something we are proud to support.”

For more information on training and connecting to the new content, see below for upcoming webinars and interactive tech set up discussions.

**# END RELEASE TEXT #**

**About the State Library:** Established in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for state government and the Legislature. The Library collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps and 250,000 photographs, and includes an extensive collection of documents from and about the state’s rich history. Around the state, the State Library serves California’s local libraries, providing more than \$500 million state and federal funds to support public libraries and deliver statewide library programs and services such as the free Parks Pass program in public libraries, Lunch at the Library during school breaks and holidays, and a statewide eBook library with diverse titles in 20+ languages. The State Library is also partnering with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to provide books to every child under the age of 5. [State Library Website](#)

**About COMPASS.** The State Library and its partner the Riverside County Office of Education have provided online tools for academic success to California’s school students and their

teachers at no cost to schools since 2018 through COMPASS (previously known as the K-12 Online Resources Program). COMPASS has had more than 607 million unique investigations and searches between fall of 2018 and the spring of 2024. Over 90% of California public schools and 95% of California public libraries are connected to the program to provide resources from Britannica, ProQuest and Alexander Street, TeachingBooks, Gale, and Capstone's PebbleGo Science. <https://compass.library.ca.gov>

###

## **Training and More Information for Teachers, Librarians, School Administrators, Teaching Artists, and Families**

ProQuest and its Alexander Street training team have scheduled two informational webinars to explore the educational potential from the content for performing arts, history/social science, English language arts, and ethnic studies education.

Teachers, school administrators, librarians, library technicians, teaching artists, and families can join the upcoming webinars and learn more. Sessions will be recorded and available after the live webinars.

- **Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM, First Content Overview**

[Link to ProQuest Informational Webinar](#)

- **Thursday, October 3, 2024, 2:30 PM-3:30 PM, Second Content Overview**

[Link to ProQuest Informational Webinar](#)

Informational technology staff at districts and libraries seeking information about technical set-up can view a recent ProQuest online training for K-12 and public-library technology leads. COMPASS staff can also assist – email [compass@library.ca.gov](mailto:compass@library.ca.gov) for help.

- [ProQuest Content Overview and Interactive Tech Setup Discussion Recording](#)
- [ProQuest California K-12 LibGuide](#) – check here for session slides and new Alexander Street collection icons

### **Additional Details**

The expanded Alexander Street arts and social studies collections from ProQuest include:

**DRAMA TEXTS COLLECTIONS:** Thousands of full scripts of dramatic work available for reading and performance exploration. Multiple collections available, from historical works to modern classics.

**General Collections**

- Twentieth Century Drama
- Twentieth Century North American Drama
- North American Women's Drama
- Contemporary World Drama

**Culturally Specific**

- Asian American Drama
- Black Drama
- Latin American Drama
- North American Indian Drama

**Historical Collections**

- American Drama (pre 1915 drama from American stages)
- English Drama (historic English drama through the centuries)

Example titles include *Fences* by August Wilson, *Mule Bone* by Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes, and *Letters to a Student Revolutionary* by Elizabeth Wong. There are thousands more available.

**AMERICAN HISTORY IN VIDEO.** This collection has a variety of videos from primary sources in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, to newsreels during WWII, to full documentaries on important historical subjects and produced by entities and individuals like Ken Burns, California Newsreel, The History Channel and PBS.

**CNN VIDEO COLLECTION.** Special programming on topics that impact today's world: business, economics, technology, environmental studies, health, women's studies, and human rights – content to spark discussions, support scholarly research, and inform and engage patrons.

**ADDITIONAL ARTS COLLECTIONS.** These latest perpetual licenses include an expansion of current collections like *Smithsonian Global Sounds for Libraries* with world-music albums, additions to the classical music and Black music performances in the **Music Online** collections, and dance instruction videos in the *Dance Online: Dance in Video* collection.

###