

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN

It was a big year for libraries.

In 2021, the State of California made the largest single investment in local libraries in California history— more than \$430 million to address long-overdue safety and maintenance needs. How overdue? In the first 73 applications received under the program, 60 involved buildings that don't meet Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility thresholds—more than 27 years after the federal legislation became law.

The applications also are a reminder that replacement of a sagging roof or defunct HVAC system does not a 21st Century library make.

Nearly one-third of the applicants said antiquated or inadequate wiring prevented them from delivering broadband at the high speeds their communities need. Rooms for private study or community gatherings were a frequent request. So were outdoor amenities, interior remodels to provide more flexibility of use, Makerspaces, recording studios, computer labs—all of which are important aspects of 21st Century libraries.

Despite the historic nature of the Building Forward Library Infrastructure Program, we found that it will meet less than 10 percent of the modernization, renovation and replacement needs of California's 1,130 public library branches.

Additional state investment over the next four or five years and an expansion of projects eligible for state funding would help address these important needs.

The Building Forward library infrastructure grants are by no means the only assistance the State Library is providing local libraries. As just a taste of what you'll discover in this annual report, the State Library also supports fun and enriching programs for children and teens; literacy programs and educational opportunities for adults; workforce development tools and interview training for jobseekers; and much, much more.

The State Library has also been working on a little self-improvement.

We're using 21st Century technologies to better deliver services and ensure that we are the research and cultural center worthy of the world's fifth largest economy. We're making it easier to find important information on our website and through our catalog. And we're providing more digital content that Californians—and the world—can access and use at their convenience, rather than ours.

We used our enforced absence from the library buildings during the pandemic to focus on better integrating the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion into both our internal policies

and grant-making priorities. That includes ensuring that our historical narratives include all voices.

As we move out of the pandemic and into 2022, the State Library will continue finding innovative ways to connect the people, libraries and government of California to the knowledge and resources they need to meet and master whatever challenges lay ahead.

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 the 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.

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

- 172 Years Serving the People of California
- 1,130 Public Libraries in California
- 23.4 Million Californians with Library Cards
- 435,000 Public Programs at Local Libraries
- 308,344 Summer Meals Served to Children Through Lunch at the Library
- \$439 Million in the 2021-22 State Budget to Renovate and Modernize Local Libraries
- 6.2 Million Public School Students with Access to K-12 Online Research Tools
- 977 Public Libraries Connected to High-Speed Broadband

LOOKING BACK

The pandemic continued to impact State Library and local library operations in 2021. With physical facilities closed to the public, more Californians continued to enter libraries through digital doors. Along with local libraries, the State Library moved to meet these challenges.

COVID-19 Survey

Even though California's public libraries were forced to close their physical doors during the COVID-19 pandemic, they continued to provide much-needed services to the public— many of them virtually.

Branches issued electronic library cards and added more electronic resources including eBooks, online classes and live-streamed programming. Library staff delivered material to homebound people and seniors, served as learning pod locations for school children, and provided temporary shelter during inclement weather or fire season.

The State Library conducted a survey to learn more about how libraries reimaged their services during the pandemic to better serve their communities. Among the findings:

- 96% of library jurisdictions that responded provided curbside service, ensuring community members had access to physical library materials, book bundles, and library program “grab-and-go” kits.
- More than half of libraries provided COVID-19 information and helped library users find vaccination and testing appointments
- One out of five libraries had staff members reassigned to contact tracing, and half had staff reassigned to other government services, including answering information hotlines and staffing food banks.

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

With support from the American Rescue Plan Act, the State Library developed and delivered a series of innovative statewide projects to help communities recover from the effects of the pandemic. These efforts included:

- \$4.3 million to provide Californians with free access to top quality online workforce and skill building platforms,
- \$1.8 million for Chromebooks, Hotspots, and data plans for library patrons lacking Internet access, and
- \$1.5 million to create a statewide collection of 40,000 eBooks for early learners and school-age children. The statewide library will grow – with additional state investment – based on community needs.

Closing the Opportunity Gap for California Students

In July 2021, 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.

Since the program began in July 2018, there have been more than 231 million investigations and searches—more than 93 million of them since schools were temporarily closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic. It's an example of California's ongoing commitment to making educational opportunities available to all students and families.

This year, funding was increased from \$3 million to \$5.5 million to add more STEAM-focused resources, including interactive tools to explain biology, chemistry, earth, and space science concepts.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The principles of equity, diversity and inclusion guide the State Library's work. With that in mind, the State Library developed and implemented a roadmap for improving equity, diversity, and inclusion to ensure that the library's spaces, collections, programs, and projects—both digital and physical—accurately reflect the diversity of California and are easily accessible to all.

To drive this work, the State Library established five staff committees in the areas of recruitment, collections, outreach, communications and internal practices. The State Library's senior staff is working with these committees to implement recommendations to expand these efforts.

Lunch at the Library

[Lunch at the Library](#) provides children and teens in low-income families with free healthy meals, books and educational materials during the summer months when school is out. Even with branches physically closed to the public, California libraries served 300,000 meals and handed out 177,000 free books and 183,000 STEAM enrichment kits in their communities during 2021.

This year's proposed state budget builds on that success with an ongoing \$5 million investment in Lunch at the Library. This funding will enable the State Library to at least double the number of participating libraries by 2026, providing even more California children and teens with nutritious meals and learning opportunities essential to their development.

California Grants Portal

In 2020, the State Library launched the California Grants Portal, an interactive tool to help Californians easily find state grant opportunities. Since then, more than 1 million visitors including nonprofits, businesses, public agencies and tribal governments have accessed approximately \$27 billion in funding. In July 2021, the State Library published the first California Grants Portal [annual report](#), highlighting how state grantmakers and grantseekers have used the portal to distribute and find billions of state dollars.

By July 2022 state grantmaking agencies will begin submitting to the State Library important data on outcomes, including information on each recipient, amount awarded per recipient,

project details and geographic location. This new data will create even greater transparency on the destination of state-administered grant dollars.

California Chronicles

The State Library and California Department of Aging collaborated to launch [California Chronicles](#), a community history project that collects stories from older Californians in the form of audio and video recordings, oral histories, written histories and photographs. The initiative shines a light on the diverse experiences and perspectives of the state’s older population, while memorializing those stories for future generations.

Protecting California’s Cultural Heritage

The State Library undertook a comprehensive survey of California’s archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and tribal nations to help inform state decision-making on arts and cultural heritage investment. The [final report](#) found that California’s cultural heritage institutions trail their national counterparts in terms of collection protection. Lack of proper storage was one of the key causes of damage or loss.

In response, the State Library developed the “Ready–Or Not” Disaster Preparedness grant program to help local archives, cultural centers, historical societies, libraries, museums and, when possible, tribal nations protect their collections. However, additional investment is necessary to ensure that California’s cultural keepsakes are protected from disaster and made accessible to all Californians.

First Partner’s Summer Book Club

Launched in partnership with the California State Library, First 5 Association of California, and First 5 California, the [First Partner’s Summer Book Club](#) is a 10-week initiative to keep children reading and engaged during the summer months.

Featuring a curated collection of 23 diverse and inclusive children’s books, the 2021 Summer Book Club included virtual storytimes presented by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and special guests. Through the Summer @ Your Library project, 1,125 California public library outlets received the First Partner’s Summer Book Club collection, which focused on social-emotional learning.

WHAT’S AHEAD

To speed California’s recovery from the pandemic, additional state resources have been devoted to meeting both immediate and longer-term needs at local libraries and the communities they serve.

Unprecedented Investment in Libraries

The 2021-2022 state budget contains an unprecedented and much-needed investment in California’s public libraries. The \$439 million earmarked by Gov. Newsom and the Legislature

for renovating and modernizing local libraries is the largest single investment in libraries in state history. And it could not have come at a better time—half of California’s 1,130 library branches are 40 years or older.

To implement this once-in-a-generation opportunity, the California State Library developed an equity-focused [grant program](#) that prioritizes critical maintenance needs and underserved communities. This investment will address some of the longest running critical facilities needs but additional investment is needed to ensure all Californians have access to the library-based resources—from career centers and kid zones to digital labs and Makerspaces—they need to succeed in the 21st century.

Five-Year Investment Plan

The State Library developed a Five-Year Investment Plan that reflects the diversity and creativity that have helped make California a world-renowned innovator and the fifth largest economy on the planet. The plan identifies the steps to be taken to make the library a:

- More comprehensive and balanced source of information on important social, cultural, and political issues and events in California’s history.
- Better protector of California’s collections and stories.
- Lead state agency in identifying and preserving the state’s cultural heritage collections.
- Stronger leader in library development and a trusted steward of public funds.
- Modern research library whose online and physical resources meet state government’s research needs and contribute to sound policy decisions.

ESL in Local Literacy Programs

In 2022, the State Library will launch a five-year pilot of English as a Second Language programs in public libraries. Demand for this service 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.”

With \$15 million in funding for this pilot in the 2021- 2022 state budget, public libraries can welcome those who struggle with basic literacy skills and do not speak English proficiently. This investment will help library literacy programs support parents and jobseekers, encourage civic engagement, strengthen community networks, and create and foster new generations of library users and lifelong learners.

“Broadband for All”

The 2021- 2022 state budget includes \$6 million to support the Library Broadband Connectivity Initiative, which provides grants to connect rural and under sourced public libraries to upgrade equipment to support high-speed connectivity.

This investment is paired with \$35 million in one-time funds to expand broadband access and upgrade equipment to access high-speed connectivity in isolated and under-served

communities through a collaborative partnership with libraries, local education agencies and tribal nations.

This parallel investment moves California closer to strong, reliable connectivity for all.

State Library Park Pass Program

Starting in April 2022, Californians will be able to check out free day-use state park passes from their local libraries through the [State Library Park Pass program](#). Created in partnership with First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and California State Parks, the two-year pilot program will help reduce barriers and expand access to state parks for all Californians particularly those in underserved communities. Libraries will also receive funding for complementary programming and outreach to children and families in their communities.

Supporting Communities Impacted by Hate Crimes

In response to the recent rise in hate crimes, the State Library is awarding [\\$5 million in grants](#) to ethnic media outlets and organizations serving communities historically impacted by these incidents. Funding for these grants was included in the historic Asian and Pacific Islander Equity Budget, which was sponsored by the API Legislative Caucus and signed into law by Gov. Newsom in 2021. In addition to promoting community healing and cross-cultural collaboration, the grants will help raise awareness of the California Department of Social Services' Stop the Hate Program, which provides support and services to survivors of hate crimes and their families.

Preserving LGBTQ+ History

Eleven museums, academic institutions and nonprofit organizations will be preserving and sharing California's rich and diverse LGBTQ+ history thanks to state-funded grants. Funding will be used to catalog and digitize photographs, newspapers, audiovisual recordings and other materials relevant to the LGBTQ+ movement and experience. Grantees include the GLBT Historical Society, June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, Color Compton and the Louise Lawrence Transgender Archive. By helping to preserve and make these collections available to the public, the project will allow future generations to see and hear the stories of LGBTQ+ Californians that might otherwise go untold.

Statewide eBook Library

Using \$1.5 million in one-time federal emergency COVID-relief funds, the State Library has begun to build an e-library for all Californians. The first stage is completed: A [statewide collection](#) of over 40,000 eBooks for early learners and school-age children. Through this project, every Californian with a library card will have access to thousands of digital fiction and nonfiction books—even if they aren't physically able to visit their local library.

Providing a statewide eBook collection that is accessible regardless of where one lives or the budget of their local library will ensure that all Californians have access to digital materials.

Over time, California’s statewide eLibrary will grow to include fiction and nonfiction titles for adults.

Expanding Data Literacy

In 2022, the State Library’s California Research Bureau will work with data scientists from the University of California at Berkeley to train library staff to work with large data sets. The effort is part of the State Library’s five-year plan to manage the ever-growing ocean of research, reports and data being generated by state agencies. It will also help the library’s researchers mine large data sets to better inform state policymakers and Californians.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS & FAMILIES

Public libraries are one of the most visited destinations for families with children, making them an ideal setting for delivering early learning opportunities, supporting children’s social-emotional development and reaching at-risk families. Even with operations disrupted by the pandemic, California’s 1,130 public library branches continued to connect children, teens, families and caregivers with the services they need to thrive.

Lunch at the Library

When school lunch programs stop in the summer, children in food-insecure and low-income households still need healthy meals and learning opportunities. [Lunch at the Library](#) provides free meals for children and teens experiencing food insecurity while connecting their families and caregivers to free resources, programs and services.

Even during the height of the pandemic, when most physical library branches were closed, libraries were able to:

- Serve 308,344 meals—up from 296,124 in 2020.
- Bring pop-up library programming to 423 community meal sites—up from 394 in 2020.
- Distribute 111,933 take home enrichment kits to summer meal participants.
- Give away 91,832 free books to help community members build home libraries.

Lawmakers are weighing a proposal by Gov. Newsom that would add \$5 million to support the program in the 2022- 2023 budget, which would allow Lunch at the Library to feed even more hungry children and teens each summer.

Early Learning & Out of School Time

Library-based Early Learning and Out of School Time programs connect children and teens, as well as their families and caregivers, with opportunities that help narrow the achievement gap and close racial and income disparities.

In 2021, the State Library invested \$4.6 million in [early learning and out of school programs](#) to enrich young imaginations, support school and workplace readiness and promote wellness and social-emotional skills.

- Early Learning hubs provide free parenting classes, Kinder Readiness workshops, “Play and Learn” spaces and more. To maximize impact, libraries partner with other critical community service providers and institutions, including local schools, health clinics, First 5 organizations, apprenticeship programs and mental health services agencies. These partnerships ensure that children, youth, families and caregivers are connected to the resources they need, where and when they need them.
- Out of School Time grants deliver vital services to adolescents and teens during the critical hours that they aren’t in the classroom. These programs support the social-emotional development of school-aged children and workplace preparedness of teens, setting them up for future success. Projects included art instruction in Oakland, teen internships in Oceanside, STEAM kits in Anaheim and natural science exploration in Inyo County.

Summer @ Your Library

[Summer programs](#) in public libraries build communities of readers and keep families engaged in fun enrichment and literacy activities while school is out. They are free of charge, open to all, and take place in safe and welcoming community spaces.

In summer 2021, 348,874 Californians participated in summer reading and learning programs offered by libraries across the state. In addition, libraries distributed 451,147 STEAM kits and hosted 13,699 programs—5,654 in-person and 8,045 live, virtual programs.

The Summer @ Your Library project works with California’s libraries to bring equity into library summer services, meeting the varied needs of youth and families within their communities.

DIGITALLY EMPOWERING ALL CALIFORNIANS

As a member of the California Broadband Council, the State Library is part of multiple initiatives to improve community connectivity across the state.

Through the State Library’s [Broadband Program](#), 977 of California’s 1,130 branches are now connected or connecting to the high-speed California Research and Education Network—the same high-speed network used by the University of California, the state university system, community colleges and public schools.

The 2021- 2022 state budget included \$41 million to support the State Library’s broadband connectivity initiatives. These funds will be used to draw down additional federal matching funds and expand broadband access and upgrade equipment to access high-speed connectivity in isolated and underserved communities.

Through its “Home Connectivity Kits,” the State Library is providing lesser-resourced libraries with hotspots and Chromebooks to lend to patrons. The library’s pilot Digital Navigator program connects community members with digital navigators—through their local libraries—who can help them better use digital devices and find out how to access low-cost broadband.

Both programs use one-time federal COVID recovery funds and will need additional state investment to continue.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

During times of economic hardship, library attendance increases as people seek out tools and services for educational advancement, skills development, job opportunities and small-business support.

These resources—free to any Californian with a library card—help reduce economic inequality, improve financial literacy and increase individual lifetime earnings. They also have a broader impact, as higher rates of literacy, education and employment have been shown to reduce society’s healthcare and criminal justice costs.

Because of this high rate of return on investment, the California State Library supports a variety of education and workforce development programs.

CAreer Pathways

The State Library is using one-time federal American Rescue Plan Act funds (\$8.8M) to create [CAreer Pathways](#), an online hub that helps Californians build skills for in-demand jobs, now and in the future. The free resources on CAreer Pathways offer online job training, skill-building and professional development tools created by some of the top online learning companies, including Coursera, LinkedIn Learning, LearningExpress and Skillshare.

Subscriptions to these services would cost an individual more than \$1,000 per year, but any Californian with a library card can access them for free at the library, at home, or on the go. Californians can use the CAreer Pathways services locator map to learn more.

The resources available through CAreer Pathways are another way in which libraries aid in economic development, build communities of lifelong learners and support the information needs of a 21st Century society.

California Library Literacy Services

Last year, the State Library invested more than \$7.3 million in [library-based literacy services](#), with an emphasis on family programs that target the intergenerational nature of literacy.

Due to the pandemic, literacy services pivoted quickly to digital learning, virtual tutoring, and family programming that provided books and learning materials for home use along with virtual instruction to promote family engagement and conversation.

Even with these adjustments, during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021:

- 104 library jurisdictions provided services to 6,598 adult learners and their families, and nearly 2,000 adult learners were waiting for tutors. Family literacy programs served 1,486 adult learner families, including 2,547 children.
- 3,884 volunteers contributed \$7.2 million worth of service hours.
- The state's \$7.3 million investment was matched with \$19.2 million in local funding.
- Library literacy programs worked with 352 partnering agencies, including schools, community colleges, homeless shelters, and juvenile justice departments.

This year, with the addition of \$15 million in state support, the State Library will launch a five-year pilot of English as a Second Language (ESL) programs in local library literacy programs. This pilot will help libraries meet rising demand for ESL programs and provide limited English proficiency Californians the language skills necessary to succeed in school, in the workplace and in life.

Career Online High School

[Career Online High School](#) gives Californians above the age of 19 the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and credentialed career certificate at the same time. The goal is to bring non-traditional and/or adult learners back into the educational system and prepare them for jobs in growing sectors of the economy.

Participants 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.

- 2,477 California adults have received a high school diploma through Career Online High School at their local libraries. More than 1,000 are currently enrolled.
- 68 library jurisdictions currently offer the program, with more participating each year.
- More than 77 percent of graduates intend to pursue higher education.
- Local libraries, businesses, and nonprofits have matched the state's investment with more than \$4 million in additional scholarships and support.

Working Scholars

[Working Scholars](#) makes it possible for selected Career Online High School and public library staff members to complete their college degree online. The pilot project of 100 students enrolled in early 2020. To date, 25 members of the cohort have received their bachelors' degrees. Having a college diploma enables these adults to seek promotions at work and attend graduate school to pursue masters' degrees in library and information science, supporting a new generation of professional librarians.

CREATING, PROTECTING AND SHARING DIGITAL ASSETS

The State Library has a legal mandate to collect, preserve, and provide access to collections and material related to California's history, government and culture. Digitization of the library's collection, as well as materials held by other government agencies and cultural heritage entities, is essential to this mission. It's also a central component of the State Library's Five-Year Investment Plan.

Over the next five years, the State Library will use new and emerging technologies to:

- Digitize at least 50,000 photos, books, manuscripts and maps.
- Utilize artificial intelligence research tools that can speed up and generate more accurate research, analysis and visualization for state policymakers.
- Collaborate with state agencies to digitally preserve and showcase parts of their own collections.
- Expand the CA.GOV digital archive to include state agency social media accounts.

To facilitate these goals, the State Library developed a [Digital Preservation Strategy](#). This strategy guides the library's digital preservation activities as it works to meet growing demand for digital assets from state employees and the public.

The governor's proposed 2022-2023 budget also includes \$14 million to move the State Library forward on the digital front and help ensure free, sustainable public access to knowledge for a new generation of Californians.

Digital Concierge Program

The State Library's [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 departments to identify and showcase the most culturally significant, sought-after or at-risk parts of their collections and records, in addition to the collections held by the California State Library.

The Digital Concierge Program recently kicked off a partnership with the Capital District of California State Parks. This partnership will digitize and make publicly available some of the agency's significant historical artifacts, including items from the Governor's Mansion and the California State Railroad Museum.

California Revealed

[California Revealed](#) digitizes and preserves photographs, written materials, and audiovisual recordings from more than 300 cultural heritage institutions across the state. The resulting collection of over 84,000 online-accessible items encompass everything from home movies to government training films, diaries to dance performances, and land assessment maps to high school yearbooks.

Some of the most viewed documents include film footage of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, interviews with John Wayne and then Gov. Ronald Reagan at Knott's Berry Farm, a panel discussion with women members of the Black Panther Party and a 1983 demo of "Lisa," the early personal computer developed by Apple.

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.

Mobile Library Solutions

When Californians lack transportation, live far from their library, or work long hours, mobile libraries and expanded program delivery make it possible for them to access library services and programs.

[Bringing the Library to You](#) is a state-funded program that helps local libraries acquire bookmobiles and offer programs that improve library access and program delivery. Services include materials check-out, programming, access to Wi-Fi, literacy services, and even archiving of important documents.

Plumas County is using Bringing the Library to You funding to purchase a mobile library to serve Greenville residents, whose library was destroyed in the Dixie Fire. The majority of projects use alternative fuel sources, including the City of San Diego's project, which will acquire electric cargo bikes to reach areas where cars are not allowed.

In July 2021, the State Library received \$3 million in state funding to bring mobile library solutions to even more communities.

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 2021, the Braille and Talking Book team:

- Circulated 202,271 audio and braille books and descriptive videos to 8,965 users.
- Facilitated 198,506 audio book and magazine downloads to 2,111 patrons.

- Launched phase one of a three-year Assistive Technology service to provide internet access and technology to patrons isolated by the digital divide.
- Created new partnerships with stakeholders including the Sacramento Public Library’s Bookmobile, San Francisco Veteran’s Affairs, and California Department of Rehabilitation.
- Cosponsored the 2nd annual Sacramento Superfest Disability Film Festival.
- Converted over 100 retrospective Analog to Digital titles in the Californiana collection, giving a second life to titles that had become inaccessible when cassette tapes had ceased circulation.
- Launched a virtual patron support program called “Sheltering in Place Conversations” in partnership with the Talking Books and Braille Center of San Francisco.

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.

In 2021, the Braille and Talking Book Library and the Braille Institute Library received \$1.6 million in state funding to pilot new assistive technologies for visually impaired Californians. These lending programs will make devices like handheld digital media audio players, video magnifiers and Wi- Fi hotspots available to eligible patrons. The devices will help blind and print disabled Californians access even richer digital content.

SERVICES FOR STATE GOVERNMENT

The State Library is the research center for state government, ensuring that public health scientists, regulators, attorneys and other elected and non-elected policymakers have the resources they need to perform 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.

Information Services

The [Information Services](#) team is the first point of contact for many State Library users. Information Services provides reference service, circulation assistance, print and e-books, a suite of databases, print and e-journals and other periodicals. Information Services is continually adapting and modernizing its services to meet the changing needs of the state workforce. This includes providing convenient online services for teleworking state employees or sending publications directly to their homes.

These services include regular online database demonstrations and trainings, as well as one-on-one help sessions on how to more easily find what you’re looking for in State Library databases.

Information Services staff also revamped the section's website and made substantial updates to the State Library's catalog, leading to a friendlier user experience and more accurate search results.

In preparation for reopening the library following its closure due to the pandemic, the Information Services team transformed the collections in historic Gillis Hall, filling the shelves with books acquired by the State Library in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many of which had previously been stored out of public view.

California Research Bureau

The [California Research Bureau](#) provides timely, 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 complex data sets to help address the public policy questions and information needs of legislative and gubernatorial staff.

The Research Bureau also provides online training and consultations to legislative and Governor's Office staff on conducting their own research. The bureau also produces two weekly newsletters highlighting free public policy talks and new research that may be of interest to California policymakers.

In 2021, the Research Bureau:

- Produced the [California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts](#) study showing the impact of national security spending at the statewide, county, and congressional district levels. 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.
- Hired a project director for the California Homeless Youth Project, which collects and publishes data on unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in California. The project director launched a partnership with UC Berkeley Innovations for Youth, Stanford Data and Mapping for Society, and the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to prototype the first data dashboard providing a comprehensive view of youth homelessness.
- Began working with the University of California at Berkeley to train staff on using Python to efficiently organize and visualize large data sets for California policymakers.
- Hosted a Capitol Executive Fellow to assist with the [California Grants Portal](#), the state's one website from which to find all current grant and loan opportunities.

Bernard S. 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 case law and statutes, the Law Library is frequently consulted by lawmakers and state agency staff when tracing legislative or regulatory histories.

During the pandemic, the Law Library expanded its outreach to state agencies and employees by developing a new website that features virtual presentations and exhibits and presents legal resources in a streamlined manner. Since then, site visits have grown exponentially, and the section's quarterly newsletter saw a 40 percent increase in subscribers.

The Law Library is constantly updating its collection to include new statutes, regulations, legal decisions and related documents. Most recently, the Law Library published [California Library Laws 2022](#), a selective guide to state laws and related materials that most directly affect the everyday operations of public libraries.

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

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 leads to a more transparent government and a more informed state.

In 2021, the [Government Publications](#) section:

- Added tens of thousands of electronic records to its collection. Government publications are increasingly being disseminated digitally, and staff are responding to these changes by proactively seeking out publications online and adding them to the library's collection.
- Catalogued and barcoded the Federal Pamphlet section, consisting of more than 14,000 documents, and made thousands of edits and corrections to other bibliographic, holdings and item records. Ensuring these records are accurate and current increases public transparency and makes it easier to request and obtain materials.
- Held multiple outreach programs to inform the public about the diversity and accessibility of Government Publications resources.
- Worked with more than 70 California Federal Depository Libraries to implement FDLPeXchange, an online application enabling them to efficiently and equitably exchange federal publications with other libraries in the state and across the nation.

In 2022, the State Library will work with the Institute of Governmental Students at UC Berkeley to create and maintain an online digital database of government documents and records. The project will ensure easy access to historical and current materials for state and local policymakers, regulators, researchers and interested Californians.

The Government Publications team 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. These services make it easier for Californians to protect their intellectual property and bring innovative ideas to market, while saving them the cost of patent searching services or copyright attorneys.

CA.GOV Archive

In 2021, Government Publications took over leadership of the [CA.GOV Archive](#), a seven terabyte and growing repository preserving 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.

This collection is a collaborative effort of the State Library and government information specialists and web curators from the University of California, Stanford University and the State Archives.

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.

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California History

The State Library is responsible for the protection of 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; Japanese internment evacuation and resettlement records; 1960’s protest posters; and work by famous California photographers like Carleton Watkins.

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

In 2021, the [California History](#) team prioritized collection development and assessment with a focus on communities and histories underrepresented in the State Library's collection. These efforts led to the acquisition of books written by or focusing on the perspectives of California's indigenous population. California History is also taking inventory of existing collections to discover items previously hidden from the public, such as a poster collection featuring work by Chicano artists and activists including the Royal Chicano Air Force.

In addition to ensuring that the library's collections reflect the diversity of the Golden State, the California History team is constantly working to make those stories more available and accessible to the public. In 2021, those efforts included creating videos of rare collection items, participating in virtual public events and holding online classes on California history.

Sutro Library

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

Through its partnership with San Francisco State University, Sutro hosts genealogy classes and cultural enrichment events as well as providing faculty and students with specialized archival research training.

In 2020, due to the pandemic, the library pivoted from in-person to online programming. The virtual format led to a sharp increase in attendance, with hundreds of genealogy students, researchers and members of the general public tuning in from as far away as Mexico, Portugal, Spain and Australia. All of the recordings for last year's virtual events, covering topics including critical family history and slavery, can be found at the State Library's YouTube page.

The Sutro Library also partnered with Google Arts and Culture to launch an online exhibit of posters from the 2017 international [Women's March](#).

Preservation & Exhibits

The Preservation & Exhibits Section ensures that the cultural treasures entrusted to the State Library will be accessible to Californians today and into the future.

In 2021, Preservation partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondence Association to install the "Joe Rosenthal and the Photo That Changed America," exhibit. The exhibit featured the iconic photograph "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima," taken in 1945.

Preservation also created two new online exhibits for [Google Arts & Culture](#), “Silent Hollywood” and “Travel to California,” which will launch in 2022.

The Preservation & Exhibits Section also digitized the collection of [Tarea Hall Pittman](#), a civil rights worker and leader in the West Coast Region of the NAACP. The collection includes photographs, publications and other materials documenting activities and events involving Pittman and the NAACP in the 1950’s and 1960’s.

The State Library is also grateful for the help it received from the Californians who collaborated with the Preservation team on [FromThePage](#), a unique crowdsourcing 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, the library’s collection of documents, letters and photos of Californians who served in World War I has been entirely transcribed.

Of course, the Preservation team continues to preserve California’s treasures the old-fashioned way, through highly specialized work including book repair, rebinding, paper repair, and creating custom enclosures for fragile material.

Visit the California State Library’s social media pages:

www.facebook.com/castatelibrary/

www.twitter.com/casatelibrary/

<http://www.instagram.com/californiastatelibrary/>