

QUICK FACTS ABOUT LOUISIANA LIBRARIES



INTRODUCTION

Public library statistics are collected annually by the State Library of Louisiana. No agency collects comparable statistics for academic and school libraries.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- The average Louisianan pays \$39.51 for public library service each year while \$50 is the average cost of a ticket to an LSU football game.
- Louisianans made 15,591,805 visits to public libraries in 2009 while approximately 3,839,000 people attended university and professional athletic events in the state.
- Louisiana public libraries circulated 18 million items in 2010.
- Public libraries are the number one point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school, or work. **43** percent of Louisiana households have no internet access.
- Louisiana has 339 public libraries state wide that serve all citizens.

STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA (SLOL)

- The State Library budget for online library databases in 2010-2011 for all public libraries in the state was \$650,000.
- The TBBL (Talking Books and Braille Library) division of the State Library that meets the needs of sight and hearing impaired citizens accounts for 10% of total circulation.
- The State Library sponsored summer reading program operating in most parishes of the state served 84,000 people in 2010.
- More than 28,000 elementary and middle school students in Louisiana participated in the Louisiana Young Readers Choice Award program in the 2010-2011 school year, reading 80,000 books and voting for their favorite.
- The Teen Readers Choice Program for high school students launched in 2011 with its own website.
- The “Louisiana Libraries: Connecting People to their Potential” project is being funded through the Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Within three years of the grant award (February 2010), the project will have conducted more than 2,500 classes on computer applications and business skills; provided electronic resources that offer

job enhancement, job search and educational skills practice; and offer one-on-one online tutoring with professional educators. All of these services are free to the public. The electronic resources are all up and running, (lajacc.org) while the classes largely tend to have waiting lists.

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network is a partnership of Academic Libraries, State and Private Libraries, Museums and Archives providing:

- an integrated library system (ILS) that allows students and faculty to search library collections across the state,
- a digital library providing online access from any internet capable device,
- interlibrary loan among academic institutions, and
- subscriptions to electronic scholarly resources through 65 databases.
- For a yearly investment of \$3.67, LOUIS provides \$19 million in services. Since beginning in 1992, LOUIS has saved the state an estimated \$152 million.
- LOUIS is the reason that smaller libraries in community and technical colleges are automated and accessible to their patrons 24/7/365.
- A 2011 U.S. survey shows that 80 % of instructors and students see online libraries and library databases as having a greater impact on student engagement and learning than any other online resource, including online textbooks.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

- The Louisiana Comprehensive curriculum includes over 700 activities that require or recommend the use of technology. Implementing the curriculum with fidelity and efficiency is enhanced by access to reliable and trusted online school library databases.
- Funding for shared K-12 online library databases which gave students and teachers in public and private schools 24/7/365 access was cut from the Louisiana Department of Education budget in 2007. Less than 50 percent of the parish districts have since mustered the funds to continue to provide access on their own and at much greater cost to taxpayers than through a statewide subscription.
- Many Louisiana school libraries use a technology-based reading program to help students improve reading fluency while building a lifelong love of reading.
- Research studies conducted in 19 states as of 2010 show that student achievement is higher in schools with strong school library programs that support instruction and learning.

“The closest thing we will ever have to an orderly universe is a good library.”

Source Unknown

“My guess is (it will be) about 300 years until computers are as good as, say, your local reference library in search.” Craig Silverstein, Director of Technology, Google.com.