



EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
LIBRARY

2022

East Baton Rouge Parish Library Highlights for 2022

- The Library completed updates to its Strategic Plan in the fall of 2022.
- The Library's Collections remain stable, comprising more than 2 million items. New additions to the collection included special online resources such as Skill Mill's AR/VR Workforce Learning Platform, Bloom's Literature, the Proquest Louisiana Collection, Legal GPS, World Almanac for Kids, and Access Video on Demand. The Library rolled out circulating Wi-Fi Hotspots, Games, and Family Activity Kits. BR City Key Website was revised in 2022 to include updated COVID and food disparities as well as new census information.
- The Library issued 26,958 new library cards in 2022. The total Patron Count increased to 335,530, which is 74 % of the parish population.
- The overall visitor Gate Count rose 32 % to 1,553,128.
- Reference/information questions leveled off at 842,400, reflecting ability for patrons to come in person to any location to ask for assistance or self-serve.
- Recording 931,104 logins, the Library's Wi-Fi usage increased 23.4%. Wi-Fi was enhanced throughout the system.
- Database use remained strong. Website use dropped; an RFP for a new website was issued in late fall 2022.
- The Library maintained slightly reduced service hours to allow for deep cleaning and to accommodate staff shortages due to quarantine and vacancies.
- Digital Circulation leveled out at 1,076,036, less than half of the circulation total of 2,563,812. Many "digital" patrons returned in-person for physical items.
- Library staff produced 9,333 programming events and activities, with an estimated 545,916 people participating. Of these, 1,196 were Virtual programs with 18,585 viewers. 24,171 patrons participated in 856 Self-Directed Activities such as Grab and Geaux Bags. Highlights for the year: One Book One Community featuring Atchafalaya Houseboat; the Mid-City Micro Con; the 9th Annual BR Mini-Maker Faire®; the 45th Annual Author Illustrator Program featuring author David Biedrzycki. The Delmont Gardens Branch Library was selected as a Maker-Ed pilot site by Knock Knock Children's Museum. As use of Maker Spaces in several branches increased, a Badging system rolled out throughout the system.

- Study Rooms at Main, Baker, Bluebonnet, Delmont Gardens, Fairwood, Greenwell Springs, Jones Creek and River Center Branches were used 24,375 times.
- Outreach Service visits recorded 2,115 stops at pre-schools and day care centers, retirement centers, schools, and events. A new Bookmobile, the Sprinter Van, arrived in spring 2022 for deployment to retirement centers; it replaces the original Library Elf, which was retired in 2021.
- The new River Center Branch Library was featured in *Archello*.
- Construction for the renovation/additions to the Scotlandville Branch Library went out to bid in late 2022; the bid process was paused for Value Engineering.
- Design Development continued for the new South Branch Library; it will go out for bid in late spring 2023.
- The Library was again recognized as a Star Library; this is the 10th year the East Baton Rouge Parish Library has been so designated.
- “We Care Bags” began distribution of shelf-stable food to youth in five branches in November 2022.
- Continuing its focus on literacy, a new cohort of children “graduated” from 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. The Press Start! Ready, Set, Read! Initiative began at all branches. Other Special Literacy Projects included the new Reading is Elementary program, which enrolled 571 children, and the Literacy Calendar which expanded to Spanish. Library staff implemented the Home Library Pilot Project working with at-risk 3rd graders at five schools. Beanstack provided a virtual Summer Reading Club platform which extended activities throughout the year
- New AWE (Early Learning Workstation) devices were deployed to Children’s Rooms in all library locations.
- Meeting Rooms were used 3,527 times with an estimated 110,965 in attendance. This reflects a 77% increase in bookings and a 120% increase in attendance.