

Libraries in Louisiana

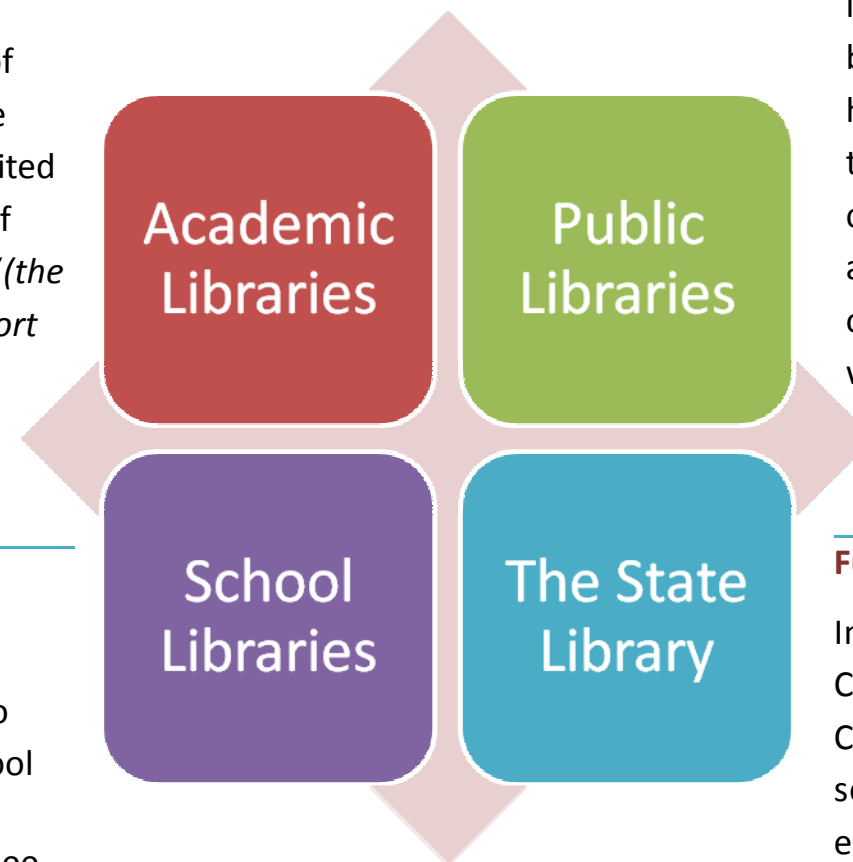
There are many different types of libraries, each having a unique purpose and funding source. This chart is meant to clarify the purpose of each library and how they are funded.

Funded by: Individual Institutions, receives some funds from the Board of Regents for LOUIS

An academic library is a library attached to an institution of higher learning, its mission is to support the teaching and research needs of students and faculty. Louisiana is home to 25 public colleges and universities, each with different missions and budgets. The budgets of individual libraries are determined by each school; however, there are basic standards that must be met. For instance, in order to be accredited by the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools all institutions of higher education must be compliant with Standard 2.9, which states *“(the institution’s) collections, resources, and services are sufficient to support*

Funded by: Individual School Districts

A library within a school that provides students and faculty with access to a variety of resources. The mission of the school library is to support teaching and learning and to provide all members of the school community with access to books, information and information technology. 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. The school library is a collaborative environment in which the school librarian and teachers work together to enrich the school’s curriculum and to enhance learning.



Funded by: Individual Parishes

A library accessible to the general public and funded from public sources. The state of Louisiana is served by 68 library systems, which includes 334 individual public libraries and 28 bookmobiles. The mission of a public library is to meet the information needs of the general public through a broad collection and a range of services, including after school homework help and computer instruction. In 2010, Louisianans made 16,618,788 visits to public libraries, checking out almost 20 million items, using library computers almost 7.9 million times, and using the electronic resources almost 4.9 million times. Public libraries serve as the number one point of online access for people without internet connections at home, school, or work. 43% of Louisiana households have no internet access.

Funded by: The Legislature

In 1920, the Louisiana Legislature created the Louisiana Library Commission, a forerunner of the State Library of Louisiana. In 1925, the Commission joined with the great philanthropic Carnegie Corporation to set up demonstration public libraries throughout the state, persuading each area to fund their own public libraries after one year. Three-quarters of a century later, Louisiana boasts public libraries in each of its 64 parishes, representing 68 independently funded public library systems.

Today, the State Library serves as a valuable resource for all of these public libraries by providing advice, technical support, training, electronic resources and financial aid. It works with and trains new directors and trustees. It provides Louisianans access to an unlimited amount of books and other items through its own collection combined with a worldwide online lending network of libraries. The State Library constantly seeks out new opportunities that will benefit Louisiana’s libraries and thus our citizens by staying abreast of library trends, seeking out grant and funding opportunities, monitoring state and federal legislation and demonstrating best practices of library services.