



*Louisiana libraries are committed to enhancing the health and vitality of education, government, and business interests of Louisiana and to contributing to the quality of life of all Louisiana citizens.*

*As the familiar saying goes, the only thing that doesn't change is change itself. A daily bombardment of sometimes bewildering information assaults us from an ever growing array of communication devices. Information overload leaves many unsure of whom to trust or what to believe.*

*One thing you can still believe. The library is still the best place to go to find help in sorting through all the information and for getting access to the most authoritative and reliable information. The library provides information in a greater variety of formats now, from online reference and magazine databases to CDs, DVD, e-books, audio books and more, but librarians still adhere to the principles that have always been core to our mission: Sorting, sifting, and organizing information for quick retrieval so that we can serve YOU, the patron, in the way that best meets your needs.*

*Some things really don't change. Libraries are still your best and most trusted source for assistance in finding the information and resources you need.*

## **Academic Libraries**

College and university libraries are an essential part of the higher education learning environment, connecting faculty and students with a world of knowledge, and investing in the future while preserving the best of the past.

### **Did You Know?**

- ☛ Materials scholars need for research typically stay in print one to two years; fund cuts cause some resources to be permanently lost or out of reach to academic libraries.
- ☛ Online resources make academic libraries' resources indispensable to 21st century researchers, and outdated equipment or insufficient technology and infrastructure restricts users' access to these resources.
- ☛ Academic libraries' most significant resources are the specially trained professionals who help connect students and faculty to the information they need, rather than tossing them into an un-navigable information warehouse with no assistance.
- The latest annual survey of academic books purchased by university libraries revealed an average price per book of \$67.
- The 2010 total number of sessions for usage of the Ebscohost suite of online research databases by college and university libraries across the state was over 4.2 million.

## Public Libraries

Public libraries are the most used and trusted community source for information, books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, and other resources for educational and personal interests. They provide programming for all age groups; and assist local citizens with help related to health issues, job searches, and other information needs.

### Did You Know?

- ☛ All public libraries in the state provide an online tutoring program to help K-12 students with homework.
- ☛ Public libraries meeting rooms are in great demand by local organizations, clubs, and groups that have no budget to rent space for meetings or programs.
- ☛ Public libraries are the most frequently used place for free online internet access by people without internet connections at home, school or work. Patrons used the Internet 8.5 million times in 2010.
- ☛ In 2010, Louisiana public libraries circulated almost 18 million items a year, an average of 4.22 items for every citizen in the state.

## School Libraries

Today's school library media program plays an integral role in educating children for the future. It is where students learn to find, analyze, evaluate, interpret and communicate information and ideas--skills they will need as adults to live and work in an information-based society.

### Did You Know?

- ☛ *Research shows that school libraries providing a wide range of current books and non-print materials that meet the reading levels and interests of both boys and girls circulate more books per student.*
- ☛ *School librarians teach information research skills that prepare students for LEAP and I-LEAP assessments and, in the process, help with job and career preparation.*
- ☛ *Research shows that the highest achieving students come from schools with good libraries.*
- ☛ *Supplementing library resources with reliable online research databases such as World Book online helps students acquire both information they need and 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills. In the 2008-2009 school year\* World Book online was used more than 87 million times by the more than 900,000 K-12 students and educators in public and non-public schools, at a cost of less than 1/3 cent per use. (\*The last year the LA DOE provided this resource.)*

## Corporate, Government & Other Special Libraries

Special libraries exist to advance the mission of their organization, and they do this through the work of library information professionals who access and deliver information that is critical to the organization's operation and success.

### Did You Know?

- ☛ Special libraries support research across many areas that are critical to the economic development of Louisiana. In 2010, the average price per year of a scholarly scientific journal ranged from a low of \$1,110 (agriculture) to \$3,792 (chemistry), putting them out of reach of individual subscribers. Special libraries are the only source for many scientists and students to gain access to the latest research articles in their field.
- ☛ The specialized research needs of attorneys, scientists, or business executives, to cite a few examples, require libraries where specialized resources are organized in a manner that makes them easily accessible for research or study.
- ☛ Special librarians develop in-depth knowledge in relevant subject areas so they can guide their patrons through the often-overwhelming mountains of print and electronic resources to the precise data they are seeking.

### Louisiana Library Association

The Louisiana Library Association (LLA) supports library interests of the State of Louisiana.

[www.llaonline.org](http://www.llaonline.org)

