

Louisiana Libraries and IMLS Support: How IMLS Funding Impacts Louisiana

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funds the **Grants to States Program** by authorization of the Library Services and Technology Act. This annual grant distributes funding directly to states on a population basis. In Louisiana, the **State Library of Louisiana** carries out this grant. This funding is used for statewide projects that serve all citizens equally. Historically, the funding has averaged about **\$2.4M per year**. These funds pay for the following library programs:

- **SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED** – The Talking Books and Braille Library (TBBL) division of the State Library serves sight and hearing impaired residents and circulates **200,000 items annually**, including descriptive videos, large print books, big books, cassettes, digital books, and e-books.
- **STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC RESOURCES** – These are provided free of charge by the State Library in partnership with the public libraries. The electronic resources provide comprehensive collections of business, health, literature, finance, science, arts, and humanities, as well as homework help, test preparation, and job and career services. They were used over **8 million times** in 2015.
- **HOMEWORKLOUISIANA** – This is an after-school online tutoring service for all Louisiana students. Tutoring is available in Spanish and Vietnamese as well as English. In 2016, students received over **20,000 hours** of free tutoring. To date, this 7-year old popular program has provided over **333,000 tutoring sessions**.
- **CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS** – The State Library sponsors the Summer Reading Program and Louisiana Readers’ Choice Awards. **89,000 children and teens** participated in the 2016 Summer Reading Program. **22,000 elementary, middle, and high school students** participated in the 2017 Louisiana Readers’ Choice Awards reading almost **65,000 books** and voting for their favorites.
- **CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) AND SUPPORT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES** – State Library staff provide guidance and support to public library staff, directors, and board members, as well as webinars and workshops on a number of topics. Last year, staff answered **13,176 inquiries** and held over **100 classes** that trained **2,365 library staff**. IT staff also offer technology support which includes assistance with upgrading network infrastructure, telecommunications issues, upgrading software and hardware, and guiding decision-making related to new technology.
- **INTERLIBRARY LOAN (ILL) AND STATEWIDE COURIER SERVICE** – This allows the sharing of library materials among all public and academic libraries in the state. Among the public libraries alone, over **80,000 items** are shared each year.
- **LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL** – This annual event draws in **tens of thousands** of participants and provides an **economic benefit of \$2M** to the Baton Rouge area. It is an internationally-recognized book festival, highlighting Louisiana’s unique literature and culture.





Over 680,000 Louisiana citizens have a disability. TBBL is the only library that serves this population in the state.

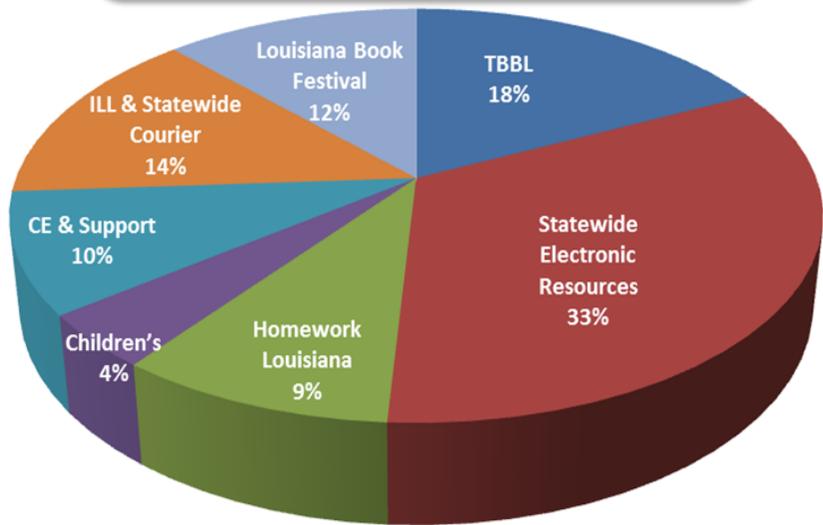


Statewide electronic resources were used over 8 MILLION times in 2015.



"The book festival was outstanding in every way. I had a wonderful time! Congratulations to you and your staff for putting on such a wonderful event."
 Guy W. Carwile, *The Modernist Architecture of Samuel G. and William B. Wiener*

IMLS FUNDS



Over 80,000 items shared each year.



"My staff has had great things to say about the workshops. In a library that has next to NO TRAINING BUDGET, what SLL offers is a GODSEND!" Public Library Director



89,000 children and teens took part in Summer Reading Programs and over 22,000 participated in LA Readers' Choice Awards.

"This service is exceedingly helpful. I really hope it will be around forever, especially since I'm starting college after this summer." High School Senior



CE & Support

"The State Library of Louisiana does an outstanding job of providing support, guidance and expertise to Louisiana's local public libraries despite continued budget cuts. This is due to the excellent leadership and the dedication and professionalism of each member of the State Library's team."
 Public Library Director

"This is an Amazing tool for kids to use! I am so glad someone had told me about this!! THANK YOU!"
 Third Grader

