

Libraries

and Your Community

Libraries are growing and changing to meet evolving community needs.

Today's libraries are in cities and towns across America, and in institutions ranging from schools and college campuses to military bases and government agencies to hospitals and corporations.

The American Library Association (ALA), which represents the nation's 120,000 libraries, urges you to visit your local libraries and see for yourself all the services they provide your constituents.



Early Learning & Literacy

Librarians nurture literacy development, beginning at birth. Libraries promote a range of literacies, offering family storytimes, access to new learning technologies and training for caregivers about the importance of early literacy and how to nurture pre-reading skills at home.



Jobs & Careers

Libraries support patrons at all stages of their lives. Many library systems across the country offer workforce development activities, including high school or career certifications, resume and job application assistance, and Career and Technical Education programs.



Small Businesses

Libraries propel entrepreneurship across the United States. Entrepreneurs seek out libraries to develop their business plans, access data to research emerging markets, or use 3-D printers and other technologies available in the library for prototype material.



Government Information

Librarians are stewards of government information. Libraries collect, organize, preserve and help the public locate, understand and use a wealth of information from their local, state, and federal governments.



Broadband

Libraries are community hubs for digital literacy and 21st century skills building. For the 28 million U.S. households lacking broadband internet service at home, the library is often the only place for access to computers and the internet.



Copyright

Libraries support people with print disabilities by providing content that is accessible in both print and digital forms. Through a network of state libraries for the blind, libraries share accessible copies to ensure that library users have the broadest content available.