



Livingston Parish Library Annual Report 2015



Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.

—Sidney Sheldon

When we publish our annual report, I find it heartwarming to reflect on the library's long history and recognize how much has been achieved. In December 1946, the Livingston Parish Police Jury graciously offered the library a space in the courthouse. The library occupied a 20 by 40 foot room, divided in half—one half for the Livingston Branch and one half for the office headquarters. By the beginning of 1947, five branches were up and running. The total collection amounted to 6,149 books and the circulation for the month was 817 items.

We fast forward to the present day, and Livingston Parish Library has become deeply woven into the fabric of our community. We now occupy 80,672 square feet of space, with locations across the entire parish, and offer an amazing array of services and resources to all residents. In 2015, library visits reached a record high of 442,880. Approximately 110,000 reference questions were answered by phone, email, and in person. The library held 1,256 programs, which were attended by 23,377 people. Lastly, by the end of 2015, the library's collection featured 398,653 items.

I believe that one of the major reasons why people are attracted to Livingston Parish is because of the library and how it contributes to the quality of life here. Patrons of all ages have access to the best reading materials available, as well as eBooks, eMagazines, video games, online video training, free music downloads, and much more! In 2015, the library began circulating tablet computers, e-book readers, and even musical instruments. If reading is not your preferred leisure activity, you can choose from a wide variety of educational and entertainment programs.

As we continue to grow as a library system, our vision is to remain responsive to the community's needs. We will continue to offer traditional, as well as innovative library services, remaining a trusted community hub for information, technology, cultural enrichment, and life-long learning.



Giovanni Tairov

—Giovanni Tairov,
Library Director



Creating Community



In 2015, the library launched a unique adult literacy program, the first of its kind in Livingston Parish. This new service provides one-on-one tutoring for adults who need help with reading and writing. The program is always accepting new students and volunteer tutors.

Livingston Parish Library partnered with Southeastern Louisiana University's Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) to offer free small business consulting and classes. Current and potential small business owners could get advice on business plans, advertising plans, inventory control, financial projections, cost analysis, social media, and much more.

The library also held its first annual Comic Con, which served as a launch for the 2015 Summer Reading Program. The event featured appearances by members of fandom groups Red Stick Rebellion and USS Corsair, artwork and instant portraits by the Baton Rouge Cartoonist Society, crafts, face painting, games, and a villain science demonstration. Many of the 231 attendees participated in the Design-Your-Own-Superhero contest or dressed as their favorite characters.

Livingston Parish Library hosted its third annual Livingston Parish Book Festival at the Main Branch despite rainy weather, drawing approximately 950 people to enjoy live music, featured authors, and activities for all ages while celebrating the library, literacy, and Livingston Parish.

The library added two sources of Livingston Parish history to its microfilm collection — transcribed Livingston Parish Police Jury minutes and the *Livingston Parish News* from 1912-1980. Patrons can use both collections and the library's microfilm machine to look back in time and share their findings by printing pages or saving individual pages to a USB drive.

Livingston Parish Library provided many opportunities for writers to create and share their work. The library held National Novel Writing Month sessions throughout the month of November and hosted monthly fanfiction writing contests for teens. The library also sponsored a Page Turners writing contest in conjunction with the Livingston Parish Book Festival.



The Watson Branch debuted Science Saturday, a monthly Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM)-based program for ages 5-11 that allows children to explore the world of science and conduct experiments. The library partnered with Joule Solar Energy and Louisiana State University to present segments featuring solar panels and liquid nitrogen respectively.

Three branches of Livingston Parish Library partnered with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance to provide free income tax preparation for individuals or families with a combined income below \$60,000. The library also hosted MyFreeTaxes, an online tax filing service, on its website throughout tax season.



Expanding Technology

Children were delighted by the newest addition to the library's collection—the Playaway LaunchPad. The Launchpad is a secure tablet for children that comes pre-loaded with up to 10 apps centered on a theme or subject.



Livingston Parish Library offered classes in creative technologies such as Makey Makey and Arduino, teaching children and teens how to create their own interactive technology-based projects and games.

Adults and teens received the opportunity to “test out” the latest gaming systems—the PlayStation4, Xbox One, and WiiU—at the library’s preview parties.

The library debuted new eBook service 3M Cloud Library. This service, compatible with most eReaders, provides an easy way for patrons to download eBooks in just three steps.

The library offered classes and resources in digital photography and stop motion animation for adults and teens. Staff members also offered one-on-one technology help through the new Book-A-Librarian service.

Livingston Parish Library added eComics to its menu of online offerings with ComicsPlus. Patrons can access thousands of graphic novels and comics on any Internet-connected device.



The library combined art and technology by teaching young children how to create an artbot—a simple robot that can draw its own random designs with markers.

Movie-lovers and musicians rejoiced when the library added ArtistWorks and InstantFlix to its list of online services. ArtistWorks is a database that provides art and music lessons through video tutorials. InstantFlix provides free access to award-winning shorts, features, documentaries, and other movies from over 50 countries.

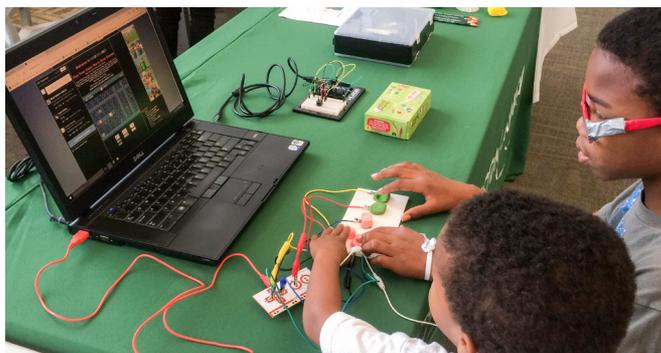


Livingston Parish Library continued to expand its menu of technology services in 2015. The first public library in the state to add 3D printing services, the library continued to offer regular 3D design classes along with a number of specialized 3D design programs for tweens, teens, and adults throughout the year.



Reaching Out

Livingston Parish Library continued to expand outreach services for all age groups in Livingston Parish and beyond. Venues included Tickfaw State Park, the East Baton Rouge Mini Maker Faire, the annual meeting of Livingston Parish School Librarians, and the Livingston Parish Early Childhood Community Network.



Library staff brought crafts, live music, and library materials to assisted living centers, senior apartments, and Council on Aging meal sites throughout Livingston Parish. This allowed seniors with limited transportation to socialize, enjoy entertainment, and utilize library materials.

Eleven facility use cards were issued to schools, day cares, and other locations. This type of library card allows facilities or institutions to check out library materials and access online resources.

Livingston Parish Library brought outreach services to the Livingston Parish Detention Center. Library staff visited inmates to teach job skills, creative writing, and more.



Library staff performed puppet shows at public and private schools, community events, festivals, summer camps, and day care centers. Staff members also showcased storytimes, music, games, and crafts for children of all ages.

The library participated in the Read Aloud 15 Minutes campaign in July and October. This campaign shares facts about reading and early literacy while encouraging parents to read aloud to their children for 15 minutes each day. Library staff shared encouraging posts on social media and distributed flyers, bookmarks, and other printed materials at outreach events.



Library staff participated in school literacy, math, and family nights, attended book club and library club meetings, gave booktalks for Louisiana Young Reader's Choice and Louisiana Teen Reader's Choice, and presented at a junior high orientation day. Students and parents were able to sign up for library cards on the spot and learn more about library services.

Livingston Parish Library participated in the Albany, French Settlement, Livingston, Maurepas, and Walker Christmas parades. The Livingston parade cumulated in a community party at the Main Branch of the Livingston Parish Library that featured refreshments for parade goers, a visit from Santa, and a performance by library band The Dewey Decibels.



Discovering Art



Youth Services staff presented original puppet shows, plays, and musicals throughout the year. The library also presented a puppeteering workshop to introduce children to puppets and using them to tell stories.

Livingston Parish Library hosted painting classes for adults, children, and teens. Taught by library staff members, these classes provided participants with a basic template, allowing them to

complete their painting with creative flair.



The library held a murder mystery playwriting class for adults. Participants wrote a murder mystery play, then performed it for packed audiences at all five library branches as part of the Summer Reading Program.

The Dewey Decibels, a band comprised entirely of library staff members, held performances in July and December. The band performed family-friendly songs that delighted patrons young and old. Participants in the teen and tween ukulele classes performed with the band.



Livingston Parish Library hosted beginner ukulele classes for adults, teens, and tweens. The Friends of the Livingston Library System (FOLLS) generously donated ukuleles.

The Main Branch debuted a monthly Music Club for patrons who play an instrument or who wish to try out an instrument. Members bring their own instruments or experiment with the on-hand guitar, bass, ukulele, accordion, or drum set.





Library Board of Control

The Livingston Parish Library Board of Control is the governing body for the Livingston Parish Library system. Board members are appointed by the parish council and are residents from across Livingston Parish. Board members are appointed to five-year terms and may not serve more than one term. The Livingston Parish President also acts as an ex-officio board member.

Library Board meetings are held each quarter and are open to the public. Board meeting agendas and minutes can be found online at www.mylpl.info.

Library Growth – Since 2010

Program Attendance



+36.5%

Total Programs



+26%

Registered Borrowers



+69%

Yearly Average Statistics – Since 2010

Library Visits: 421,000

New Registered Borrowers: 12,011

Reference Transactions: 85,000



Ronnie Bencaz - President



Kathy DeGeneres - Vice President



Juanette Courtney



Lindsay Varnado



Shelley Davis



Debbie Henson



Ivy Graham



Layton Ricks - Ex-Officio

442,880 Library Visitors

454,202 Items Circulated

109,339 Questions Answered

93,335 Public Computer Sessions

80,490 Library Cardholders

80,672 Square Feet

23,377 Program Attendees

15,117 Service Hours

255 Serial Subscriptions

120 Electronic Subscriptions

5 Locations

One Library

Albany-Springfield Branch

26941 LA Highway 43
Hammond, LA 70403
Phone: (225) 567-1441

Denham Springs-Walker Branch

8101 US Highway 190
Denham Springs, LA 70726
Phone: (225) 665-8118

Main Branch

20390 Iowa Street
Livingston, LA 70754
Phone: (225) 686-2436

South Branch

23477 LA Highway 444
Livingston, LA 70754
Phone: (225) 698-3015

Watson Branch

36581 Outback Road
Denham Springs, LA 70706
Phone: (225) 664-3963

