



south carolina  
**STATE LIBRARY**

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ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR FY2018

1500 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

[statelibrary.sc.gov](http://statelibrary.sc.gov)



# STATE LIBRARY

Located on the corner of Senate and Bull Street in downtown Columbia

## VISION

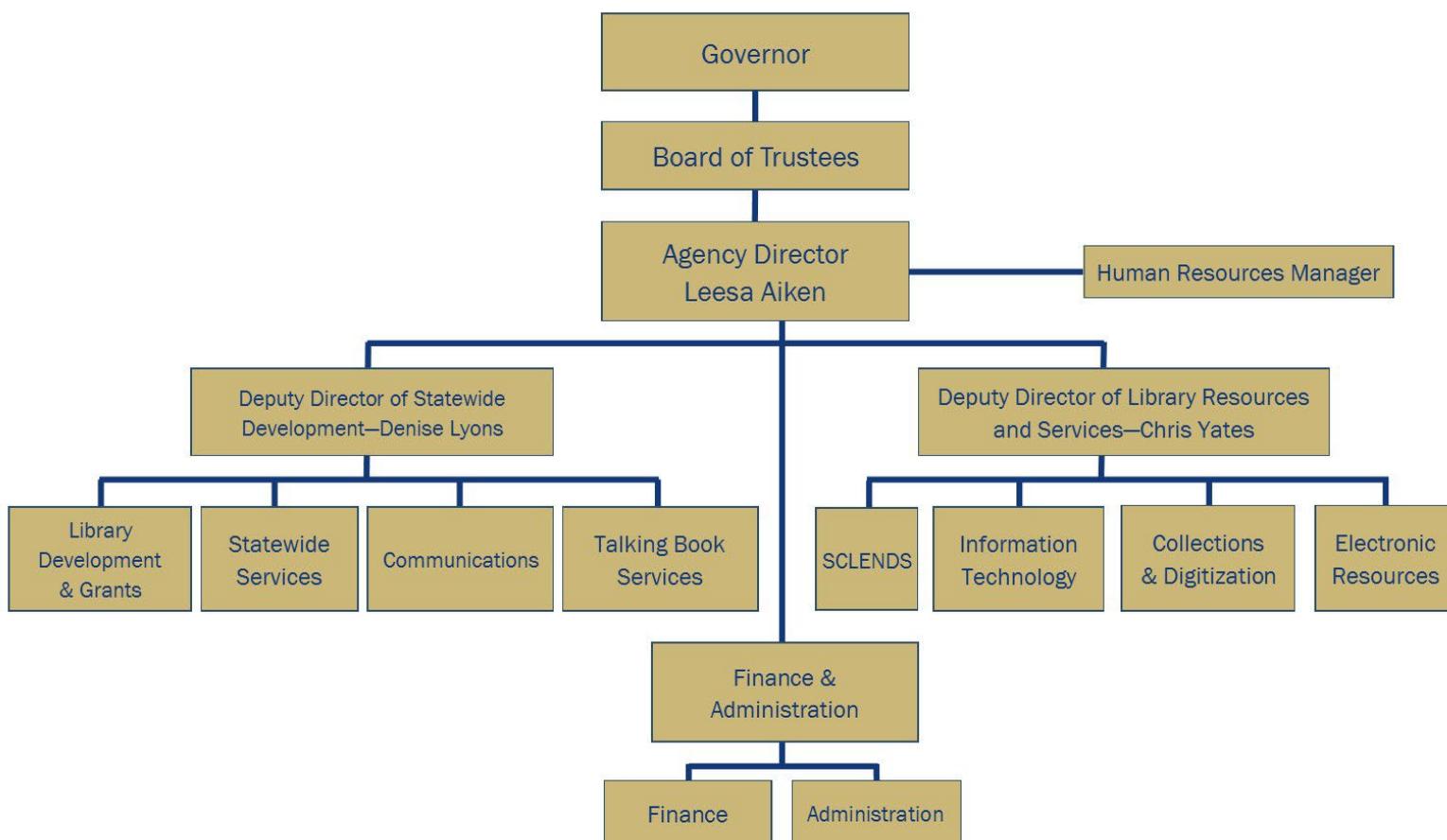
The South Carolina State Library develops, supports, and sustains a thriving statewide community of learners committed to making South Carolina stronger.

## MISSION

We serve the people of South Carolina by supporting state government and libraries to provide opportunities for learning in a changing environment.

South Carolina citizens of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities turn to their libraries for support for creative, academic, personal, and professional interests. Libraries respond with information, collections, productivity tools, and learning experiences thoughtfully planned and professionally delivered. The State Library strives to understand and meet the essential needs of each distinct library audience in addressing local service demands.

Our goal is to strategically plan, collaboratively approach, and cost-effectively implement state government solutions that result in outstanding library services for every South Carolinian.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION I

The South Carolina State Library develops, supports, and sustains a thriving statewide community of learners committed to making South Carolina stronger.

- Strengthen relationships and communication among libraries.
- Demonstrate how libraries are essential to educational and economic well-being.
- Facilitate informed governance.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION II

The South Carolina State Library implements and promotes a strong technological environment statewide.

- Offer technical training and development opportunities.
- Develop technical expertise around technology trends, issues, needs and support.
- Lead a statewide digitization initiative.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION III

The South Carolina State Library provides equitable access to information.

- Negotiate collaborative purchases for statewide access to resources.
- Expand electronic resources in response to changing information needs.
- Develop and deliver programs that support literacy for children and at risk groups of all ages.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION IV

The South Carolina State Library creates standards and provides guidance for excellence in library services.

- Design a new comprehensive statewide certification program.
- Support training for delivery of excellence in 21st century library services.
- Coordinate programs that address the needs of the underserved.

## AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The South Carolina State Library's mission is to develop, support, and sustain a thriving statewide community of learners committed to making South Carolina stronger. We serve the people of South Carolina by supporting state government and libraries to provide opportunities for learning in a changing environment. Our operating principles are: innovation, collaboration, and participation. We believe in relationships that promote a strong statewide technological environment that provides equal access to information and serves and guides library services. Our customers include: public libraries, state institutions, teachers, students, families, state government agencies and employees, and patrons who are blind or have physical limitations that restrict their ability to hold a book in a traditional manner.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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The beginning of the New Year brings renewed focus and purpose. 2018 was a productive year for libraries, and we are hopeful that even more will be accomplished in 2019. There is not enough space to talk about all that we accomplished this past year, but it is my hope that you are following us on social media and reading our weekly newsletter so you already know how busy we have been! The State Library operates under seven state mandates, five federal purposes, and four strategic directions. We map every project, program, and service to each of these.

The first Strategic Direction focuses on relationships and partners. We believe that relationships are imperative and central to doing business; partnerships help us achieve our goals by sharing resources for a broader impact. Our SC Plants the Seed project was a partnership with the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Environmental Control, local farmers, and public libraries. The intention of the project was to promote literacy, to increase awareness about locally farmed foods, and to provide low-income families with healthier food choices. Each participant received a children's book and, for every \$5 in SNAP benefits used, an additional \$10 of SNAP healthy bucks to purchase healthy produce from participating farmers.

We lead the efforts of Literacy 2030 to improve literacy outcomes through local partnerships to align services to support increased literacy. These partnerships include libraries, schools, early childhood centers, SC First Steps, Head Start, USC, and others. We founded the South Carolina Government Social Media Idea Exchange group for local, state, and federal government to aid these groups in promoting and marketing their events. On average, we have about 30 different state and local agencies participating in our quarterly meetings.

Our second Strategic Direction focuses on implementing and promoting a strong technological environment statewide. The electronic resources that we provide are accurate, vetted resources that provide users with information they can count on. Discus is the state's online library; it provides equal access to resources for homework, research, and personal interests. We had over 17 million retrievals last year.

StudySC is our online resource that provides SC specific information that meets the curriculum standards for 3rd and 8th grade. Last year we had 212,000 page views. LearningExpress Library is a premier database for those in elementary school through college, as well as adults, seeking new skills or careers. It offers skill-building resources for classroom and test preparation assistance for college admission tests.

The third Strategic Direction III focuses on equitable access to information—our primary guiding principle. Equal access to information creates opportunity for South Carolinians, and it leads to stronger success factors educationally, professionally, and economically. One area where we exceeded in providing equal access include participation in summer reading. All public libraries participate in statewide summer reading. Last year, programs in public libraries reached over 170,856 participants during the months of June and July. We work deliberately to combat the summer reading slide and to promote lifelong learning. We are also the State of South Carolina’s document depository. There are currently over 25,000 state documents available online. Last year we had 194,000 page views of our online state documents.

Our Talking Book Services program provided 211,000 items to our patrons, and our reader advisors took nearly 14,000 calls. We recorded 19 new books, which we also upload to the Library of Congress. We had 10,139 visitors to 65 events at the library, and we added 1,045 cardholders. Our Statewide Services Department continued to aid the public, legislators, and state employees with research, information services, and meaningful programs that promote library engagement and cultural awareness.

Our fourth and final Strategic Direction focuses on providing guidance and excellence in library standards. Public libraries are vital to a healthy, resilient community. Citizens depend on them during times of emergencies, disasters, and for their everyday needs. They are safe spaces for everyone and cultivate communities that support industry, individuals, and families.

Last year, we had 900 participants attend 44 trainings with subjects ranging from collection development, board education, library standards, family literacy, youth services, small business outreach, technology, and much more. Our Library Development Consultants visited public libraries 75 times last year and handled 721 consultations with public library directors or staff.

As we begin 2019, our focus is on the legislative process to increase funding for our electronic resources and funding for public libraries. Libraries support communities and provide undeniable resources that transform lives every day. Please support your local library, follow us on social media, and come join us at an event! We look forward to seeing you.

Regards,



**LEESA M. AIKEN**  
Library Director





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## GOOD GOVERNANCE

Through the management of the South Carolina State Documents Depository System, the State Library collects, organizes, and disseminates print and digital state government information produced by state agencies and state-supported academic institutions. We capture and digitize the work of state government and make it available through a user-friendly portal - the State Documents Depository ([dc.statelibrary.sc.gov](http://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov)). The State Documents Depository now provides access to 24,721 state document items, an increase of 2,966 items from the previous year. Examples of titles added include annual reports of the State Board of Health (1881-1920), Department of Mental Health statistical reports, the Beaufort Area Transportation Study, certified project management publications, and higher education reports.

We publish and promote the monthly New South Carolina State Documents with a list of state documents written by state agencies and are of importance for government employees and citizens. Annually, the South Carolina State Depository System selects the most notable publications that were released in the past calendar year. Librarians representing selected depository collections and State Library staff members serve as judges. The awards are announced in honor of Freedom of Information Day, March 16, at a ceremony at the State Library. This award promotes awareness of government publications and recognizes the individuals and agencies involved in producing these notable sources of information.

## TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

The Information Technology Services Department provides onsite technical assistance to public libraries in South Carolina in addition to supporting the technology infrastructure of the State Library. During the last fiscal year, assistance ranged from consultation to onsite technology implementation. This effort has enabled public libraries to achieve significant savings and cost avoidance.

### Project Highlights:

- Statewide K-12 migration to Cisco Umbrella security platform.
- Assisted the state E-Rate Coordinator and State Division of Technology with deployment of Cisco Umbrella in the public library systems statewide.
- Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library - Performed onsite network assessment. Identified and removed unnecessary legacy networking equipment. Properly re-installed network and security infrastructure.
- Fairfield County Library - Recommended new Palo Alto network firewall that would replace their old legacy firewall that was no longer supported. The new firewall would permit consolidation and enhancement of web filtering and network security. Provided onsite installation and configuration of new firewall equipment. (approximately \$2,500 cost avoidance and savings)
- Darlington County Library - Recommended new Palo Alto network firewall that would replace their old legacy firewall that was no longer supported. Provided onsite installation and configuration of new firewall equipment (approximately \$2,500 cost avoidance). Integrated a new circuit for Voice over IP traffic (VoIP) into Darlington's network. Implemented necessary infrastructure changes for VoIP deployment at main location. Laid ground work for future VoIP deployment at branch locations (approximately \$2,500 cost avoidance).

- Union County Carnegie Library - Assisted with the technology and network infrastructure planning for the renovation and historic restoration.
- Newberry County Library - Performed onsite network assessment. Identified and removed unnecessary legacy networking equipment. Recommended new Palo Alto network firewall to replace their old legacy firewall that was no longer supported. Provided onsite installation and configuration of new firewall equipment (approximately \$3,500 cost avoidance).

## DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

The State Library provides access to historic documents, books, maps, and images from the collection, as well as working with partner institutions to make historic and cultural materials easily available online. The South Carolina State Documents Depository ([dc.statelibrary.sc.gov](http://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov)) currently provides access to 24,721 state document items, an increase of 2,966. During the year, these collections had 194,788 page views, a 20% increase. The department worked closely with the South Carolina Digital Library ([scmemory.org](http://scmemory.org)) to provide an environment for helping public libraries and other South Carolina institutions present their local collections to a wider audience.

The State Library collaborated with multiple organizations to make important historical scholarship more available. Projects of importance include Marlboro County Library's McColl High School yearbooks, the Sandlapper Magazine from 1968-1978, and Gullah Geechee photographs from artist Pete Marovich. The State Library continued its partnership with the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum to digitize the Colin J. McRae Papers, an important research collection on Confederate trade with England. The department consulted with the Human Affairs Commission on the preservation of a scrapbook of newspaper clippings, starting in 1972, and scanned for internal use. Staff worked with the State Museum to scan the *Images* magazine covers in preparation for their 30th anniversary of the museum. Also, the new South Carolina State Library Photograph Collection highlights historical images of libraries around the state from the 1940s-1970s.

## DISCUS RESOURCES FOR CITIZENS

Digital Information for South Carolina Users, more commonly known as Discus, is South Carolina's Virtual Library available 24/7 from home, school, public library, or on a mobile device. This collection of more than 50 subscription databases used by K-12 schools, public libraries, and academic institutions is a vital resource for all South Carolina citizens. All K-12 schools, including charter, virtual, public, home, and private schools use Discus extensively for research, learning, and programming. The vast collection of electronic resources also supplements public and academic library collections throughout the state.

During the fiscal year, the EZproxy authentication technology was refined to ensure seamless access for residents. This central authentication solution provides access without obstacles by ensuring South Carolinians are recognized as residents and are automatically granted access, reducing the need for a user name and password. During FY17-18, the seamless authentication rate was 95%. The Discus website's mobile design and the wide-ranging collection of carefully evaluated resources prompt rave comments from national vendor partners and library communities.

TumbleBooks Library, a collection of more than 1,400 read-aloud storybooks, chapter books, graphic novels, songs, and National Geographic videos for kindergarten through grade 6 was added to Discus. All storybooks are read-aloud with words highlighted for assistance and are available in multiple languages. This very popular resource is used in schools, public libraries, and academic education programs. Over one million items in total were accessed in TumbleBooks in the first year, making South Carolina the largest user of TumbleBooks Library.

During the fiscal year, the Discus collection had over 17 million retrievals of online books, academic journals, primary sources, videos, and more. Usage for BrainPOP Jr., Britannica, and the Gale Cengage suite of resources all reported an increase in usage and continue to be popular databases. The Discus program garners praise from K-12 educators as well as academic institutions throughout South Carolina, particularly the technical schools, which are very dependent on Discus for their students and faculty. New South Carolina residents are excited to learn that Discus is free due to legislative funding.

got homework?  
[sdiscus.org](http://sdiscus.org)



South Carolina's  
Virtual Library

Love the ease of use, and available for everyone. - Jennifer Traeger, Ashley Ridge High Media Specialist

Reliable, specifically for students; diverse collection of resources that we cannot afford at the school and district level.  
- Lori June, High Hills Elementary Media Specialist



## RESOURCE SHARING

SLENDS (South Carolina Library Evergreen Network Delivery System) is a shared catalog of books, audio, and video materials available to over a third of the state's population through the collaboration of 20 county libraries and the State Library. Any South Carolina resident in a SLENDS member county may request a card for access to 2,835,396 items. The State Library maintains the integrity of the catalog and provides technical support for member libraries. SLENDS features active member-driven workgroups that operate with the oversight of an executive board. During the fiscal year, the consortium undertook a variety of innovative enhancement projects and was represented at both the Evergreen International Conference and the American Library Association Annual Conference.

The SLENDS online catalog is open 24/7 for searching and requesting books, audio materials, DVDs, and digital items, using any browser, from any electronic device. Last year, 3,036,874 SLENDS items were borrowed through this cost-effective inter-county delivery service. Member libraries save the costs of purchasing and processing shared library materials. SLENDS serves roughly 1.5 million residents and has 1,088,112 active cardholders. In 2017, Cherokee County became the 20th county to join SLENDS.

The tangible impact of SLENDS is enormous. Of the population served by the county libraries in SLENDS, approximately 73% of the residents in those counties have an SLENDS library card. Lee County Library, the smallest library system in SLENDS, houses a collection of 29,630 items. By expanding the collection through resource sharing with the other member libraries, the number of items available to Lee County library patrons has increased by 9,589%.

## TALKING BOOK SERVICES

Universal access is the goal of libraries striving to reach all community members regardless of physical or developmental challenges. The State Library's Talking Book Services brings print and digital books to South Carolinians with vision impairments or who are unable to hold a book in a traditional manner. Our recording booth captures audio versions of South Carolina materials read by talented local volunteers. We are proud to note that some of these recordings can be downloaded from the National Library Service website. Ninety of our locally recorded books are now available nationwide for download by qualified users of Talking Book Services. Talking Book Services provides telephone consultation, reader advisory, and materials delivered via the postal service directly to patrons. During the year, the department:

- Added 754 new patrons for an active membership of 5594
- Provided telephone assistance to an average of 60 users each day
- Provided 211,678 items (digital books, large print books, DVDs) to patrons around the state
- Hosted the 7th annual art competition for blind or visually impaired K-12 students
- Maintained a collection of 216,402 items. This represents an increase of 23,796 items from the previous year.
- Averaged 14.5 new applications or transfers per week
- Hosted a successful summer and winter reading programs for children and adults with vision impairments

- Began a monthly conference call book club
- Created and hosted Insights into Blindness, a workshop for those who work with visually impaired or who have an interest in working with the visually impaired featuring keynote speaker Erica Powell, former visually impaired Clemson cheerleader and motivational speaker, ADA and Accommodation, blindness sensitivity, service animal etiquette, JAWS software demonstration and computer accessibility, and exhibits and informational materials from state and local agencies.
- Staff and volunteers spent 290 hours recording books, 1,301 hours reviewing and editing books, completed 19 books, and downloaded 6,701 books and magazines to distribute to consumers.



# South Carolina **Talking Book** ⋮⋮ ⋮⋮ **Services**

That All May Read...

## STATEWIDE SERVICES

Statewide Services is the State Library's newest department, which reflects the changing nature of how libraries are essential learning environments. The department provides South Carolina's residents access to information and research resources, as well as use new technology that is transforming our lifestyle. During the fiscal year, 10,139 people visited the State Library and 1,045 new State Library cardholders were registered, compared to 833 in the previous fiscal year.

The State Library is the second SCLENDS library to implement an online library card registration, making it easier for patrons to apply for a card from any location in South Carolina. State Library cardholders may access materials from the Library's collections, online resources, and SCLENDS. Statewide Services staff is prepared to assist patrons daily on how to access and navigate the Library's many and unique collections, online resources, and available services. Patrons contact Statewide Services every day by phone, email, our online chat service, letters, and by walking into the library to ask a variety of questions. Questions range from information on grants, research on South Carolina's history of governance, accessing genealogy records or locating an obituary from a historical newspaper, to requesting notary services. This department increases public awareness about the State Library services and resources available by increasing the outreach, programming, and trainings--both locally and statewide. It responded to the increasing need for services by offering additional programming in the fiscal year, as programming grew from 25 programs to 65 programs which represents a 260% increase.

A few of the highlights for this year included:

- Second annual Young Minds Dreaming poetry contest - Open to all SC students, grades 3-12 with award-winning author/poet, Kwame Alexander. The awards ceremony and lecture were well attended and covered by SCETV. A video of the poetry contest can be viewed at South Carolina ETV's website, Knowitall: [www.knowitall.org/video/2018-young-minds-dreaming-poetry-contest](http://www.knowitall.org/video/2018-young-minds-dreaming-poetry-contest).
- Cecil Williams's presentation at the Charleston County Public Library, speaking to an audience of over 120 attendees, on his exhibit "Unforgettable: Celebrating a Time of Life, Hope, and Bravery." This was the highest attended event in the history of this exhibit and the program included Charleston's mayor, several retired nurses and nurse's aides who had taken part in the Charleston Hospital Workers Strike. Williams and Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg recognized and honored them for their participation while emphasizing the Civil Rights struggles in South Carolina. The Mayor stated the many stories that "haven't always been told and need to be told" and thanked Williams for documenting these important stories and events of the Civil Rights Movement in South Carolina.
- *Shadows of the Gullah* Geechee exhibit with photographs by award-winning photojournalist Pete Marovich that capture everyday moments of work, play, worship, and resilience of South Carolina's Gullah Geechee people as they are under increasing pressures from encroaching development and increasing taxes.

The State Library also provided literacy materials to childcare centers, libraries, and schools during the year. Some of these items include the nationally recognized DayByDaySC Family Literacy Calendars, brochures by age level from toddler to elementary, and STEM focused booklets.





# studysc

Know Where You Live...

## SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

StudySC ([StudySC.org](http://StudySC.org)) is a website that provides online content to support South Carolina specific curriculum standards. StudySC makes available a student-friendly environment arranged by grade level and by subject area, with web and Discus resources for K-12 classroom support, homework help, and projects. The site also now provides teachers with lesson plans and other content to support classroom activities on state social studies standards. This fiscal year the State Library continued to make significant additions to content, including additional Discus resource integration. The website officially relaunched fall 2017 with additional support and promotion to K-12 educators. The website also migrated to the Drupal 8 content management system with additional responsive design. This fiscal year StudySC had 212,466 page views, a 76% increase. StudySC has become an essential tool for educators and students when learning about our state history.

## SERVICES TO TEENS

The State Library began new efforts to draw teens and tweens (ages 11-18) into the library community, and expanded efforts to reach New Adults (ages 19-25) during 2018. Public libraries aim to encourage civic engagement, improve college readiness and career skills assisted by Discus with the LearningExpress Library database, and build social and emotional skills through programming. At their local public libraries, youth have the opportunity to learn life skills such as simple vehicle maintenance and to practice job interviewing, to express their creativity through art of all kinds, and to give back through volunteering on a Teen Advisory Board. The State Library supports summer reading programs for teens through grants and giveaways for the annual National Teen Library Lock-In.

Reading continues to be of great importance to this age bracket, as national surveys report that teens and young adults are some of the heaviest readers and library users. The State Library encourages public libraries to provide teen-centric spaces and collections in as many locations as possible, and supports this with site visits, personal consulting, and grants for books. Young adult patrons are also interested in exploring emerging technologies like robotics, coding, and virtual reality, and the State Library circulates a variety of educational kits filled with items to support 21st century skills development.



## PUBLIC LIBRARIES

South Carolina's public libraries are community gathering places, information superstores, entertainment hubs, and lifelong learning advocates for the state's residents in every city, small town, and rural area. Libraries provide access to information at no cost to citizens, formatted to meet diverse needs and learning styles. State and federal funding administered by the State Library reinforce library collections, provide internet resources, and ensure that libraries maintain the institutional capacity to meet residents' needs.

Through outreach efforts, the Library Development Department introduces local library personnel to information sources and best practices to ensure the public receives courteous and skilled service. Skills training for librarians, trustees, and others guarantees that public libraries operate effectively. Consultants design and administer library standards and statistics, oversee the federal sub-grants that fund local library projects, and implement programs to meet defined needs for South Carolinians through our libraries. They offer on-call support and assistance for library leadership. Consultants also train and guide library trustees in understanding the roles and responsibilities of the governing boards to which they have been appointed to ensure proper relationships, procedures, and operations. In this fiscal year, Library Development provided 44 training opportunities for 900 attendees, both on site and via online webinars.

South Carolinians represent myriad learning styles and personal abilities along with personal preferences for reading, listening and watching. The explosion that began with ebooks in the 2000s has expanded to include resources of every format, new devices, and service models to meet diverse demands from the youngest pre-readers to the oldest senior citizens. People with vision, hearing, mobility, and learning challenges are welcomed and included in every South Carolina library. The State Library provides and supports assistive technologies, training, and special programs to enable public library staff to extend services and materials wherever they are needed.

The cause-effect relationship between early reading, technology literacy, and life success is well established. In greater numbers every year, libraries attract and enable readers and learners of all ages and abilities. With increasing mobile provision of literary, audio, video and web-based resources, libraries are keeping pace with users that prefer handheld devices. Libraries continue to build and maintain multilingual collections and special materials to meet the demands of Spanish speakers and other growing populations.

The State Library oversees the certification of professional librarians. The certification program ensures selection of competent personnel and provision of high quality library service. In effect since 1962, certification maintains a high standard of the public library profession in South Carolina. During the fiscal year, 41 librarians were certified.

- ◀ Pictures depict the Speaker @ the Center with author Kathryn Smith while at the State Library to talk about her book *The Gatekeeper*; Georgetown enhancing a training center for inmates through a grant from the State Library; and summer reading activities from Georgetown, Lee, and Irmo public libraries

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Family Literacy has long been a staple of the services that public libraries provide, with the additional support of funds, resources, and training provided by the State Library. Children that play, read, and learn together with the family are simultaneously developing as individual learners, and strengthening the social and emotional skills which lead to greater success in school. In many communities, the local public library is the only place early learning opportunities will be offered to children before they begin Kindergarten. Library staff who serve children and families work hard to provide programming that prepare youth for school readiness. They show parents the best way to prepare their preschool children for literacy success by modeling techniques that parents can use at home.

The State Library has helped local libraries to become better equipped to encourage family engagement and combat low literacy with face-to-face personally-delivered services designed to meet the developmental needs at every level, as well as with sophisticated technology tools. With targeted training on the Every Child Ready to Read program from the Public Library Association, librarians continuously promote the parent/caregiver as the child's first and best teacher. The State Library has partnered with the University of South Carolina's Assistive Technology Department to support special needs families through creative and unique programs, and with the International Dyslexia Association to reach out to the estimated 20% of children who have dyslexia and other reading disabilities. Homework assistance services are expanding across the state, as are special areas for teens and developmentally-designed play spaces for ages 0-5.

The State Library is a key partner with local libraries and alliances such as TransformSC and the Early Childhood Education Task Force (educational initiatives of the SC Council on Competitiveness) the Institute for Child Success, and South Carolina First Steps. The State Library is part of the new SCPLAY initiative to connect early learning spaces statewide, including children's museums such as EdVenture, the South Carolina Aquarium, and a variety of other organizations. Local libraries are also encouraged to collaborate with PASOs in order to better reach out to the Spanish-speaking residents. Through these partnerships the State Library is developing a healthier infrastructure for learning for all, and is highlighting ways that parents, community leaders, and educators can make a difference in outcomes using best practices in the early years of life.

The interruption of reading in the summer months by students, known as the "summer reading slide," has been well-documented. The State Library vigorously supports programs that combat summer slide and keeps families reading and learning together all summer long. Public libraries receive grants to provide educational and fun programs that attract visitors, as well as support for reaching out to schools. The State Library also purchases and provides extensive training for READsquared, an online tracking program for libraries to use in monitoring local Summer Reading Program participation. With READsquared, libraries form stronger partnerships with school districts, and several are now automatically enrolling students in reading programs at the public library.

For the eighth year, StoryfestSC launched the annual statewide Summer Reading Program conducted in public libraries and supported by school libraries. Using over a hundred volunteers, StoryfestSC 2018 welcomed 1,771 attendees from 24 counties to the SC State Museum for a celebration of reading and storytelling. Children received free books, enjoyed storytelling and

presentations by award-winning children’s authors and illustrators, and were provided opportunities to learn about library and community programs, all to spark their learning efforts in off-school months. Families also received information about the USDA Summer Food Program, in which many public libraries participate, helping ensure that children do not go hungry through the months when they are away from school.

In addition to StoryfestSC, the State Library maintains popular services and programs which educate, support, train, and inspire library staff to place the public library at the center of their communities. Professional consultants within the Library Development Department develop and present learning opportunities on topics such as Striving Readers, Storytime Basics, Visual Literacy, and many others. The State Library offers a collection of circulating kits that libraries may borrow, using them to introduce “maker” concepts, Legos, STEM, and related technologies. These kits allow public libraries to offer programming with a strong educational component, and are often used in partnership with local schools. The State Library also provides literacy materials to public libraries, schools, and childcare centers, which emphasize state curriculum standards.

- ▼ Images are from various SC Plants the Seed events held throughout the state, as well as this year’s Read-In where hundreds marched to the State House for a program followed by special entertainment and reading in small groups. SCPTS was held in three counties where families learned about healthy eating, received a free book, and were able to purchase farm fresh produce from local farmers.
- ▶ The eighth StoryfestSC, South Carolina's statewide summer reading kickoff, was held on Saturday, June 2 at the State Museum.





## ADMINISTRATION

South Carolina citizens of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities turn to their libraries for support for creative, academic, personal, and professional interests. Libraries respond with information, collections, productivity tools, and learning experiences thoughtfully planned and professionally delivered. The State Library strives to understand and meet the essential needs of each distinct library audience. Our persistent goal is to strategically plan, collaboratively approach, and cost-effectively implement state government solutions that result in outstanding library services for every South Carolinian.

The Finance and Administration Departments are charged with overseeing the day to day operations for the State Library. In addition, both departments are stewards for the State of South Carolina and the State Library funds and property. The department continuously reviews its processes and procedures to ensure that the State Library acts in the most fiducially responsible way possible to leverage all funds.

During the year, the Finance Department upgraded the internal financial dashboard to aid in project management strategies related to the agency mission. In addition, this upgrade ensured that the agency continues to budget in the most streamlined way possible. A tight budget process allows for the allocation of funds to the most essential agency projects and avoids deficits in agency funds. The Finance Department also disbursed and managed the State Aid funds and subgrants to public libraries.

The State Library continues to grow and has added five positions to meet the diverse needs of our patrons. The General Library Consultant provides advice and assistance to public library directors and library boards in matters concerning the establishment, support, operation, improvement, and coordination of library services. The Inclusive Services Consultant works with public libraries to ensure library services are provided to diverse groups of people, including but not limited to the elderly, people with physical limitations, the unemployed and underemployed, people with learning difficulties, and people of culturally or socially differing backgrounds. Talking Book Services expanded to include a Reader Advisor Assistant to support library services to South Carolina residents who are blind, have a visual difference, have a learning disability that makes reading difficult, veterans, or patrons who cannot hold a book in a traditional manner.

The State Library works with the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission to find innovative ways to recruit and hire a highly qualified, diverse staff. As an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer all qualified applicants receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age (over 40), sex, including pregnancy and childbirth (or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status. Providing continuing education to our employees ensures we have subject matter experts on staff to meet the needs of our target audiences.

The Administration Department worked to meet the needs of the agency through building upgrades. During the year, construction started for an ADA compliant family restroom on the first floor. This was the Library's first upgrade to the restrooms in the building. The library will work toward

upgrading all restrooms in the building so that they are ADA compliant. LobbyGuard, a safe and secure automated management system, has been implemented. This system allows State Library visitors to check in at the front desk, receive a printed badge and notifies the staff member that the visitor has arrived. This is an enhancement to our security already in place at the State Library. Library staff member and patron safety is important, and the Library will continuously evaluate ways to provide a safe environment while in the building.



## RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The South Carolina State Library's mission, vision, strategic directions and goals are in alignment with our financial budget structure, planned projects, and agency objectives. All goals and objectives were met during this review period; mitigation strategies are not necessary at this time. However, two areas of future concern are noted below:

### **1. PERSONNEL COSTS**

The staff of the State Library are experts in their field. Their commitment drives our ability to provide quality resources for our patrons. We are finding it increasingly difficult to compete and retain qualified staff due in large part to the increasing costs associated with employee benefits and retirement contribution, and the lack of funding available for increases to salary.

#### a. Potential most negative impact

An inability to hire and retain qualified personnel, resulting in an inability to provide quality programs and resources.

#### b. Outside help to mitigate impact

A cap on the costs associated with employee benefits and retirement contribution will attract potential applicants to the State of South Carolina. Additionally, the ability to compensate staff at a higher rate will allow the State to recruit and retain the most qualified employees.

### **2. STATEWIDE CONSORTIA PURCHASES**

The State Library is fiscally responsible; we diligently negotiate multi-year purchases that will provide the largest statewide impact. While Discus is the primary learning tool for students statewide, we regularly identify additional resources that could be of value to teachers and the K-12 community. However, funding limitations prevent us from procuring and sustaining the necessary resources.

#### a. Potential most negative impact

Disparate resources in the state will continue to leave the most vulnerable and in need South Carolinians without the essential resources to be successful in school and the work environment.

#### b. Outside help to mitigate impact

Partnerships with other state agencies with similar missions could reduce the cost burden of electronic resources through negotiation of consortia purchases. By pooling our resources, we could provide equal access to additional shared resources for the entire state, not just certain areas of the state that are well funded.

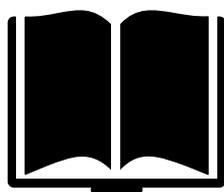
# What's Going on in **SOUTH CAROLINA**

226 public libraries -- something for everyone!



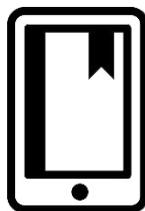
**4,652,360**  
population

## *Collections*



**8,610,566**

Books



**2,674,231**

Ebooks



**359,763**

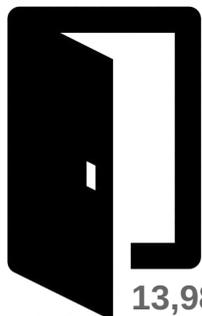
Audio Items



**748,320**

Video Items

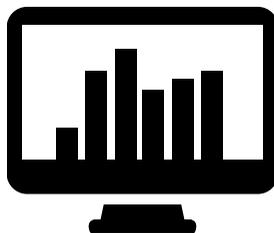
## *Library Visits*



**13,989,511**

{ That's more than  
**38,327** visitors per day! }

## *Computers & Internet Use*



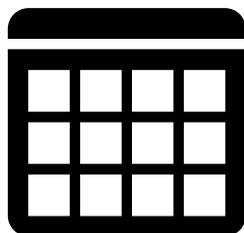
**4,290**

Public Computers



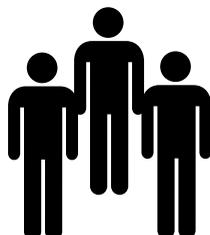
Wi-Fi Available at  
Every Library

## *Learning & Enrichment*



**68,174**

Storytimes, Book Talks, Film  
Programs, & More



**1,473,293**

People Trained in 21st  
Century Skills



**2,517,338**

Questions Asked & Answered

# ABOUT THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY

South Carolina State Library  
statelibrary.sc.gov  
1500 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 734-8666

## Library Director

Leesa M. Aiken

## Board of Trustees

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The South Carolina State Library is the primary administrator of federal and state support for the state's libraries. The Library is a national model for innovation, collaboration, leadership and effectiveness. The Library's mission is to optimize South Carolina's investment in library and information services.

In 1969, as the result of action by the General Assembly, the State Library Board was redesignated as the South Carolina State Library and assumed responsibility for public library development, library service for state institutions, service for the blind and physically handicapped, and library service to state government agencies. Headquartered in Columbia, SC, the Library is funded by the state of South Carolina, by the federal government through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and by other sources.

For more information, visit [statelibrary.sc.gov](http://statelibrary.sc.gov) or call (803) 734-8666.

The information contained in this report is based on the agency's Annual Accountability Report to the South Carolina State Legislature. Data is from the 2017-2018 State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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