



Strengthening LA County Library with your support

July, 2021

Dear Library Champion,

School's out, and summer, along with the heat, is in full swing.

For many of us, after so much physical distancing and limited interactions with people or places, this month feels a bit unsettled...what to do, where to go.

You're in luck! Your Library and your Library Foundation have ideas to share.

The Library has lots of [anti-boredom month](#) DIY activities, in addition to [recommended fiction and non-fiction](#) summer reads, [Spring & Summer Discovery Program](#) (supported by the Foundation, with prizes for all ages), [virtual programming](#), and more.

In this enews, Library Foundation volunteer Paul Loesch digs deep in the Library's digital toolbox to offer you resources to suit your mood, whether it's *learning*, *listening*, or what sounds good to me, *laughing*.

I'm also a fan of adventures and exploration, whether it's reading mysteries, digging into contemporary nonfiction, or checking out a library and community that's new to me.

So if you're eager to explore, you've got plenty of options, including an invitation to attend (in person) a couple Library reopening celebrations

later this month:

- [Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library](#) - Wednesday, July 21 from 11am -1pm
- [Maywood César Chávez Library](#) - Wednesday, July 28 from 11am -1pm

Hope to see you there - please be sure to say hello!

Read on to whet your appetite, because today we're taking a virtual field trip to Norwalk Library: home to the *Californiana Collection*, *Reference Services*, *Federal Depository Library*, self-help legal books, a *Veterans Resource Center*, and more.

Libraries have been a source of trusted information since their inception, evolving and innovating as technology and times change, maintaining their role as connectors and civic cornerstones.

This month's [My Library Story](#) from former Library employee Ann B. tells that story: a look back to the Library Call Center of 1987, "the Google of its time," and a shout out to the librarians at the heart of this work.

Whatever you choose to do, read, or explore this month, enjoy!

And if you'd like, send us a story or image - we'll share it in a future enews or on the [Library Foundation website](#).

Thank you for supporting your Library - as a Library user, champion, and donor. You make a difference!

ANDREA

Andrea Carroll
Executive Director

P.S. Please share this enews. Let people know about LA County Library and how they can join with you to [support it](#). Thank you.

My Library Story: Librarians, tech, and the Library Call Center...the Google of its time.

Ann B. was Los Angeles County Public Information Officer from January 1987 through September 1988.

"I placed numerous stories, including one from the Los Angeles *Times*, October 15, 1987 - it's fascinating to remember that the LACoPL Call Center was the Google of its time."

The *Times* article highlights that: requests for information - 12,320,000 questions - had surpassed the number of books checked out (12,217,000) in a single year.

"The LACoPL was "automating" - getting rid of the large spinning files with customer library card info."



Image: LA County Library (from the Library's digital archives)

Actor and sculptor Anthony Quinn, pictured at the 1987 dedication of the Library's Anthony Quinn collection, was a user of the Library's Call Center, including with questions about marble quarries in Mexico. Explore more treasures from the Library's digital collection [here](#).

Today, Ann observes, "It is amazing to me what we have witnessed in technological change in my lifetime that has transformed how we gather information.

Still, even with our online data sources, remarkable indeed, libraries will ALWAYS play such a part in our lives.

I remember the head of the Beverly Hills library eloquently declaring

library as sanctuary - a place to read, to be, to envision, to feel safe.

Librarians are very special. My second major mentor after my mother was my 5th/6th grade public school librarian Ruth Hadlock, in San Francisco.

She changed my life. I adored her and was able to reconnect in May of 1988. I visited her and called and stayed in touch until her passing this year. She was 90, and I will miss her deeply.

Librarians change lives. I am deeply grateful."

What's your Library Story?

Email us!

[Read more Library stories here.](#)

**Virtual Field Trip: Californiana
Collection, government documents,
Veterans Resource Center, reference
services & more at Norwalk Library**



Image: LA County Library/flickr

Norwalk Library, founded in 1913 as the 17th branch of LA County Library, is a delight for researchers. The library houses the Californiana Collection, Federal Depository Library, Reference Services, and a Veterans Resource Center. Plus, it's fresh from a renovation done during the pandemic. Check out [images from the reopening celebration](#). Better yet, make it your next destination to explore!

Community Library Manager Sue Kane can hardly wait to show off the newly renovated [Norwalk Library](#).

She gestures to walls of windows, dedicated children's and teen's areas, a donation of new books from the Friends of the Library, banks of computers, and lots of people, seated one to a table, busy with books,

magazines, and laptops.

"People are thrilled to be out of their homes and back in the library. It's so bright and open now, and every table has electricity. That's ideal - we have a lot of laptop users. We're the most heavily used reference library in the system," she says.

I tell her about Brad B.'s [Library Story](#). Brad, a retired Covina Valley Unified School District adult education teacher, introduced me to the [Federal Depository Library](#), a collection of government documents at Norwalk Library.

He explained, "The Government Printing Office (GPO) archives all publications of the U.S. government, from how to build a solar roof heater to the text and supporting documents of the 1991 START Treaty. I used the *Depository* all the time for a variety of subject classes...particularly and uniquely for my ESL classes."

Sue takes me to that section and zeroes in on the very popular *GPO Naturalization Flash Cards*.

The flash cards are also found in [Citizenship in a Bag](#), literally a shoulder bag packed with information - forms, questions, guides, a copy of the Constitution, and more - about navigating the U.S. naturalization process. The Citizenship Bag is available for check-out at every county library.

Sue reminds me that, like all LA County Library locations, your library card gives you access to the collections of all 85 community libraries. Find something you want in the online catalog, and have it delivered to your local library, or take a trip to see it in person.

There's a lot to take in at Norwalk Library, including the [Californiana Collection](#), a reference collection physically open to the public for the first time in more than a decade.

It has titles from the 1750s through today, on just about any topic you'd imagine, with a focus on California - arts, food, law, culture, stories of places and people throughout the state. A delight to wander through, metaphorically tripping over treasures as you move physically through the stacks.

Plus there's a collection of self-help legal books from Nolo Press, a popular resource for non-attorneys. Norwalk Library is also home to Reference Services, a team of reference librarians.

Need help with a hard to answer question or some in-depth research? [Email, call, chat, or text a librarian](#). If your question can't be readily answered, not to worry.

The team at Norwalk Library will investigate and get you what you need, whether it's with the outstanding and plentiful reference materials on site or online, or with an inter-library loan.

Norwalk Library also houses one of the Library's five [Veterans Resource Centers](#). Veterans and their family members can get information and materials about benefits, services, and resources related to housing, healthcare, employment, finance, and education.

When volunteers can safely return to the Library post-pandemic, a trained volunteer will be on site to provide assistance and answer questions.

Whether you're interested in a tranquil, sunshine-lit spot, or hankering for a space brimming with research materials and multitudes of circulating materials, you'd do well to visit Norwalk Library.

Where do you want to go next?

[Let us know!](#)

Virtual Toolbox: [learning, listening, and laughing](#)

Library Foundation volunteer Paul Loesch writes: your library card opens digital resources for every interest and need.

Interested in *Learning* new things?

Check out some of these resources:

1. **LinkedIn Learning**, found in the Library's *Digital Library: Learn* section. LinkedIn Learning explores topics in short, powerful video lessons.

Your topics of interest might include *The Six Morning Habits of High Performers*, *Landscape Photography: Wide Angle Lenses*, or even *Real Estate Investing 101*. LinkedIn Learning offers hundreds of short courses designed to address just about any need.

2. **Universal Class** provides multi-lesson, deep study for hundreds of topics from American History to mythology. Sign up for a class with your library card and expand your knowledge, whether you're learning more about a familiar topic or investigating something new.

Interested in *Listening to music or books of all varieties?*

Of course, the library is overflowing with resources to help you read about or study music, but you can also listen to music through these digital resources:

1. **Freegal**, found in the library's *Digital Library: Explore* section, offers playlists, albums, songs, and even broad categories of recordings based on user-defined themes.

It is also rich in audiobooks. Listen to a book as you make your morning commute or your daily work-out.

You might listen to *The National Lampoon Radio Hour*, *The East Coast Invasion: The Beatles*, or even *Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Empty House*.

2. **hoopla** also offers much for your listening enjoyment. Check out *Pure Sleep: Music and Nature Sounds for Peaceful Dreams*, *Chronicle: 20 Greatest Hits | Creedence Clearwater Revival*, or perhaps, anything from hoopla's *Top Rated Titles*. Like Freegal, hoopla offers music and also audiobooks.

Interested in *Laughing?*

1. **Kanopy** offers more than just terrific movies. *The Librarians* is a multi-season fantasy series filled with time-travel, intrigue, drama, and, most of all, a lot of laughs. It is just one of the series found in Kanopy.

2. Turn to hoopla again for its collection of comics, digitized versions of comic strips, and comic books. You can check out *MAD Magazine* here, or browse *Best of hoopla: Funny Pages*. You will find *Dilbert*, the classic comic strip *Nancy*, and even *Garfield*.

What digital resource do you love?

[Drop us an email!](#)

Your donation will help create a vibrant future.



Thank you!



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