



April 2023

Hi Library Champion,

Happy National Library Appreciation Week!

I love this sunny time of year, and this week especially. We've got Right to Read Day, National Library Workers Day, National Library Outreach Day (today), and Take Action for Libraries Day.

And since it doesn't have a label, I'm naming Friday YOUR day - National Library Champion Appreciation Day! We'll start celebrating now.

A huge thank you -- Library Giving Day launched us into April, and Library Champions continue to give generously.

Library Foundation directors are multiplying your impact, matching gifts for a total of \$10K. Hold on tight -- we plan to blast far past that goal!

That kind of support, from a multitude of Library Champions, helps power your Library.

Read on and watch the video highlighting the winners of the Library's 43rd annual Bookmark Contest.

Thank you to sponsor Faring, and to you, Library Champion, for giving young people an opportunity to create. 10,000 K-12 students submitted entries!

In *My Library Story*, Library Champion Doug E. shares a story that's perfect for this week, relishing the extensive and resource-filled LA County Library system.

Check out the Foundation's salute to your Library -- where we go for this month's *Virtual Field Trip* -- and don't miss the Library's tribute to [Library Appreciation Week](#), either.

As always, thank you for your generosity and love for your Library.

Wishing you a joyful Library Champion Appreciation Day,

Andrea

Andrea Carroll
Executive Director
acarroll@lacolibraryfoundation.org

P.S. [You make an impact with your gift.](#) Thank you!

My Library Story: Doug E. on libraries, and rewards at the end of a long day



Image: Doug E

"For many years, my work required days driving to several places around the County, ranging from the San Gabriel Valley to the South Bay.

I often spent my lunchtime at County library branches checking out what was on offer. One of my favorites was the Carson branch. It was on my way home and I liked to stop there because I knew I would find the newest best sellers.

Taking a book home that I looked forward to reading was the best reward for a long day on the road."

What's your Library Story?

[We want to know.](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)

Virtual Field Trip: Your LA County Library and you - a powerful system



***Thanks to you, 100 years and going strong - that's your LA County Library!** The first branch of the County Free Library was established on April 23, 1913 in one room of Mrs. Belle Jenks' home in Willowbrook -- with a collection of 50 books. In the image above, Mrs. Jenks, the County Library's first librarian, kneels in front of the small library.*

What better time than Library Appreciation Week to shine a light on your LA County Library system.

Maybe you'll pick up some factual tidbits and discover Library resources that are new to you. Or just take pride and joy in your Library system and your role in keeping it strong.

Let's get started...

Your Library system is large. By number of Library locations, it's number 2 in the nation, second only to New York Public Library.

That's 85 community libraries (and 1 institutional library in Central Juvenile Hall) across 3,000 square miles. That means a library on Catalina Island, libraries throughout the valleys, libraries in the desert, and loads in between.

Plus four cultural gems for academics and community members alike: American Indian Resource Center (Huntington Park Library), Asian Pacific Resource Center (Rosemead Library), Black Resource Library (A C Bilbrev Library), and Chicano Resource Center (East Los Angeles Library).

And did I mention [veterans resource centers](#), 4 bookmobiles, 10 MākMō maker mobiles, 3 mobile Reading Machines, and 2 library outreach vans?

That's in addition to a 24/7 digital library, plus online databases and virtual career support and homework help.

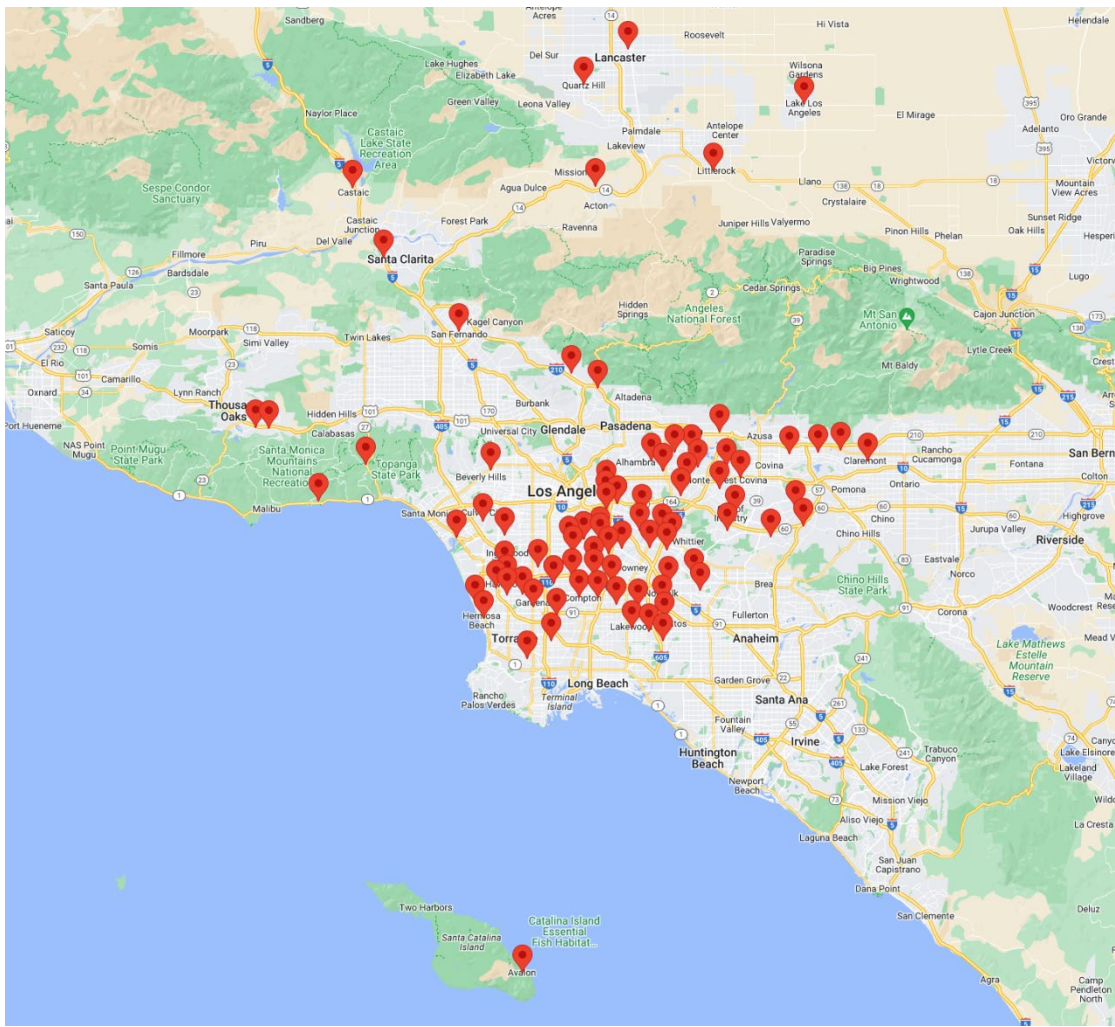


Image: LA County Library/Google maps

Check out a list of library locations [here](#).

That incredible reach of the Library system means you have a LOT of resources to draw from. Because you can search the Library's collections, choose any circulating material from ANY library or resource center, and have it delivered for pick-up at your library of choice.

And since LA County Library is committed to meeting the unique needs of each of its communities, that means you also have a dazzling range of content to choose from.

Plus, each library offers [events](#) for children, teens, and adults. Some of them are available virtually, and for those that aren't, if you're up for a field trip, head on out.

Your Library is powerful. Your Library serves Los Angeles County, with a population of more than 10 million people. That's as big as the 11th most populated state in the nation.

Millions of people use the Library each year -- checking out physical and online materials, and savoring the safe and comforting place of a library.

Nearly 200,000 children, teens, and adults attend Library programs each year - on site and online. Babies and toddlers and their adults learn about books and dance and music with Smarty Pants Storytime. Older adults use computers, exchange ideas in book clubs, and pursue new and longtime interests.

Job seekers find jobs and others further their careers, adults earn high school diplomas, teens pick up life skills and meet friends, families navigate the path to citizenship, entrepreneurs and students alike flourish with laptop and hotspot loans and individualized support.

LA County Library makes a difference because of you, Library Champion -- Library user, advocate, donor, each role helps power your Library. And a powerful Library system means access to opportunity for more individuals.

Library users connect - with Library staff, information, creativity, and resources to build well-being. They explore, learn, and create, and they share their knowledge and skills with family, friends, employers, and the community at large.

You're helping build a brighter today, and tomorrow, with your Library. Because literacy and well-being in myriad forms -- what your Library helps deliver -- matters, especially now.



Image: LA County Library/Monica Almeida

Yes, we've come a long way since 1913 when Mrs. Jenks set up shop in her home for the first LA County library. **But some things remain the same.**

Like superstar library staff -- there for you with trusted information, welcoming attitudes, and enthusiasm for propelling your individual journey, whether that's reading, studying, seeking a job or citizenship, or simply basking in the library's embracing space.

Next time you're in your library, give a smile and a thank you to the library staff.

Thank you, Library Champion, for powering your LA County Library!

Where do you want to go next?

[Email us.](#)

Library Champion, you make an impact!



Coming soon...to a library near you...the winning K-12 bookmarks from the Library's 43rd annual Bookmark Contest! These were chosen from 10,000 entries from kindergarteners to high school seniors. LA County -- you got talent!

Check out the video showcasing these terrific designs:

<https://youtu.be/3Y13FblyN48>

Special thanks to sponsor Faring and to you, Library Champion. Your support for your Library makes life richer and communities stronger for children, teens, and adults throughout Los Angeles County. YOU make a difference.

Thank you, Library Champion!

You make a difference.

Give Today



Our Contact Information

LA County Library Foundation

7400 Imperial Hwy #201

Downey, CA 90242

562.940.4189

<https://www.lacolibraryfoundation.org>