

*Your*

# Connecticut State Library



# *What is the* Connecticut State Library?

*The Connecticut State Library was established by an act of the Connecticut General Assembly in May 1854. Dr. James Hammond Trumbull was appointed the first State Librarian for Connecticut in that year. In its 150-year history there have been only 10 State Librarians. The collections were first kept in the State Houses in Hartford and New Haven and then in the present day Capitol. In 1910 they were relocated to the State Library/Supreme Court building in Hartford where they are housed today.*



*Your State  
Library  
has continued  
to grow in size  
and scope.*

## *It is* **Law and Legislation**

The Law and Legislative Reference Unit serves as the principal law library for Connecticut state government. It maintains a comprehensive collection of state and federal legal publications of interest to the bench and bar, state employees, students, researchers, and the public. Knowledgeable and experienced staff provide reference information and research assistance in the use of primary and secondary sources. The public policy collection includes books on issues of concern to the Legislature, the Judiciary, and state agencies, and covers areas of historical and emerging importance. The staff of the State Library's Bill Room provides year-round information on legislative bill activity for the most recent session of the Connecticut General Assembly.

## *It is* **Government Information**

The State Library is a Federal, Regional, and Connecticut State Document Depository. The Government Information Services unit maintains a comprehensive collection of government publications that is both current and retrospective along with supporting public policy documents. General reference materials include dictionaries, almanacs, directories, encyclopedias, indexes, text guides, and periodicals. The staff provides assistance and information on search techniques, new information products, and State Library resources. In addition they work with state agencies to acquire and preserve digital state publications in the Connecticut Digital Archive.





## *It is* **History & Genealogy**

The History and Genealogy Unit supports the State Library's mission "to preserve and make accessible the records of Connecticut's history and heritage." The collections are comprehensive and include genealogies, local histories, Connecticut newspapers, vital, church, and probate records, and archival materials such as records of state government, manuscript collections, and aerial photos. The staff assists genealogists (professional and amateur), historians, students, state employees, attorneys, environmental researchers, and citizens in search of historical information.

## *It is the* **Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped**

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a network member of the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

This service lends books and magazines in recorded formats along with the necessary playback equipment, and materials in Braille, FREE, to any Connecticut adult or child who is unable to read

regular print due to a visual or physical disability. All materials are mailed to and from library patrons by postage-free mail.



## *It is a* **Public Records Office**

The Office of the Public Records Administrator creates records retention schedules for state and local government and supervises the legal destruction of public records that have no permanent or historic value and have reached the end of their usefulness. This ensures that both citizens and governmental agencies will be able to obtain information for the appropriate amount of time and dispose of records in a timely manner. This office also operates the State Records Center in Rocky Hill, Connecticut where state agencies can store their records until the time period specified in the retention schedules has ended, and they can be destroyed. In addition, The Public Records Administrator administers a grant program to improve preservation and management of local historic documents and public records.

## *It is* **State Archives**

Since 1855 the Connecticut State Library has acquired historical records from the three branches of State government. Some collections available include Connecticut Archives (1629-1920) comprised of colonial and early statehood records; General Assembly (1636-1998) including papers of the General Assembly; Judicial Department (1647-1991) containing records of Connecticut Courts; Office of the Governor (1630-1995) including papers of the governors and their staffs; Military Department (1729-1986); Manuscripts (1650-1973) consisting primarily of personal papers from political figures, church leaders, scientists, engineers, businessmen, merchants, and scholars; Towns and Municipalities (1700-1984); genealogical Materials (1920-1979) principally on Connecticut families; Photos, Maps, and Graphic Materials. The Archives contains more than 32,000 cubic feet of records documenting the evolution of state public policy and its implementation, the rights and claims of citizens, and the history of Connecticut and its people.



*It is*

## Resource Sharing through the Division of Library Development



iCONN provides universal access to a core level of library and information resources for every resident of Connecticut. iCONN is a collection of licensed, full text periodical and

reference databases available at every school, college, and public library as well as at home or in the office. Residents can find business information; the full text of the *Hartford Courant*, *New York Times*; consumer health information; homework help; research information; genealogy information; and a catalog of more than 400 Connecticut libraries. Simply log on to [www.iconn.org](http://www.iconn.org).

**Connecticard** is a program that allows any resident to use their hometown library card at every public library in Connecticut, providing equity of access to library materials statewide.

*It is*

## Support for Local Libraries through the Division of Library Development

**State Grants to Public Libraries** support public library services. Libraries receive a base grant plus additional amounts for equalization based on town wealth rankings and incentives based on local library support. To be eligible libraries must provide free and equal library service, participate in Connecticard, submit an annual statistical survey to the State Library, and maintain local support.

**Public Library Construction Grants** are available to improve public library facilities to meet their communities' needs. This program ensures wise and economical use of



state funds in the construction of library facilities, ensures that older and improved facilities provide the maximum in function, and assists in the replacement of inadequate, timeworn, and unimproved library facilities with modern, efficient, and functional buildings to accommodate expanding and developing programs of service.

**Federal Library Services and Technology Act** funds provide for statewide programs including the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Connecticut, and training for library staff.

The program also funds competitive grants to public, school and academic libraries. These grants target services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, children, and older adults.



**Statistical Information about** Connecticut's public libraries is collected, organized, and published. These statistics provide public libraries with data they need to plan and develop services for their communities.

**Connecticard** began in the 1970's to support resource sharing among libraries. Today it provides statewide delivery service to 200 libraries. Handling over one and a half million items each year, it is the backbone of resource sharing among Connecticut's public and academic libraries.





*It is*  
**Professional Development**  
through the Division of Library Development

**Education and Development programs** give library staff, trustees, and Friends of Libraries the opportunity to update their knowledge and skills. Libraries must meet demands for traditional, print-centered services and address the challenges of the technological and electronic revolution. Continuing education opportunities include a workshop for new public library directors, an annual leadership conference for trustees, technical training in three computer labs, and early literacy training for children's librarians.

**Library Service Centers** in Willimantic and Middletown support libraries in Connecticut through consulting, networking, professional resources, and training. They also provide libraries with essential collections of children's materials, large print and audio materials, and professional publications, assuring that every resident in Connecticut has access to necessary library resources.

*It is*  
**A Growing Internet Resource**

[www.cslib.org](http://www.cslib.org)

[ct.webjunction.org](http://ct.webjunction.org)

[www.iconn.org](http://www.iconn.org)

[www.greatkidsct.org](http://www.greatkidsct.org)

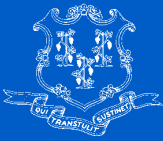
[www.cthistoryonline.org](http://www.cthistoryonline.org)

What is the Connecticut State Library?

## *It is the* **Museum of Connecticut History**

The Museum consists of Memorial Hall, a magnificently restored beaux-arts style gallery, and three adjoining exhibit areas. On permanent display are portraits of Connecticut Governors as well as historic documents, including the State's original 1662 Royal Charter, the 1639 Fundamental Orders, and the 1818 and 1964 State Constitutions. The focus of the Museum and its collections is Connecticut's government, military, and industrial history. Permanent and changing exhibits trace the growth of the State and its role in the development of the nation from the Colonial era to the present.





*Visit the  
Connecticut State Library  
online, 24 hours a day, at  
[www.cslib.org](http://www.cslib.org)*

*General mailing address:*

Connecticut State Library  
231 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

*General telephone numbers:*

- (860) 757-6500 Information
- (860) 757-6510 State Librarian's Office
  
- (860) 757-6570 Government Information
- (860) 757-6580 History and Genealogy
- (860) 344-2475 iCONN, the Connecticut Digital Library
  
- (860) 757-6590 Law and Legislation
- (860) 566-2151 Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped
  
- (860) 757-6665 Library Development
  
- (860) 344-2972 Middletown Library Service Center
  
- (860) 757-6531 Museum of Connecticut History
  
- (860) 757-6540 Public Records Administration
  
- (860) 757-6511 State Archives
  
- (860) 344-2972 Willimantic Library Service Center