

LIBRARY HISTORY

1731

Benjamin Franklin and others start the Library Company of Philadelphia.

1876

The American Library Association is founded.

1939

American Library Association establishes a Code of Ethics for Librarians.

LIBRARY DIGITAL HISTORY

1959

Library Technology Project launched by the American Library Association.

1964

Online bibliographic retrieval is featured at Library/USA, part of the World's Fair in New York.

1800

1900

1960

1962

Library 21, an exhibit on the computerization of the library, is unveiled at the World's Fair in Seattle.

POLITICAL HISTORY

1919–1920

The “Red Scare” targets U.S. labor activists, immigrants, and others following the 1917 Russian Revolution.

1956

Library Services Act passed by Congress.

1964

Library Services and Construction Act passed by Congress.

1964

Bringing computers out of the university and into the mainstream, IBM introduces 360 series, a “family” or system of mainframe computers.

INTERNET HISTORY

1967
ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom is established.

1967
OCLC is established as the Ohio College Library Center, connecting library databases. OCLC currently maintains the largest online public access catalog in the world, WorldCat.

1970s
The first Integrated Library Systems are developed and implemented.

1980
The full-text online journal of the American Chemical Society is placed online.

1965
1968
Machine readable cataloging—aka the MARC pilot project—is successfully completed, propelling efforts to standardize digital formats for materials cataloged by libraries.

1970
1975
1981
Local libraries in Missouri connect to a Telnex host, enabling coordination of interlibrary loans.

1969
ARPAnet, the precursor to the modern-day Internet, launches.

1972
Email is invented by Ray Tomlinson.

1974
Vint Cerf and Roy Kahn use the term "Internet" for the first time.

1986

ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee clarifies definitions associated with challenges to library materials.

1991

The American Library Association establishes a policy on the protection of personally identifiable information.

1983

The Dynix Automated Library System is developed to replace the physical card catalog system and track the lending of materials from the library to patrons.

1999

Wifi is offered at a public library in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

1980s

The FBI deploys the "Library Awareness Program" to track the reading habits of foreign nationals using U.S. libraries.

1994

The Technology Opportunities Program is established by the National Telecommunications & Information Administration, helping more than 100 public libraries bridge the "digital divide."

1996

The Library Services and Technology Act is passed by Congress.

1989

Tim Berners-Lee develops HTTP and the World Wide Web.

1991

The World Wide Web launches publicly.

1994

Netscape creates the HTTP cookie, which propels e-commerce and facilitates the targeting and tracking of Web users.

1995

The first wiki is developed by computer programmer Ward Cunningham.

1996

The Internet Archive is established.

1998

Blogs first appear.

2003

The American Library Association passes a resolution opposing sections of the USA Patriot Act and supporting patron privacy.

2003

The first e-book collection is circulated at the Cleveland Public Library.

2010

77 million Americans use public computers at libraries.

2000

Library management system software introduced by 3M.

2010

Planning begins for the Digital Public Library of America.

2001

Al-Qaeda attacks the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

2001

Congress passes the USA PATRIOT Act, granting the government expanded powers to order library staff to turn over records.

2010

The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program is established by the National Telecommunications & Information Administration, supporting more than 2,000 public computer centers and nearly 350 digital literacy programs at state and local libraries.

2002

Friendster, one of the first social networking sites, launches.

mid-2000s

Smartphones become widely available and gain in popularity in the U.S. and globally.

2006

The social networking site MySpace surpasses Google to become the most visited website in the U.S.

2013

The first “bookless” library is launched in San Antonio, Texas.

2016

The Library Privacy Pledge is initiated by Library Freedom Project.

2013

Edward Snowden begins to leak NSA documents revealing mass U.S. government surveillance of the populace.

2015

Congress passes the USA Freedom Act, resulting in both the modification and extension of surveillance measures of the PATRIOT Act.

2011

Microsoft Advertising implements, though later stops using, supercookies. (Others, like AT&T and Verizon, pick up the trend later.)

2014

Adobe Digital Editions is found to be sending reading histories and other user data in clear text back to Adobe.

2015

The FCC bolsters net neutrality by reclassifying broadband Internet and mobile data access as a telecommunications service.

2015

Let’s Encrypt is launched, making it easier to install secure certificates on webpages.

2017

Congress overturns the FCC’s consumer broadband privacy protections.

2017

The FCC votes to eliminate net neutrality rules, which previously banned ISPs from discriminating against content providers.

2016

The FCC votes to require ISPs to gain consent of their consumers for use of their personal data, as well as adhere to other transparency, choice, and security requirements.