

Jefferson Parish Library

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Long narrow parish immediately west of Orleans Parish; straddles Mississippi River; west bank extends south to Gulf of Mexico, and includes Grand Isle; New Orleans airport at western edge of east bank; 15-20 minutes to French Quarter; population of 455,466; New Orleans (Orleans Parish) has population of 451,316 per PLDS's Statistical Report 2005; East Baton Rouge Parish serves 412,447 residents.

Operating budget of \$15 million; 237 FTE; 1.9 million circ.

15 libraries (7 on more populated east bank; 8 on more impoverished west bank) plus an e-Branch satellite facility opened this spring on the east bank.

Contents of 4 libraries totally destroyed:

Lakeshore in Metairie (east bank; northeast portion, close to Orleans Parish)
7,700 sq ft; 46,000 vols. – new facility opened 1995

Belle Terre Library in Marrero (west bank)
5,800 sq ft; 39,000 vols.

Gretna in Gretna (west bank)
3,000 sq ft; 28,000 vols.

Grand Isle in Grand Isle (west bank; on Gulf of Mexico)
3,000 sq ft; 17,000 vols.

Major collection losses at 3 libraries:

Lafitte in Lafitte (west bank)
1,600 sq ft; 14,000 vols. – all children's books (except juv fiction) lost (7,500)
Most of furnishings lost, carpeting, duct work, etc.

Live Oak in Waggaman (west bank; close to St. Charles Parish)
5,400 sq ft; 28,000 vols. – all easies, juv fiction & juv ref lost (12,000 vols)
Most of furnishings lost, carpeting (installed in May), duct work, etc.

Westwego in Westwego (west bank)
7,200 sq ft; 38,000 vols. – all juvenile non-fiction lost (7,500 vols)
Most of furnishings & carpeting lost in children's & staff areas

Struggling to save the collections at 2 libraries as of Sept 16:

Wagner in Metairie (east bank – central portion close to I-10)
6,200 sq ft; 35,000 vols. – new facility opened in 2003
Facility still wet; all sheet rock must be removed

Terrytown in Terrytown (west bank)
5,600 sq ft; 37,000 vols.
Facility still wet; still no power; generator not installed until Sept 16

Minor damage at 5 libraries:

East Bank Regional in Metairie (east bank)
136,000 sq ft; 395,000 vols. – new facility opened in 1997
Meeting room damaged; remediation/demo work in 20 other locations

West Bank Regional in Harvey (west bank)
39,000 sq ft; 178,000 vols.
Meeting room will be totally gutted; some remediation/demo work elsewhere

North Kenner in Kenner (east bank)
9,400 sq ft; 57,000 vols.
All carpeting being removed; minor remediation/demo work

Old Metairie in Metairie (east bank)
10,000 sq ft; 69,000 vols.
Minor remediation/demo work

Harahan in Harahan (east bank)
3,000 sq ft; 30,000 vols.
Minor remediation/demo work

2 facilities essentially unharmed:

Rosedale in Jefferson (east bank)
7,100 sq ft; 42,000 vols.
Small area of carpet by front window was wet

e-Branch in River Ridge (east bank) – new facility opened 2005
500 sq ft; no books; 3 Internet access computers; 1 catalog
No damage

Most of the serious damage to libraries was on the west bank, where schools and educational attainment levels are poorer than on the more affluent east bank.

Library working with:

Envirocare of Covington, LA – industrial hygienist

Certified Cleaning & Restoration, Inc. of Metairie, LA

Royal Plus Disaster Kleenup of Berlin, MD

Libraries and all other parish departments closed at noon, August 27; department directors, maintenance staff & other essential emergency personnel evacuated at 3:00 pm, August 28; Hurricane Katrina hit August 29; department directors, maintenance staff & other essential personnel made their way back into parish early morning, August 30; working 24/7 through Sept 16; reverting to regular work hours effective Sept 19; other Parish employees will report to work on Oct 3 (on emergency leave until then).

In touch with library staff via email since Sept 8; trying to gear up and to recruit enough staff to open East Bank Regional Library, West Bank Regional Library, and North Kenner Library on Sept 26 – may or may not happen; services will resume Oct 3 at any other libraries that can open at that time; Lakeshore, Belle Terre, Gretna, and Grand Isle will be closed indefinitely.
