

## Libraries in the Lou Challenge

St. Louis Public Library (SLPL) traces its history back to 1865 when Ira Divoll, superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools, established a subscription library for the citizens of St. Louis. Located at 5th and Olive, the Public School Library and Lyceum was open to the public for a fee. Many historic public libraries began this way. In 1893, the citizens of St. Louis approved a property tax to pay for an independent St. Louis Public Library, free and open to all. Now, there are 16 SLPL locations to serve the community.



The Libraries in the Lou Challenge encourages you to meet the Library by visiting various SLPL locations. Each library hosts its own “Neighborhood Library” exhibit. The exhibits feature historical images of each library: early buildings, various library and neighborhood events, and noteworthy community members. They are all different and represent the history of each neighborhood, community, and library in a unique way. Look for these exhibits as your photo locations at each site.

*Libraries in the Lou Challenge is sponsored by St. Louis Public Library. Formed in 1865 as the Public School Library Society of St. Louis, the St. Louis Public Library was re-established by voters in 1893 to be run by an independent board and supported by a property tax as a free service available to all St. Louis residents. In 1901, Andrew Carnegie made a substantial gift to the St. Louis Public Library which allowed for the construction of Central Library and six neighborhood Branches, four of which are still in use today (Barr, Cabanne, Carpenter and Carondelet). Today the system consists of a Central Library and 16 branches with more than four million items in its collection, 85,000 cardholders, more than 300 staff members and two million visitors annually.*



ST. LOUIS' ORIGINAL  
SEARCH ENGINE®

**Libraries in the Lou Challenge ... Visit at least 5 sites. Remember: Missouri Explorers must be registered in the program, and they are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites. Upload your verification photographs using the online submission form at <https://missouri2021.org/missouri-explorers/> to receive your merit badge button.**

**Remember**, Missouri Explorers, you are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites before arriving.

### **Baden Library**

8448 Church Road  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-388-2400

*Baden Branch was originally in the former police station at Halls Ferry and Broadway and opened July 1928. It moved to a new building in 1961. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/BADEN/>

### **Barr Library**

1701 South Jefferson Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-771-7040

*Barr Branch opened September 1906 and was named for William Barr, who donated the land, with design by Theodore C. Link. The library reopened after renovation in March 1996. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/BARR/>

**Buder Library**

4401 Hampton Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-352-2900

*Buder Branch started in 1922 as the library for the Susan R. Buder School at 5318 Lansdowne Avenue in the Southampton Neighborhood. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/BUDER/>

**Cabanne Library**

1106 Union Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-367-0717

*Cabanne Branch opened in July 1907 and was named for the Cabanne Subdivision from Pierre Cabanne, a French settler who arrived in St. Louis in 1798. It was designed by Mauran, Russell and Garden and was remodeled in 1967. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/CABANNE/>

**Carondelet Library**

6800 Michigan Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-752-9224

*Carondelet Branch opened June 1908 and was designed by Ernst Preisler. The library is on the National Register of Historic Places. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/CARONDELET/>

**Carpenter Library**

3309 S. Grand Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-772-6586

*Carpenter Branch was named for George O. Carpenter, a former board member). Carpenter donated the branch property, and it was designed by Wilbur T. Trueblood of W. T. Trueblood and Hugo K. Graf. The library*

*opened February 1927 and reopened after renovation in 2001. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/CARPENTER/>

**Central Express Library**

815 Olive Street, Suite 160  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-206-6755

*Central Express opened in the renovated Old Post Office on September 13, 2006, as the second neighborhood "mini" branch. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/EXPRESS/>

**Central Library**

1301 Olive Street  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-241-2288

*The Central Library building at 13th and Olive was built in 1912 on a location formerly occupied by the St. Louis Exposition and Music Hall and was designed by Cass Gilbert. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/CENTRAL/>

**Charing Cross Library**

365 N. Skinker Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-726-2653

*Charing Cross Library opened in June 1992 as the first neighborhood "mini" branch. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/CHARING/>

**Divoll Library**

4234 N. Grand Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri  
(314) 534-0313

*Divoll Branch originally opened on Farrar Street on December 5, 1910, and was named for Ira Divoll, St. Louis superintendent of schools and founder of St. Louis Public Library. It was designed by Mariner and LaBeaume and closed in 1967. It was replaced by the North Grand location in 1967. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/DIVOLL/>

### **Julia Davis Library**

4415 Natural Bridge Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-534-0313

*The new Julia Davis Branch opened February 1993 and was designed by Russell Lewis from By Design, Inc. The original Julia Davis Branch opened in 1974. St. Louis Public Library first served the neighborhood in 1922 with the Sherman Park Branch in the Sherman Park Community House, 5085 Easton Avenue, which moved to 2902 Union Avenue in 1955. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/DAVIS/>

### **Kingshighway Library**

2260 S. Vandeventer Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-771-5450

*The original branch opened in December 1944 then moved and expanded in 1973. The current library opened in May 2001. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/KINGSHWY/>

### **Macahek Library**

6424 Scanlan Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-781-2948

*Machacek Branch was named for donor Charles Machacek and designed by Berger-Field-Torno-*

*Hurley, Inc. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/MACHACEK/>

### **MarketPlace Library**

6548 Manchester Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-647-0939

*MarketPlace Branch opened May 23, 1995, as the third “mini” branch. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/MARKETPL/>

### **Schlaflly Library**

225 N. Euclid Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-367-4120

*Schlaflly Branch opened January 2002. The Central West End neighborhood had formerly been served by St. Louis Public Library’s Lashly Branch named for Jacob Mark Lashly, who served for 26 years on the St. Louis Public Library Board of Directors and ten years as president. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/SCHLAFLY/>

### **Walnut Park Library**

5760 W. Florissant Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-383-1210

*Walnut Park sub-branch originally opened in 1917 at a different location, became a full branch in 1960 at another location, and moved to its current location in 1972. Snap your photograph with the Your Neighborhood Library exhibit sign.*

<https://www.slpl.org/locations/WALNUT/>