A selective chronology of the State Library of South Australia and its forerunners
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Further information on the complex history of the State Library of South Australia and its forerunners can be found in a variety of sources, especially:

- The Annual reports which document the life of the Library

1834 South Australian Literary Association founded in London on 29 August, including prospective colonists like Gouger, Gilles Wright Hanson Kingston Gilbert, and changed its name to the South Australian Literary and Scientific Association on 16 November. It organised a series of conversaziones and Robert Gouger donated a collection of books which were to form the basis of the library in the colony.

1836 Box of books, including the Gouger Collection, arrived on the Tam O’Shanter in December, but were left in Mr Surflen’s store in Adelaide for two years.

1838 The books were retrieved in August when a Mechanics’ Institute was formed. The library charged a shilling admission, operating out of a small wooden shanty housing the South Australian School Society, situated near the site of the present day Morphett Street railway bridge on North Terrace. The library was then transferred to ‘Professor’ Platt’s music shop in Gilles Arcade. Mechanics’ Institute amalgamated with the South Australian Literary and Scientific Association to form the Adelaide Literary and Scientific Association and Mechanics’ Institute.

1842 The earliest attempt at a public library in a country district was at Balhannah as a subscription library.

1843 In a climate of financial difficulties the Mechanics’ Institute collapsed and its books were deposited with the moneylender Mr Da Costa to cover a debt of 20 pounds.

1844 South Australian Subscription Library founded with a fee of two guineas per year. Its first rooms were in the Club house, predecessor the Adelaide Club on North Terrace. The books were retrieved from Mr Da Costa for twenty pounds.

1847 The Mechanics’ Institute reformed and rented rooms in Peacock’s buildings, Hindley Street, with a grand opening conversazione in October.

1848 Amalgamation of the Mechanics’ Institute and South Australian Subscription Library to become the South Australian Library and Mechanics’ Institute, housed in the Exchange Buildings, corner of King William Street and Gresham Place. First printed catalogue and regulations published.

1853 Adelaide Philosophical Society formed 10 January, forerunner of the Royal Society of South Australia.

1856 South Australian Institute established by Act number 16 of 1855-56 (18 June 1856) as a partly public and partly subscription funded organisation. It brought together the South Australian Subscription Library and Mechanics’ Institute, and the Adelaide Philosophical Society Subscription Library. It comprised a Public Library and Museum, and by means of lectures and classes promoted the study and cultivation of art, science, literature and philosophy and assisted and encouraged kindred societies. First meting of the Board of Governors was in the old Legislative Council building.

1859 South Australian Institute building designed by Colonial Architect E. A Hamilton was completed in July on the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue.

1861 South Australian Institute building officially opened by the Chief Justice, Sir Charles Cooper, on 29 January.

1874 Government funds established a free reference library within the Institute Library.
1878 The Copyright Act number 95 of 1878 stated that a copy of every book, pamphlet and other item published in South Australia was to be deposited in the S.A. Institute.
1879 Foundation stone of a new building for the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery was laid by Governor Sir William F.D. Jervois on 7 November. The building became known as the Jervois Wing and is now called the Mortlock Wing.
Queen Adelaide Collection presented by Bishop Augustus Short.
1884 South Australian Institute dissolved. Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery Act of February provided for a single Board for the three departments, replacing the South Australian Institute. The Board of Governors first met on 15 August 1884. New Public Library, Art Gallery and Museum building was opened by the Governor Sir W.C.P. Robinson on 18 December at a cost of £40,000. The Art Gallery moved out in 1889 and the Museum in 1895. Adelaide Circulating Library founded in the Institute Building.
1898 Free Libraries Act no. 700 of 1898 was an Act to allow councils to establish free libraries after a poll of rate payers. (None did).
1899 Institutes Association of South Australia was founded in January. Library staff packed 18 boxes of books for the South Australian contingent to take to the Boer War on SS Medic in October.
1900 The Library closed its doors for the celebrations for the relief of Mafeking on 21 May, the first time such a closure occurred, and again in December to welcome the contingent home.
1903 Dr Morgan Thomas left a bequest of £65,000 to the Board, which was divided so that half went to the Library, a quarter to the Museum and a quarter to the Art Gallery.
1906 The Public Library does its own binding.
1907 Institute Building northern additions opened at a cost of £6,200, housing the Royal Society of South Australia, the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (SA Branch), South Australian Society of Arts and providing a lecture theatre and basement storage. The Institutes’ Association of South Australia took over all duties relating to the 200 affiliated Institutes which the Board had directed previously.
1909 Public library, Museum and Art Gallery and Institutes Act was passed as 986 of 1909.
1910/11 Over 3000 volumes ‘The bulk of the Medical Section of the Public Library were presented to the University of Adelaide’.
1913 Rearrangement of the main library by Dewey Decimal Classification.
1914 Staff member Miss Harwood organised from the Library, then from her house, a drive to put a pudding in each tent occupied by troops bound for the Front in World War One. This led to the formation of the Cheer-Up Society.
The First Library Assistant, Sylvester Sydney Day was the first Library staff member to join up at the age of 30. He was killed at Gallipoli on 2 May 1915.
Electric light installed in the Public Library replacing gas.
52 iron rolling stacks installed in the crypt.
1915 A Children’s Library opened on the ground floor in the Jervois building in the room overlooking North Terrace on 16 February with 775 books. It was the first public children’s library in Australia. Story hours were held weekly with paid storytellers. Lending from the Children’s Library did not begin until 1941.
Staff of the Library, Museum and Art Gallery formed a social club called Limusart, which was active in the war effort.
1916 Appointment of the first female Board member, Miss Jeannie Forster Young, Catherine Helen Spence’s fellow political campaigner and biographer.
1919 Appointment of an Archivist on 1 February and an Archives Department.
1920 The Archives opened in October, housed in the renovated former Ordnance Store at the rear of the Art Gallery of South Australia.
1921 The Board closed the Library for the first picnic of the Limusart social club on 22 October at Morialta. Such closures occurred for several years. The social club arranged for a staff ‘swimming pool’ to be installed using an old macerating tank from the Museum.
1925  *Archives Act* 1683 of 1925 made it compulsory for government departments to inform and get permission from the Archives Department before destroying records, and also enabled the recovery of public documents from unauthorised persons. This was Australia’s first archives act.

1927  Children’s Library moved from the Jervois building into the former Police Barracks behind the Library.

1928  Periodicals Room relocated into the ground floor front room vacated by the Children’s Library.

1932  In response to the Library’s funding cuts during the Great Depression, a Friends of the Public Library of South Australia was launched at a public meeting in Adelaide Town Hall on 25 July, the first such Friends group in Australia. Their purpose was to raise money to buy books and to publicise the needs of the Library.

1934  Sir Josiah Symon Library of 7,500 books plus shelving, pictures and furniture from his library at Manoah, Upper Sturt, left to the Libraries Board.

1935  Under the aegis of the Carnegie Corporation, the Munn-Pitt report was published as *Australian libraries: a survey of conditions and suggestions for their improvement* which argued for the establishment of free rate-assisted lending libraries.

1938  The Library in collaboration with the Fighting Forces Comfort Fund gathered in a public appeal 9,000 books and 12,000 periodicals for a Camp Library Service, however, the material went with the units elsewhere in Australia or overseas.

1939  *Libraries and Institutes Act* dissolved the former board and established the Libraries Board of South Australia on 1 February.

1940  First meeting of the Libraries Board of South Australia.

1941  Introduction of a school box service, where boxes were sent to public and private schools and kindergartens.

1942  Research Service established in March to provide specialist information for industry, meeting the demand for post-war reconstruction.

1946  An Adelaide Lending Service was opened, including some books transferred from the Reference Library, to meet the demands for a free lending library in the city, which opened on 19 March. Lending of certain material from the Reference Library began, ceasing in 1982.

1947  Government department libraries were staffed from the Public Library staff.

1960s  Documentary films began to be shown in the Lecture Theatre from 12 August until the
1951 All items received under legal deposit were gathered together, marking the start of the South Australian collection as an entity. Over time the collection was housed in the Symon Library, the Periodicals Room, the old caretakers cottage, the ex Aborigines Department building, the Periodicals Hut, two cottages in the Municipal Tramways Trust property at Hackney, before moving into the Bastyan Wing in 1967 [ALJ 12/1965].

1954 Lending introduced from the Children’s Library to meet the needs of bedridden children during the poliomyelitis epidemic. The Playford Government drafted limited legislation for state assistance to local authorities for free libraries. MP for Norwood Don Dunstan called for free libraries in a speech in the estimates debates in Parliament in November.

1955 *Libraries (Subsidies) Act* empowered the Treasurer to subsidise the running costs, and in 1958 the establishment costs, of a library established by local government up to an amount not exceeding the amount contributed by the council in any financial year.

1957 Youth Lending Service established in southern end of the Newspaper Reading Room. First free rate-supported public library was opened in the Elizabeth South Shopping Centre by the Premier Sir Thomas Playford on 11 December. The land and building were provided by the South Australian Housing Trust not the local council.

1959 Children’s Literature Research Collection started.

1960 Griffin Press presented a copy of most of the books it printed to the Library Book Club of California Collection commenced.

1960/1 W.J. Hocking Collection of literature and history presented.


1962 First South Australian facsimile was produced to coincide with the second Adelaide Festival of Arts. Mr Harry A. Godson donated photographs and other materials relating to the River Murray to the Library as the Godson Collection. Edwardes Collection of Shipping photographs donated. *South Australiana* first published. It ceased in 1985.


1964 Hassell Press Collection presented by Mr. C.T. Whiting.


1967 Foundation stone for a new wing laid by the Governor HE Sir Edric Bastyan on 27 August.

1968 Public Library of South Australia was renamed State Library of South Australia and the Principal Librarian became the State Librarian. Act number 13 of 1967 was assented to on 6 April.

1969 The Bastyan Wing was opened by the Premier, Hon. Frank H. Walsh MP on 25 May at a cost over $3 million, named after the Governor,.

1970 Indenture constituted the Mountford Sheard Collection to the Board. Subsidised Libraries Section established.

1970/1 Libraries Board member Dr J J Bray QC was appointed Chief Justice of South Australia Sir Donald Bradman Collection of Cricketing Memorabilia donated. R.R. Le Maistre Shipping Collection donated.


1972 Map Collection moved into its own area.

1973 Inauguration of the Thomas Hardy Wine Library.

1974 William V. Holyoak Collection of jazz material presented by his widow.

1975 Teachers' Colleges External Students' Collection established as a result of an agreement between the Board and the Education Department. Later transferred to SACAE Underdale in 1984.

1976 Indenture constituted the Mountford Sheard Collection to the Board.
1972 Reference Library and Research Services amalgamated into the Reference Library.

1973 Country Lending Service split from Subsidised Libraries Branch and amalgamated with Adelaide Lending Service to become the Adult Lending Services.
Children’s Library, Country Children’s Book Service and Youth Lending Service amalgamated to become Juvenile Services Branch after the CCBS had split from the Subsidised Libraries Branch.
Paperback books for loan from the Adult Lending Services.

1974 Jean P. Whyte reported to the state government on the institutes, recommending their dissolution over a set period.
CROW - Concerned Residents of the West action group led by Arthur Mortimer campaigned for libraries in the western suburbs
Adult Lending Services service to prisons throughout the state commenced.

1975 Libraries and Institutes Act no. 20 of 1975. An act to amend the Libraries and Institutes Act, 1939-1974 to allow Institutes to dissolve on condition that a public library was established. The Institute could continue to provide service until the public library was in place.
The Federal Government appointed Allan Horton to chair a Committee of Enquiry into Public Libraries and the role of the federal government in meeting library needs. It reported in February 1976 but its recommendations were not implemented.
Adult Lending Service to Aboriginal communities throughout the State.
Paperback packs introduced into public libraries by Subsidised Library Services.
Subsidised Libraries Branch changed name to Public Libraries Branch.
Adelaide Circulating Library dissolved, and its collection of about 40,000 volumes was kept as a research collection by the State Library.
Cassette lending service from Adult Lending Services and the Youth Lending Service inaugurated.

1976 John Morley Collection of 100,000 children’s drawings donated.
A.L. Arbon Collection on shipping donated.
Adult Lending Services commenced extension services to homes, hospitals throughout the state in areas not served by public libraries and to homes, hospitals and housebound individuals in the Adelaide City Council area.
CMV Foundation donated a Home Services van to the Adult Lending Services.

1977 The Premier Hon. Don Dunstan announced in August an increased appropriation to the Board of $1 million to provide for the establishment of public library services in the Western suburbs of Adelaide, and set up a committee to enquire into library services, chaired by Board Chairman Jim Crawford.
Purches Collection of 20,000 78 rpm jazz recordings donated.
First school/community library opened at Pinnaroo.
Introduction of a cassette book service in the Adult Lending Services.
Inauguration of the State Library’s demonstration mobile library.

1978 Crawford report published in August as Library development in South Australia and its key funding recommendations for local government libraries received bipartisan support
Women’s Information Switchboard established in the Institute Building as a joint venture of the Libraries Board and the Premier’s Department.
Jack Laver Collection of photographs of Alice Springs 1921-1926 donated.
Adult Lending Services commenced lunch hour film shows in the Lecture Theatre using S.A. Film Corporation films.
Libraries Department abolished and the State Library became a division of the Department of Community Development.

1979 State Library Division transferred to the Department of Local Government.
Public Libraries Division moved from North Terrace to Norwood.
Charlotte Hantken Memorial Library founded.
Lucy Collection was donated to the Children’s Literature Research Collection.
Douglas A. Dunstan Collection presented.
1980  Bequest of $1.8 million from the estate of John Andrew Tennant Mortlock to the Board. 
Paul McGuire Maritime Library founded with a donation from Mrs Margaret McGuire. 
Public Libraries Division split from State Library Division, both Divisions of the 
Department of Local Government. 
Institutes’ Association moved from the Institute Building to Public Libraries Division 
premises at Norwood.

1981  Friends of the Paul McGuire Maritime Library established to support the Paul McGuire 
Maritime Library. 
Periodicals and serials made not for loan.

1982  Libraries Act number 70 of 1982 provided for the administration of public libraries and 
library services in South Australia to replace the Libraries and Institutes Act 1939-1979 
Borrowing from the Reference Library ceased. 
Bank of South Australia Collection donated. 
Children's Literature Research Collection became a separate entity from the Young 
People's Services Branch

1983  Management of Institutes transferred from the Council of the Institutes Association of 
South Australia to the Libraries Board. 
Joint-Use Library Advisory Committee (JULAC) established. 
A South Australiana bookshop was established (later closed)

1984  James Garbutt Lighthouse Collection donated
Arbon-Le Maistre Collection of Shipping Photographs formed.

1985  Public Record Office of South Australia established. 
Restoration of the Jervois building as a Jubilee 150 project by Danvers Architects, 
consultant architect to the South Australian Department of Housing and Construction. 
The $1.5 million project was jointly funded by the government and the community.

1986  Mortlock Library of South Australia formally opened on 12 February in the restored 
Jervois Wing, formed from an amalgamation of the South Australian Collection of 
printed materials and non-government records from the former South Australian 
Archives. 
Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (SA Branch) Inc relocated from the Jervois 
Wing to the Bastyan Wing.

1986  Report of the Committee to review library services in South Australia, chaired by Jim 
Crawford published as South Australian Libraries - moving towards 2000: Report of 
the Committee to review library services in South Australia. 
An official history of the State Library by Carl Bridge was published as A trunk full of 
books: history of the State Library of South Australia and its forerunners.

Public Records Office moved from the State Library to Norwich Centre, North 
Adelaide, and Gepps Cross. 
Bray Reference Library officially opened in a new location at the front of the building, 
named after Dr. J.J. Bray former Chief Justice and long serving member of the 
Libraries Board. 
J.D. Somerville Oral History Collection opened. 
Rare Books and Special Collections reading room opened.

1988  PLAIN (Public Libraries Automated Information Network) provided access to materials 
throughout the state-wide public library system. 
Institutes Association of South Australia disbanded.
Community Information Services came under the aegis of the Libraries Board.

1989  Public Libraries Branch moved from Norwood to Hindmarsh. 
State Library of South Australia Foundation established. 
General Motors Holden's Automotive Ltd. presented GMHA's historic records to the 
Mortlock Library plus $50,000 to support a part time archivist. 
Presentation of The Cellarmaster Collection of rare wine books.
Ridley Vitolphily Collection accepted.

Coffee shop opened, trading as ‘Food for thought’ then in 1992 as ‘Cafe Shhhh’.

1990

Business Information Service established in partnership with Techsearch, South Australian Institute of Technology and the South Australian College of Advanced Education libraries.

Memorandum of understanding signed by the Premier and the President of the Local Government Association of South Australia giving responsibility for public library support services to the Local Government Services Bureau.

Touchscreen Information Service launched.

The Edward Joyner Collection of photographs was launched by the Minister for the Arts, Hon Anne Levy

Inaugural Institutes dinner and lecture by Dr. Timothy Healy S.J. on ‘Freedom’.

Unitarian Church Children's Library of 700 books donated to the Children's Literature Research Collection.

The Institute Building began a restoration process

1991

Agreement between the Board and the City of Adelaide for the provision of a City of Adelaide Lending Library from the Kintore Avenue premises of the State Library.

State Library Lending Services closed and the City of Adelaide Lending Library opened.

The Department of Local Government was dissolved and the Libraries Division was transferred to the new Department for the Arts and Cultural Heritage.

Launch of Colonial residents of South Australia microfiche, Mortlock Library of South Australia Genealogy Database

Aboriginal Services Team established with four staff.

1992

Implementation of SALINET (South Australian Library and Information Network) to provide access to the Library's catalogue, the Australian Bibliographic Network and other national and international databases.

Agreement between the Minister of Education, the Minister for the Arts and Cultural Heritage and the Chair of the Libraries Board, guaranteeing the Education Department's commitment to school community libraries for the life of the current public libraries funding agreement between State and Local Government.

PLAIN Central Services named and became the responsibility of the Libraries Board.

An official history of the Institutes movement by Michael Talbot published as A chance to read: a history of the Institutes movement in South Australia

Videodisk pictorial collection of Mortlock Library of South Australiana launched

1993

Re-opening by the Premier, Hon. Lynn Arnold of the refurbished ground floor of the Institute Building on 2 July. The refurbishment won the SACION Heritage Unit an Award of Merit - Conservation in the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, SA Chapter's 1993 Architecture.

SALINET. Introduction of the Library's on-line catalogue on 12 OPACs and the PLAIN/SALINET link.

Inaugural Bloomsday in the State Library, a program of readings from James Joyce's Ulysses.

The Library's promotional magazine Library Liaison began, renamed ExtraExtra in 1997.

'A seat in history' campaign was launched by the State Library Foundation

State Library won a Government Technology Productivity Silver Award for the implementation of SALINET.

1994

Introduction of an online catalogue.

Institute Building re-opened

Business Information Service (started 1990) was renamed BIZLINE.

English Language Learning and Improvement Service (ELLIS) was established.

Transfer of the City of Adelaide Lending Library from joint to sole ownership by the City of Adelaide on 20 December 1994

A richness of gifts: an illustrated checklist of items presented to the Library was published by the Friends of the State Library
1995  The Library won a Government Technology Productivity Gold Award for its Rostering and Human Resource Management System.
Family history resource *Kith and kin* published.
First external market research conducted, finding that 98.4% of customers were satisfied or very satisfied with the services provided by the State Library.
Publication of the Library’s first *Collection development policy*.
A World Wide Web server was established in the State Library providing public access to the Internet.
A pilot project was begun to provide free internet access in public libraries through PLAIN Central Services

1996  Launch of the Bradman Appeal for a Bradman exhibition in the restored Institute Building.

1997  Cabinet approved a project to re-develop the Library with a budget of $36 million, later increased to $41 million.
*State Records Act 1997* brought State Records under the control of a State Records Council, no longer responsible to the Libraries Board for the disposal of state government records.
First issue of coloured promotional magazine *Extra Extra* published in July.


1999  State Library Foundation raised $500 000 to establish a Wine Literature of the World exhibition and website.

State Library Foundation campaign pledged to raise $3.5 million to fund exhibitions for the new Library.
State Library joined the National Library’s PANDORA program to preserve significant local websites.

2001  Construction on the Building Redevelopment project began in April. Bastyan Wing closed for public use in August and temporary services provided from the Institute and Jervois buildings.

2002  Building Redevelopment project continued.
State Library became part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
A second five-year agreement between the Local Government Association and the State Government for the funding of public libraries was signed.
Publication of *Viva volunteer: celebrating the International Year of Volunteers 2001*

2003  The doors of the Spence Wing (renamed from the Bastyan Wing) re-opened on 14 July and the formal opening ceremony was on 15 October by Hon Mike Rann the Premier of South Australia and Rupert Murdoch, CEO of News Corp.
The Library purchased the *Deed of settlement* of the South Australian Company, one of the foundation documents of the state.

2004  The Mortlock Wing was re-opened by Hon. Mike Rann, Premier of South Australia on 12 August, completing the State Library Building Redevelopment program.
The Library provided a managed library service on a fee-for-service basis for the state government’s Environment and Conservation portfolio.

2005  Dr Andy Thomas took one of the Library’s copies of the 1851 Tallis map *Part of South Australia* into space on the NASA space flight of *Discovery* in July.

2006  Partnership with Uni SA, State Records and Fuji Xerox to provide a new Chair of Business Information Management at Uni SA, with a BIM Project Officer and some 30 Library staff supporting the development, delivery and assessment of four courses.
The State Library began providing library services to the staff of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
The Arthur Collection of some 7000 photographs created by a local Mount Gambier photographic studio was donated to the Library.
Certificates of appreciation were presented to 52 staff who had worked at the Library on North Terrace or in Public Library Services for 20 years or more.
ELLIS volunteers won the Joy Noble Medal for outstanding volunteer service in the South Australian Government in the education category.

Memorandum of Agreement 2006-10 between the Minister for the Arts and the President of the Local Government Association for the provision of public library services was signed on 14 December.

**2007**

*National treasures from Australia’s great libraries* exhibition was launched by Hon. Alexander Downer and attracted 44,514 visitors during its hosting from 25 January to 25 March.

*SA Memory* website was launched on 30 May by the Minister assisting the Premier in the Arts, Hon John Hill.

The William Light Collection PRG 1, the Joseph Stanislaus Ostoja-Kotkowski Collection PRG 919 and the Mountford-Sheard Collection PRG 1218 were included on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.

**2008**

The Innovative Interfaces Millennium library management was modified to integrate the three databases (Library catalogue, South Australian Database and the Archival Database) into an integrated online catalogue in September.

A significant proportion of the Bradman Collection was moved in July to Adelaide Oval on long term loan to the South Australian Cricket Association.

The State Library began to employ Web 2.0 social networking sites to enhance its interaction with its South Australian and international users. A Flickr presence was established in November to acquire new photographic content.

**2009**

The Library celebrated its 175th birthday on 29 August, celebrating the first meeting of the South Australian Literary Society on 29 August 1834.

In July, Public Library Services re-located to the North Terrace building after a 30 year absence at Hindmarsh and Norwood.

A Bequest of $460,000 was received from Lillemor Andersen to support the South Australiana collections.

A gift of $30,000 from the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation in June was used for digital sound preservation.

The Library joined the social networking site Facebook. The Library joined YouTube on 17 July uploading its first film ‘Biscuit making at the Menz Factory’ on 21 July. The first tweet ‘providing public reference services to the world’ was sent out on the Library’s Twitter account on 28 April.

The first holdings of South Australian newspapers were added to the National Library’s Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program website Trove in June.

The Library ceased providing traditional print photographic products offered since the 1940s in favour of digital images.

‘Epicure Catering at the State Library’ was awarded the 2009 Wedding Caterer of the Year Award for Excellence.

**2010**

The Library received a gift of $140,000 from the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation to fund the first year of a three year project to microfilm broadsheet newspapers.

On 18 June the Library went live with the publishing of the South Australian Company Deed of Settlement onto the World Digital Library, a joint initiative of the Library of Congress and UNESCO.

The Library hosted a travelling exhibition of nine Victoria Crosses from the Australian War Memorial complemented by an exhibition in the Treasures Wall of 100 items from its own collections relating to World War One and a program of events.

**2011**

175th anniversary of South Australia was celebrated in a number of ways, including a Gala Banquet on 15 April, which was an interpretation of the oldest South Australian menu in the Library’s collection.

The Library received a significant addition of 700 titles from Working Title Press to the Children’s Literature Research Collection under the Cultural Gifts Program.

The Library acquired software to create walking tours for handheld devices to broaden access platforms to its collections. Lost Adelaide was the first such walking tour produced.
The Library closed on public holidays from Christmas. The Minister for the Arts and the President of the Local Government Association signed a Memorandum of Agreement about the governance and funding of public libraries from 2010-11 to 2020-21.

2012

The State Library implemented the Encore Discovery Service that provides a modern interface to the catalogue and improves access to the collections and eResources including journal articles. It also enables users to participate in tagging and reviewing items, which adds a social dimension to the catalogue. The Symon Library opened for public use in February staffed by volunteers 12.00-2.00 pm weekdays. Prior to its opening, this ‘gentleman’s library’, which was bequeathed to the State Library by Sir Josiah Symon in 1933, was fully catalogued.

During History Month in May, the Library added a Creative Commons–Public Domain CC logo to more than 120 000 photographs available online from its collections and out of copyright under Australian copyright law, meaning that they can be freely used for any purpose without requiring permission from the Library.

The Alexander Street Press funded the digitisation of 190 of the Library’s archival diaries and letters accessible on its database Early experiences in Australasia: primary sources and personal narratives, 1788-1901

A statewide Library Management System project called One Card, co-funded by local and state government and managed by Public Library Services, provides access to a single customer database and a shared catalogue of all library materials. In May the first six metropolitan councils and one regional council (21 libraries) joined the network, and the project will be rolled out over approximately three years.

2012 was the National Year of Reading for which Public Library Services led a number of projects and initiatives

2013

In the lead up to the Centenary of ANZAC commemorations the Library created a South Australians of World War 1: Share their story Flickr group in April. This joint project with State Records allows people to upload their own photographs of those who served in World War 1 or add details to the images loaded by the State Library and State Records.

The Chamberlain Collection of 555 glass plate negatives of World War 1 soldiers from South Australia was conserved and digitised.

2014

An automated PC booking system was introduced in February to allow registered customers to make their own bookings, with the aim of facilitating increased positive self-service and freeing Information Desk staff to assist with reference enquiries.

With the relocation of the Adelaide City Council Library in the State Library building to Rundle Mall, the vacated space was re-developed and opened in March as Your Hub @ the State Library, providing access to Wi-Fi, daily newspapers and magazines, and creating a vibrant civic space and a new way for customers to engage with the State Library.