



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS

This report of the American Library in Paris covers activities and operations during 2019.

Book borrowing, electronic database use, and program attendance increased across the board. Over the year, readers checked out over 150,000 books—an eleven percent increase from the previous year—and clicked into electronic databases 17,000 times, a remarkable seventy percent increase. The most borrowed books in the adult, teen, and children's collections were, respectively, Michelle Obama's *Becoming*, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway* by Jeff Kinney.

Programming highlights of the year included literary legend Martin Amis speaking at the Annual Gala and becoming a Library member along with his wife, author Isabel Fonseca; our largest-ever Young Author Fiction Festival, which drew over 800 submissions from students representing fifty schools; panel discussions on current events, including the *Gilets Jaunes*, race and identity, European borders and immigration, and transnational feminism; and the Library's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, showcasing never-before-displayed items from the Library archive.

Thanks to the full participation of the Library's Board of Trustees and other dedicated supporters, we raised over 800,000 euros toward Project 100, the Library's centennial campaign. The cornerstone of the campaign will be the expanded Children's and Teens' Library. In addition to doubling and refurbishing that space, a new conference room for book groups and discussion groups will be constructed on the mezzanine.

The Library was built for and by its community of readers, and we thank everyone who continues to support our mission.

**Audrey Chapuis**  
Director

**Forrest Alogna**  
Board Chairman

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\* This list is reflective of the June 2019–  
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## Administration and staff

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 Orlene McMahon  
*Member Services Assistant and Book Award Coordinator*  
 Elliot Rambach (February–December)  
*Member Services Assistant*





Gloria J. Browne-Marshall



Kristen Roupenian and Mark Mayer

Susan Harlan presents *Decorating a Room of One's Own: Interior Design of Famous Literary Figures* and "Souvenirs of Paris" (two appearances) • Nadja Sayej on celebrity photography • Michelle Richmond on her latest thriller, *The Marriage Pact* • Emilio Manuel Williams sharing little-known facts about the 7<sup>th</sup> arrondissement (two appearances) • **A Panel on the Gilets Jaunes Movement and Inequality** with Adam Nossiter, Sophie Pedder, Karina Piser, and Marc-Olivier Bherer • **Xiaolu Guo** discussing her memoir, *Nine Continents* • Alan Govanar sharing the life of philanthropist Anne Morgan • Jacqueline Ngo Mpii and Patrick Banks present *Little Africa Paris* • A Panel on Race and Identity with Thomas Chatterton Williams, Alexander Hurst, Lucie Camara, and Seb Emina • Ann Mah brings us *The Lost Vintage* • Robert Rorke on his novel, *Car Trouble* • Megan Tompkins-Stange with a case study of high-profile philanthropy • Liam Callanan presents *Paris by the Book* • Blake Smith introduces us to Indian writers in former French colonial India • **A Panel on European Borders and Immigration** with Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, Karina Piser, Mira Kamdar, and James McAuley • Visiting Fellow **Ian Leslie** presents *Curious: The Desire to Know and Why Your Future Depends On It* • Michael Peppiatt in conversation with Brian Spence about *The Existential Englishman* • **Mark Mayer** reads from *Aerialists* • Tania Teschke brings us recipes from *The Bordeaux Kitchen* • Stanley Mazaroff on the art collection of George Lucas • Maxine Gordon in conversation with Jake Lamar about the life of Dexter Gordon • **Edouard Louis and Tash Aw** in conversation • Wolfgang Joensson introduces us to *Iconix: Exceptional Product Design* • Ann Saul on Pissarro and Abstraction • **Amit Chaudhuri** on autofiction and *Friend of My Youth* • Chris Ames presents his memoir, *An American (homeless) in Paris* • Kate Gavino shares her graphic novel, *Sanpaku* • Judith Merians brings us to the movies: *To Kill a Mockingbird* • A screening of Xiaolu Guo's *UFO in her Eyes* • **Michelle Kuo** in conversation about her memoir, *Reading with Patrick* • Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany-Chevallier discuss their unabridged translation of *The Second Sex* • **Otessa Moshfegh** reads from *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* • **Kristen Roupenian** in conversation with Mark Mayer on *You Know You Want This: Cat Person and Other Stories* • A Panel on Transnational Feminism with **Lauren**

*Evenings with Authors* is generously sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg  
at the Annenberg Foundation

**Collins, Lindsey Tramuta, Rokhaya Diallo, and Alice Pfeiffer** • David Sherman on veterinary work in Afghanistan • Visiting Fellow **Molly Antopol** gives a preview of new work • Timothy Jay Smith presents *The Fourth Courier* • **Gloria J. Browne-Marshall** speaks on the 1619 arrival of Africans in the Virginia Colony • **Denis O'Hare** in conversation about his acting and writing • Nancy MacLean, Margaret Somers, and Sara Somers discuss the state of democracy today • Visiting Fellow **Rhae Lynn Barnes** on the history of blackface • Denise Murrell and Henry Roy in conversation with Jake Lamar on black art and photography • **Whitney Scharer** on *The Age of Light* • Peter Martin recounts *The Dictionary Wars* • A Panel on Paris Beyond the Périphérique with Mira Kamdar, Nicolas Le Goff, Mona Prudhomme, and Mehdi Bouteghmès • Will Hitchcock on *The Age of Eisenhower* • **Tessa Hadley** on reading, writing, and her latest novel, *Late in the Day* • Ladee Hubbard presents *The Talented Ribkins* • Dana Czapnik on her novel, *The Falconer* • Anissa Bouziane reads from *Dune Song* • **Richard Ford** in conversation with Livia Manera Sambuy • Heather S. Nathans on representations of Jewish characters on stage • Denise Wendel-Poray guides us through *Painting the Stage* • Emma Jacobs in conversation with Stephanie Nadalo on *The Little(r) Museums of Paris* • Nicolas Le Goff presents walking tours that explore wider Paris • **Nancy K. Miller** in conversation with Celeste Schenck on *My Brilliant Friends* • Lisa Greenwald presents *Daughters of 1968* • Elena Rossini in conversation with Lindsey Tramuta and Ruchi Anand about her film, *The Illusionists* • Cara Black and the latest installment the Aimée Leduc series • Tony Perrottet speaking about *Che, Fidel, and the Improbable Revolution That Changed World History* • **Robert G. O'Meally** lectures on Paris Blues and Romare Bearden • Beowulf Sheehan presents his photography from his new photobook, *Author* • A Panel on Expat Community, Life, and Experience with Linda Brimm, Nicole Tanner, Janet Hulstrand, and Janaki Challa • **Thomas Chatterton Williams** in conversation with Lauren Collins on *Self-Portrait in Black and White: Unlearning Race* • **George Packer** in conversation with Thomas Chatterton Williams on *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century* • Francesca Zambello brings us to the opera with "The Ghosts of Versailles" • A Panel on Artists of this Generation in Paris with Will Cox, Nina Leger, Romy Alizée, and Yotam Ben David • Craig Carlson serves us *Pancakes in Paris* • **Rebecca Makkai** speaks with Daniel Becker about *The Great Believers* • David Chaffetz with Celestine Bohlen on his work, *Three Asian Divas*

The Children's and Teens' Services department is one of the Library's busiest corners, having hosted over 292 programs for ages 0–18 in 2019. The department's two MLIS-certified librarians are supported by a team of volunteers that includes artists, high school students, former and current teachers, and English speakers from around the world. The Library offers reading recommendations, curated book lists, research help, and programs to its youngest members, ranging from arts-integrated activities to magic shows, as well as traditional story times and opportunities to meet authors and illustrators. In 2019 the Library added playtimes for babies and new workshops for parents and caregivers, and continued reorganization of collections for children and teens in preparation for our centennial expansion of the Children's Library and Teen Mezzanine.



Photo by Krystal Kenney

## Children's Programs (for ages 0–12)

**Winter Wonderland** • Wednesday Story Hour • Thursday Toddler Time • Recycled Robots • **Brain Day with Gifted in France** • Silly Songs with Matt Black • **Caldecott Party** • Baby Rhyme Time • DIY Valentines • African-American Author Read-In • 100 Books to Read Before You Grow Up, Part 1 • Alice in Wonderland Tea Party • **In the French Kitchen with Mardi Michels** • Irish Tales with Patrick Ryan • **100 Books You Should Read Before You Grow Up, Part 2** • This Is Not a Box • Game Day • **Read with Lady the Reading Dog** • Editing and Revising: Writing Workshop • Toddler Yoga • Read-a-Thon • Powerful Poetry • Happy Birthday to the Library • **Stop-Motion Animation (a workshop)** • Mixed-Up Fairy Tales • Earth Day Artists • Blackout Poetry: A Drop of Water • LEGO Creations • Shared Experiences – Different Stories (a workshop for children ages 9-12 and their grown ups) • Escape the Library, Take 2 • Travel France with Picture Books • **Summer Reading Program Kick-Off Party** • Saturday Series: The Joke's On You! • **It Feels Good to Be Yourself: with Noah Grigni** • Saturday Series: Heroes – Real and Fictional • Stories from around the World • Daring Detectives • Crafternoon • Story Scavenger Hunt • Stars of Science • Two Hour Summercamp • Train Your Brain • Impressionism • **Scary Stories Writing Workshop** • How to Haiku • **Visiting Author: Words and Art with Jion Sheibani** • Words, Words, Words • Bookworms: Merci Suarez Changes Gears • Visiting Illustrator: Reading and Art with Lynne Avril • Make Your Own Mask • Bones • **The Halloween Extravaganza** • Storytelling with Sylvie Mambo • Summer Reading Kick-Off Party • Baby Playtime • Thank You Letter Writing • **Paris Playhouse Theater Workshop** • Thanksgiving Thank-O-Rama • **Beyond the Three Rs: Saving Our Planet** • Birds of Paris • **Fact vs. Fiction** • Philosofun (a workshop) • Make our Own Comic • The Coolest Animals You've Never Heard Of • **Music Together with Stacey Pavesi Debré** • Mock Caldecott: You Be the Judge • Trivial Pursuit

## Teen Programs (for ages 12–18)

The Art of the Short Story • Teen Advisory Group • **Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program** • Master Shot Film Club • College Goals: Understanding the American University Application Process (ages 12–18) • **Pitch Perfect with Georgia Gray and Rock U** • The Long Game of Short Work: Getting Your Writing Published with Claire Polders • Capture the Flag • **The Art of the Novel with Donna Cooner and Katherine Longshore** • Pizza Paparazzi Photo Night • Writing From the Heart - Flash Fiction with Jane Mabile • Writing a College Application Essay with Cathy Altman Nocquet • **The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Literary Reaping** • Teens Explore Literature • **Word for Word: A workshop with Susan Harloe and Sheila Balter** • Young Authors Fiction Festival Celebration • Summer Reading Challenge Kickoff Party • Paris Youth Film Showcase • **Make Your Own Graphic Novel with Kate Gavino** • Summer Reading Challenge Finale • Two Hours to Star in a Musical • UK College Admissions • Teen Night: Write, NOW • Teen Night: Halloween Decorating Party • Zombie Fashion Show • **Word Wars** • Instant Images • Writing Workshop: The Hero's Journey with Amy Plum • **Writing with Echo Brown**

## Workshops for Parents and Guardians

**Roni Beth Towers:** The Importance of Imaginative Play • From Conflict to Collaboration: A Parenting Framework That Brings Out the Best in You and Your Child/Teen with **Karen Kraut** • Paris: The Perfect Place to Promote Play for Preschoolers • Calming Rituals and Nourishing Relationships throughout the Holiday Season (a workshop for caregivers)



The American Library in Paris is proud to be the organizer of the Young Authors Fiction Festival. YAFF is free of charge and open to all students ages 5–18 in the greater Paris area who write in English.

In 2019 YAFF received 841 entries from fifty schools, the largest number of entries to date. Assistant Children's and Teens' Librarian Kirsty McCulloch Reid coordinated the YAFF committee, with volunteers Molly Belhiteche, Courtney Bowers, Brooke Burns, David Lawrence, Lucy McCloskey and Katherine Youngblood on the YAFF submission team. Library staff members Celeste Rhoads, Pauline Lemasson, and Morgan Wurzbarger also supported YAFF 2019. Volunteers Amandine Doubre and Caitlin Scheske provided graphic design expertise. YAFF was made possible by the ninety-four judges who volunteered their time.



## ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA



### Instagram

- 200 posts and 12,000 likes
- 3,299 followers—growth of **50%**
- Average post reach of 2,344
- 8,096 average monthly impressions



### Twitter

- 4,522 followers
- 251 posts
- 356,200 tweet impressions

Looking for magic? ✨ We can recommend some great fantasy reads, like "Stardust" by award-winning author Neil Gaiman (@neilhimself)! We'd love to hear some of your favorite fantasy novels 📖

#theamericanlibraryinparis #paris #neilgaiman



### e-Libris Newsletter



What's on at the Library



Evening events: Stunning literary portraits, a panel on expat life, race and identity, and much more...

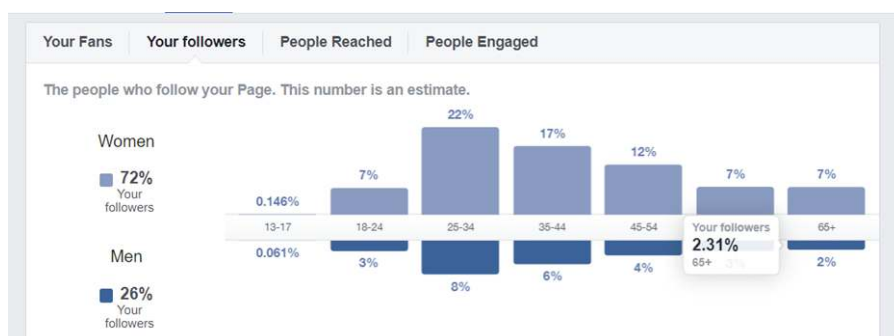
Here's what's happening at the Library: renowned photographer Benoit Sheehan will talk about his portraits of literary luminaries including Zadie Smith, J.K. Rowling, and Toni Morrison (12 November 7pm-9pm) [Book tickets](#)

- 7,148 subscribers by the end of 2019—an **increase of 12%**
- **Over 200,000** e-Libris emails delivered
- 28 newsletters sent in 2019



### Facebook

- 8,056 followers – growth of **20%** in 2019 with 1,157 page views per month
- 90 events promoted on Facebook
- 5,000 responses to events with over 125,300 profiles reached
- Geographical split: France 4,000 (Paris 3,219) USA 1,776



Gifts from the Florence Gould Foundation made possible the creation of The American Library in Paris Book Award in 2013. The literary prize and a \$5,000 cash award go to the author of the most distinguished book of the year, written originally in English, whose subject matter is France or the French. Charles Trueheart, former Library director, continued in his role as Book Award administrator, assisted by Orlene McMahon as the Award's coordinator.

*Hate: The Rising Tide of Anti-Semitism in France (and What It Means for Us)*, by Marc Weitzmann, was the winner of the seventh annual American Library in Paris Book Award. The Award jury was comprised of Alice Kaplan, professor of French and the chair of the French department at Yale University; Pamela Druckerman, author, filmmaker, and contributing columnist at the *New York Times* and *1843*, *The Economist's* monthly culture magazine; and Thomas Chatterton Williams, author, contributing writer at the *New York Times Magazine*, and contributing editor at the *American Scholar*. The jury reviewed the shortlist selected by a dedicated team of screeners. The other five books on the 2019 shortlist were *A Bite-Sized History of France: Gastronomic Tales of Revolution, War, and Enlightenment* by Stéphane Hénaut and Jeni Mitchell; *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely*, by Andrew S. Curran; *The Flight Portfolio: A Novel*, by Julie Orringer; *Little: A Novel*, by Edward Carey; and *Voices: The Final Hours of Joan of Arc*, by David Elliot.

At the 2019 ceremony, five *coups de coeur*, also selected by the screening committee, were announced: Mark Braude's *The Invisible Emperor: Napoleon on Elba from Exile to Escape*; Sand and Steel: *The D-Day Invasion and the Liberation of France* by Peter Caddick-Adams; Christopher L. Miller's *Impostors: Literary Hoaxes and Cultural Authenticity*; Whitney Scharer's *The Age of Light: A Novel*; and *Thomas and Beal in the Midi* by Christopher Tilghman.

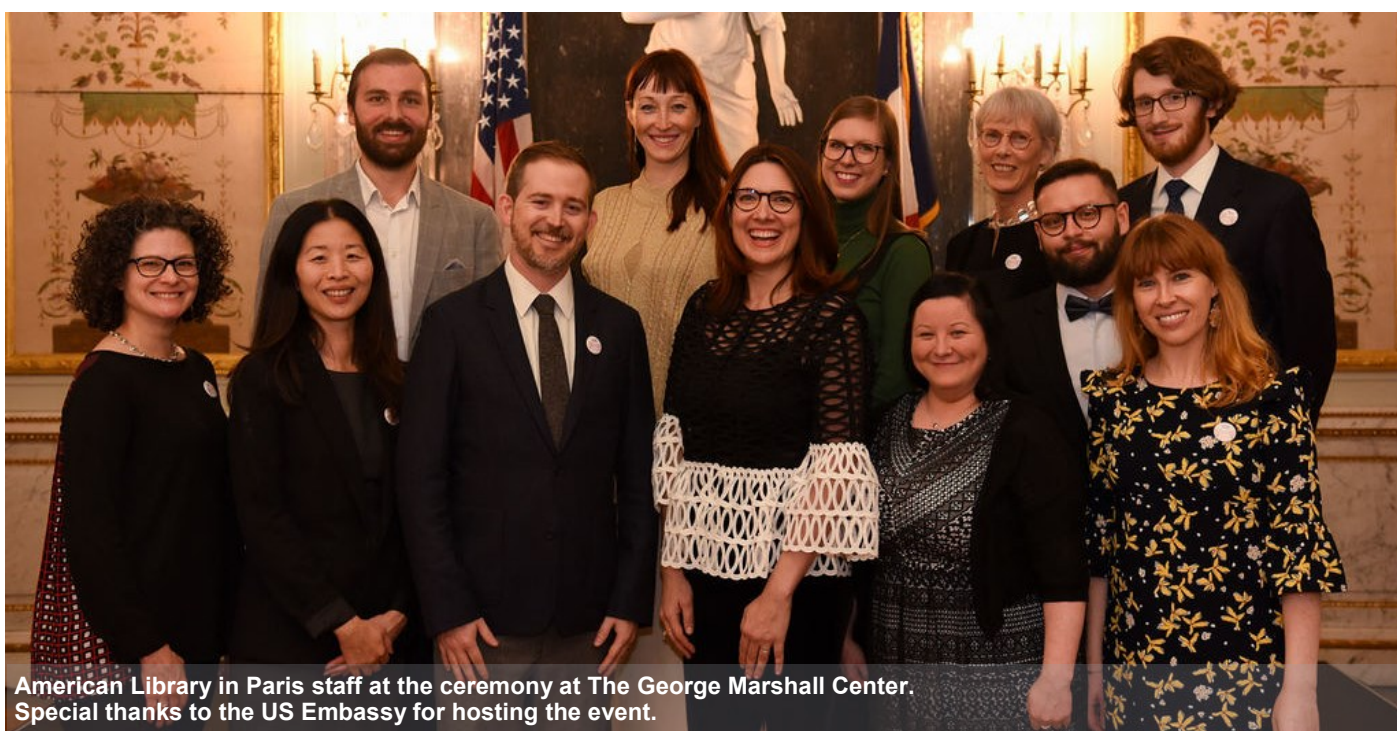
## Patrons of the 2019 Book Award

Judith Aubry  
Mary Duncan  
Jeanne and Peter Fellowes  
Suzanne Justen  
Diane Johnson and John Murray



Director Audrey Chapuis with winning author Marc Weitzmann and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Forrest Alogna

The American Library in Paris Book Award is  
made possible by the Florence Gould Foundation



American Library in Paris staff at the ceremony at The George Marshall Center. Special thanks to the US Embassy for hosting the event.



The Visiting Fellowship Program, established in 2013, awards a \$5,000 stipend to a writer or a scholar, allowing them to deepen their research on a French-related topic with a month in Paris.

During their stay, Visiting Fellows speak to Library audiences, conduct workshops, consult with Library staff about its collections, and engage in the life of the Library community. The Visiting Fellowship program is generously sponsored by The de Groot Foundation.

In March, we welcomed Ian Leslie, a London-based journalist. He writes about the science of human behavior, drawing on a wide range of interdisciplinary expertise. He spoke to us about his latest book, *Curious: The Desire to Know and Why Your Future Depends On It* and gave a workshop on scientific storytelling. He is also the author of *Born Liars: Why We Can't Live Without Deceit*.

In June, we were visited by Molly Antopol, the author of *The UnAmericans*, a story collection that won the New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award and a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Award. At the Library, Antopol presented a preview of her novel-in-progress, *The After Party*. This new novel explores issues of surveillance and privacy, making it deeply resonant in the current landscape. Antopol also gave a workshop entitled "Finding Your Form: Exploring Storytelling through Fiction and Memoir."

In July, we hosted Rhae Lynn Barnes, Assistant Professor of American Cultural History at Princeton University. Barnes specializes in the globalization of American popular culture and racism. While at the Library, Barnes presented work from her first book, *Darkology: When the American Dream Wore Blackface*. She developed a writing workshop for our community, "Magic Lanterns to Selfies: Using Historic & Personal Photos to Jumpstart Your Writing."



Ian Leslie, 2019 Fellow

The Visiting Fellowship program is generously sponsored by The de Groot Foundation.



Molly Antopol, 2019 Fellow

## BOOK GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS

Volunteer-led monthly book groups remained as popular as ever, with nearly every group at capacity, attracting diverse and enthusiastic members. The groups discussed topics such as wine; memoirs and mysteries; the future of human civilization; journeys into new lands; contemporary French fiction; encounters between France and America; the state of democracy in America; voices of the Library's evening programs; Marcel Proust; and more. Book group leaders in 2019 were Josh Adler, Laurie Calvet, Leslie de Galbert, Sharon Golec, Clydetta de Groot, Marjorie Lallemand, Maurice Lanman, Marcia Lèbre, Mary Harries Magnusson, Philippe Mélot, Catherine Olien, Maureen Paget, Morgan Thomas, and Ed Turner.

We expanded our workshop offerings significantly, with writing and other creative workshops given by Lucienne Mc Kirdy, Mark Mayer, Judith Merians, April Eberhardt, Susan Tiberghien, Leslie-Ann Murray, Anissa Bouziane, Susan Harlan, and all three of our 2019 fellows, Ian Leslie, Molly Antopol, and Rhae Lynn Barnes. Additionally, members of the community once again enjoyed Mary Jo Padgett's lectures and walking tours highlighting American Revolution sites in Paris. Finally, we introduced a new daytime series, *Discussions with an Author*, that featured local authors and community members Hilary Kaiser and Mary Fleming.

Statement of 2019 income and expenses: The American Library in Paris, Inc.

Revenues in €	2018	2019
	1€=\$1.1815	1€=\$1.1196
Membership fees	331,399	332,942
Operating income	113,150	106,661
Rent (AUP)	295,476	304,223
Gift USA Foundation	62,518	105,794
Other donations	430,935	569,543
Other income	10,975	7,193
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>1,244,453</b>	<b>1,426,356</b>
<b>...in USD</b>	<b>1,470,321</b>	<b>1,596,948</b>

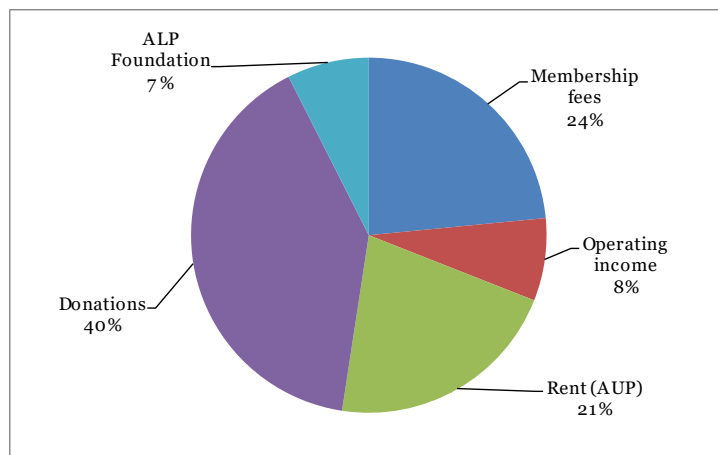
  

Expenditures in €	2018	2019
	1€=\$1.1815	1€=\$1.1196
Payroll	673,190	686,180
Building, Tax	143,380	161,764
Depreciation	216,797	241,961
Professional fees (1)	75,617	78,633
Books and periodicals	76,342	132,959
Marketing (2)	161,015	116,473
Telecom	81,259	68,416
Other (3)	71,690	507
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>1,499,290</b>	<b>1,486,893</b>
<b>...in USD</b>	<b>1,771,411</b>	<b>1,664,725</b>

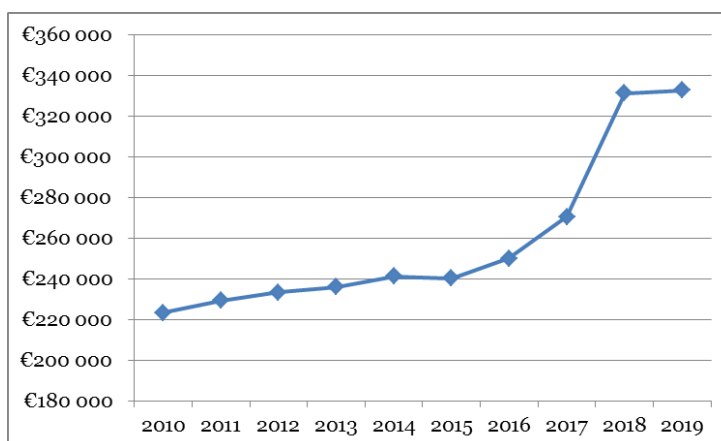
(1) Banking, accounting and insurance fees, (2) Marketing, development and gala, (3) Previous FY reclassifications

Sources: Annual reports of the American Library in Paris, Inc., which are available on the Library website: [americanlibraryinparis.org](http://americanlibraryinparis.org); and audited annual financial statements, which are available upon request.

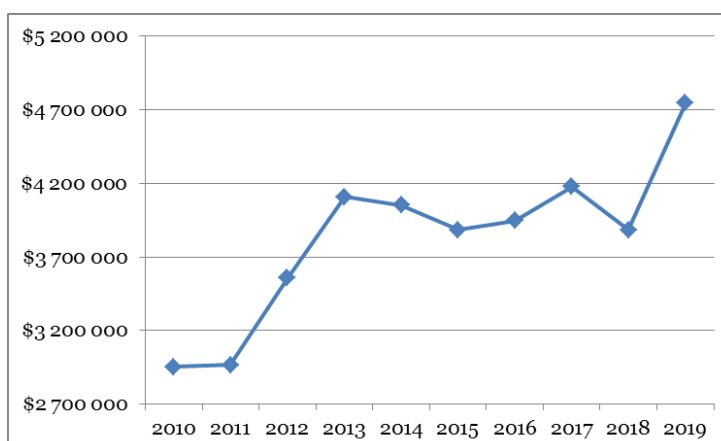
## Revenue analysis (2019)



## Membership revenues (2010-2019)



## Investment assets: The American Library in Paris (USA) Foundation (2010-2019)





## Print Holdings

Adult book holdings	76,420
Youth book holdings	15,925
Other holdings	3,345
Periodical subscriptions	93
Titles in periodical archive	88

## Digital Holdings

Number of e-sources	9
Online periodical subscriptions	20
Titles in periodical databases	4,224
E-books	21,384
E-source logins	17,047

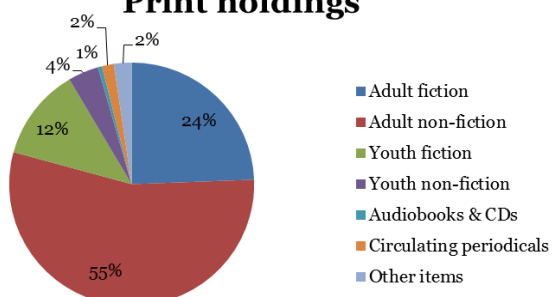
## Category

## Holdings

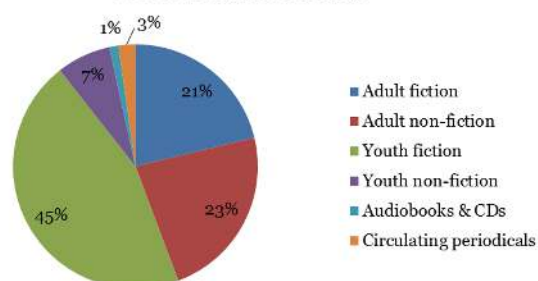
## Checkouts

Adult fiction	23,178	33,010
Adult non-fiction	52,980	35,921
Youth fiction	11,668	70,190
Youth non-fiction	4,010	11,139
Audiobooks & CDs	509	1,859
Circulating periodicals	1,668	3,462
Other items	1,677	142
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,690</b>	<b>155,723</b>

## Print holdings



## Print checkouts



## COMMUNITY DATA

## Membership and Attendance

Active members	4,598
<i>e-Libris</i> subscribers	7,148
Orientation participants	716
Public program attendance	3,435
Children's and teens' program attendance	6,023
Book group participants	144

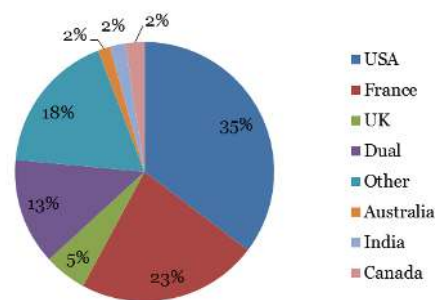
## Library Operations

Days open	290
Library visits	92,534
Average daily visits	319
Library transactions	249,964
Average daily transactions	862

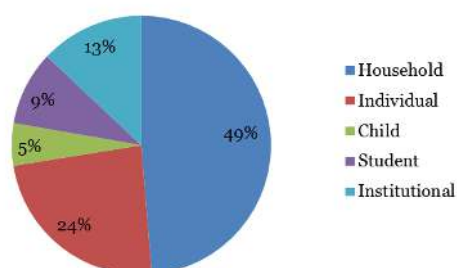
## Programs

Student orientation sessions	39
Book group sessions	110
Exams proctored	102
Evening programs	74
Children's and teens' programs	292

## Membership by Country



## Membership by Type



## Over 20,000€

Jacqueline Cessou  
Charles and Clydette de Groot  
GroW @ Annenberg  
Jade Vu Henry and Fabrice Henry  
Rob and Sherry Johnson

Heather and Robert Keane Family Foundation  
William and Maria Kelly  
Luis Roth and Jennifer Dalrymple  
Edward and Mary Lee Turner  
Marshall and Deborah Wais

## 10,000€ to 20,000€

Forrest Alogna and Sandrine Poisson  
Neil and Nancy Janin  
Heather and Robert Keane  
Ishtar Méjanès  
Don and Ann Morrison

Elizabeth Oger-Gross and Abraham Oger-Gross  
Cedric and Michal Sellin  
George Stansfield and Elaine Foo  
William and Françoise Torchiana

## 2,500€ to 10,000€

Calmann-Lévy  
Bertrand de Fouchier and Lise Hartman de Fouchier  
Laetitia de la Gravière  
René de Monseignat  
Priscilla de Moustier  
Michael Duffy  
James and Helen Dyke  
Peter and Jeanne Fellowes  
Robert and Susan Greig  
Steve and Corinne Horton

J. Paul and Mimi Horne  
Dan and Laura Huehn  
The J.M. Kaplan Fund  
Suzanne Justen  
The Honorable James G. Lowenstein  
Alexander Marquardt and Laura Wenke  
Julien and Anne Mény-Horn  
Thomas Perrot and Randi Goring  
Charles Trueheart and Anne Swardson  
Sarah Vaughan

## 500€ to 2,500€

Jorge and Marlene Alva  
American School of Paris  
Anonymous  
Charles Armstead  
Alain and Judith Aubry  
Damon Austin  
John and Alice Berry  
Dominique and Connie Borde  
William Brunger  
David Chaffetz and Marguerite Yates  
Colonial Dames of America  
Leslie and Geoffroy de Galbert  
Patrice and Stephanie  
de La Rochefoucauld  
Gilles and Sophie-Caroline de Margerie  
Hervé d'Halluin and Dana Thomas  
Charles Dilley and Anne Marie Reijnen  
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