THE PAST

Through records one can reconstruct and become part of the events which shaped one's forebears and self. Records provide both individuals and society with a sense of history known only in terms of those records which have survived. History is not only the activities of the individuals over a longer or shorter period of time, it is also the interpretation and expression of that action. Assimilating the past enables an individual to direct the course of the future rather than to be directed by it. When existing forces that bind society together are weakened the people of that society search their records for new strength, truth and hope.

THE PRESENT

The $10.5 million Louisiana State Archives facility exists to preserve the story of a people. Designed to perform the mission of preserving Louisiana's rich documentary heritage, LSA maintains records from which people can reconstruct their historical legacy to fully appreciate who they are. Louisiana has one of the richest histories of the fifty United States. LSA provides citizens with access to all public and historical records, and offers records management and records storage services to governmental agencies. LSA actively seeks to identify and treat deteriorating archival documents in its conservation laboratory. The enormous capacity for vault or stack storage of such documents under advanced temperature and humidity control systems ensures the safety and preservation for future use of all archival items. LSA has become a cultural center offering access to documentation portraying the diverse cultures which shaped the unique character of Louisiana and her peoples.

Reviving the past is possible at LSA's modern facility where researchers can examine thousands of:
- books
- records
- maps
- film
- photographs
- drawings
- recordings
- tapes

that document Louisiana's colorful past. When researching your family tree, the Research Room and the Genealogical Library are excellent starting places. Computerization provides quick, accurate access to all records holdings. Visual presentations in the Louisiana Room offer bi-monthly exhibits of archival materials while the Special Gallery features displays celebrating special cultural and historical themes. The adjoining auditorium is available to the community for lectures, workshops and seminars. To become actively involved in the Archives Volunteer Program or to schedule tours for organized groups, call (504)922-1206.
The Archives Building features a five-panel stone facade offering a panoramic view of Louisiana both as a colony, territory and state. The first panel depicts the major events and personalities of the French colonial period, such as DeSoto, LaSalle, Bienville and Iberville. The second panel shows the Spanish Colonial period of Louisiana's history, including a Spanish execution squad, the Cabildo, Black iron workers and Evangeline. The Louisiana Purchase is the theme of the third panel while the fourth panel features our state emblems, the Old State Capitol and Louisiana's secession from the Union. The fifth panel depicts contemporary symbols of the state, such as Governor Huey Long, Louisiana State University, Southern University, and the predominant industries of Louisiana: oil, sugarcane and seafood.

THE FUTURE

How Do I Become Involved?
The Louisiana Archives Foundation was organized as a non-profit organization to assist and promote the LSA in its tasks of collecting, preserving and maintaining the archival and historical records of the State and making these records available to the public. Foundation members, individual and corporate, support the Foundation through tax-deductible contributions. With your help, long-range Foundation objectives - such as encouraging the preservation of historical and genealogical records, enhancing the oral history program, developing the film and video library, expanding the exhibits and educational programs, and increasing the distribution of information on LSA holdings to the general public - can be fulfilled.

You may become a Foundation member by sending your contribution to:

Louisiana Archives Foundation
P.O. Box 66989
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896-6989

Office of the Secretary of State
Louisiana State Archives
Division of Archives, Records, Management and History
3851 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
(504)922-1206

Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00-4:30 pm
Sat 9:00-5:00 pm / Sun 1:00-5:00 pm

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