



Vast Arts Video and Audio Multimedia Collection Now Available for K-12 Schools, Local Libraries

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[Sacramento, Calif.] – Every public school student and teacher, as well as every Californian with a library card, can now access over 5,000 theatre, music and dance performance videos and audio performances and over 3,000 world music albums anytime they want, online at no charge through their school district and local library.

These video and audio recordings from the Alexander Street platform by ProQuest (part of Clarivate) are the latest addition to the online resources the California State Library provides to K-12 students and include performances from L.A. Theatre Works, The Royal Shakespeare Company, National Theatre, music from Smithsonian’s Folkways label, and video recordings chronicling music history and cultural change co-created by Grammy-Award winner Quincy Jones.

“This helps California put a capital A for Arts in the online STEAM resources we’re offering public school students and teachers – and every Californian with a library card,” said California State Librarian Greg Lucas. “It’s a perfect way to celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month, except the celebrating doesn’t stop at the end of October!”

The State Library and its partner, the Riverside County Office of Education, have provided online tools for academic success to California’s school students and their teachers at no cost to schools since 2018. Through September 2023, more than 482 million unique investigations and searches of those resources have occurred.

The Alexander Street collections include performances from California arts organizations and artists. Some examples:

- Video performances from the Los Angeles Symphony and San Francisco Opera;
- International dance recordings produced from Berkeley, CA;
- Jazz performances video and international music audio recorded in California;
- Lectures on acting technique from California-based professionals; and
- Over 430 full-length audio plays produced by L.A. Theatre Works, featuring well-known actors from around the world.

“L.A. Theatre Works is honored to provide teachers and students throughout California the opportunity to deepen their connection and response to the art of drama and performance through our unique database of audio plays,” said Susan Loewenberg, L.A. Theatre Work’s founder and producing director.

“These classic masterpieces and contemporary drama represent the best of American and world theatre, performed by our most distinguished actors of the screen and stage, and provides compelling content that illuminates issues across disciplines,” said Loewenberg. “Whether studying English or science, mathematics or social studies, students and teachers will find plays that enliven their understanding of a subject.”

“We’re honored to be part of California’s investment in performance art education,” said Susan Bokern, ProQuest’s Vice President of Product Management. “The K-12 Online Resources Program has now added diverse audio and video collections from ProQuest’s music, dance, theatre portfolios. We look forward to our continued partnership in delivering educational resources to students and patrons of the arts through mutual goals of enriching their education in the arts for years to come.”

California local library-card holders can access the resources online. Check the online resources section of your local library or ask a librarian. If the library hasn’t added the resources yet, encourage library staff to find out more by emailing K12.Resources@library.ca.gov.

ProQuest and its Alexander Street training team will have two informational webinars about the arts-education content in these collections. Teachers, school administrators, librarians, library technicians, teaching artists, and families can join the webinars and learn more. Sessions will be recorded and available after the live webinars. Both sessions will cover the same information about the content of the collections.

Monday October 23, 2023, at 12 p.m.

[ProQuest Informational Webinar](#)

Wednesday October 25, 2023, at 3 p.m.

[ProQuest Informational Webinar](#)

Informational technology staff at districts and libraries seeking information about technical set-up will be invited to join direct training sessions by invitation. Please email k12.resources@library.ca.gov for more information.

California’s Alexander Street arts collection from ProQuest includes:

Audio Collections:

Audio Drama: The L.A. Theatre Works Collection contains over 430 nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century plays performed by leading actors from around the world, recorded specifically for online listening.

Music Online: Smithsonian Global Sound for Libraries provides a virtual encyclopedia of unique American folk, blues, soul, jazz, and protest songs, as well as a broad range of world music through partnership with Smithsonian Folkways Recordings.

Video Collections:

Music Online: The Quest TV Collection, co-created by Quincy Jones & Reza Ackbaraly, offers valuable materials for music history and cultural studies through the preservation of diverse live performances, representing jazz, funk, soul, hip-hop, folk, indie, electronic, blues, and other eclectic world genres.

Dance Online: Dance in Video is a collection of performances, instructional materials, documentaries, and interviews, showcasing high-caliber performances from dance companies and performers worldwide, including traditional ballet to hip hop, street dance, and modern dance.

Broadway On Demand includes plays, musicals, and dance performances along with behind-the-scenes series, documentaries, instructional videos, and more.

National Theatre Collection provides contemporary video productions, modern reinterpretations of classic plays – all featuring acclaimed actors and directors along with behind-the-scenes archival content.

The Royal Shakespeare Company Collection contains high-definition recordings of top Shakespearean actors and directors, along with supplementary teaching materials designed to help bring Shakespeare to life in the modern age.

Theatre in Video offers access to hundreds of significant plays, documentaries, and instructional materials, as well as interviews with prominent directors, designers, writers, and actors, providing an authentic behind-the-scenes look at various productions.

Classical Music in Video provides influential performances and documentaries demonstrating the development of classical music, spanning eras from past masters to modern composers.

Opera in Video offers a wide curated selection of opera performances, featuring top artists, conductors, and venues.

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About the State Library: Established in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for state government and the Legislature. The library collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps and 250,000 photographs, and includes an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history. Around the state, the State Library also serves California's local libraries, providing more than \$500 million state and federal funds to support public libraries and delivering statewide library programs and services.

In addition to acting as a steward of California's history, the State Library supports programs and initiatives in California's local libraries through partnerships and services. The Library has partnered with California State Parks to offer free Parks Passes in public libraries for checkout and with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to bring books to every California child under the age of 5. The Library supports a variety of workforce development and upskilling resources for all Californians through CAREer Pathways in their local public libraries, and building a statewide eBook library with diverse titles in 20+ languages.

[State Library Website](#)