

# K-12 Online Resources for ALL California Students - Spring 2022

Data Snapshot – April 1, 2022 - Online Educational Resources Program

## California State Library

California invests \$5.5 million annually in online research and homework resources to help make the state’s 6.2 million public school students more successful. The project is a prime example of California’s ongoing commitment to making educational opportunities available to all students, families, and residents.

By laptop, tablet or phone – at school, at the library or at home – students are able to research, analyze and use information and media in a way that is self-directed and student-focused, developing both digital literacy and critical thinking skills.

### **California K-12 students connected (as of March 15, 2022)**

# of CA public K-12 students:	6,202,684
# of CA public K-12 students connected:	5,751,433
<b>Percent connected:</b>	<b>93%</b>

### **California K-12 public schools & local libraries connected (as of March 15, 2022)**

	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Library systems</u>
Total connected:	9,236	165
Total statewide:	10,190	185
<b>Percent connected:</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>89%</b>

### **High usage continues with widespread access available**

Over 76 percent of local school districts have signed up representing 93 percent of California’s school children. The chief barrier for the remaining districts in making the online resources available is connectivity. Most of these are small districts in rural areas.

Since the project began in July 2018, there have been over 284 million unique investigations and searches. This includes over 145 million investigations and searches since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 to the end of January 2022.

Information in this report is broken down by county, school district and other criteria in the [Appendix](#).

This investment provides every California public school student, educator, and family with unlimited access to millions of curated research and literary resources. Access to over a dozen platforms from Britannica, ProQuest, and TeachingBooks has been available since the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

### **New science and technology resources**

Beginning December 2021, three new STEM resources were added to the program as well. Students now have access to *National Geographic Kids*, an interactive science tool, and an environmental studies resource provided by Gale, a global provider of research and learning materials.

## Multiple methods of access within the learning environment

Most districts today have a safe and closed digital environment for their students – a learning management system. Because these resources can integrate into these systems, they are easily accessed as part of the teaching environment. Students can access the resources at school and through school digital learning management platforms while at home. Students and educators may also access the resources through local libraries as needed. The K-12 Online Educational Resources Project provides technical support and training for educators and school librarians to maximize use as well.

These online resources allow teachers to better build content geared to the interests and needs of their students. Family members can participate in and support the learning process, too, particularly through local library access to the online resources.

## Free training opportunities and set-up assistance

The California State Library coordinates statewide access, setup, training, and evaluation of these materials in conjunction with the content providers. This report offers a snapshot of the current information on the efforts to provide this entire collection of resources to every California school and library.

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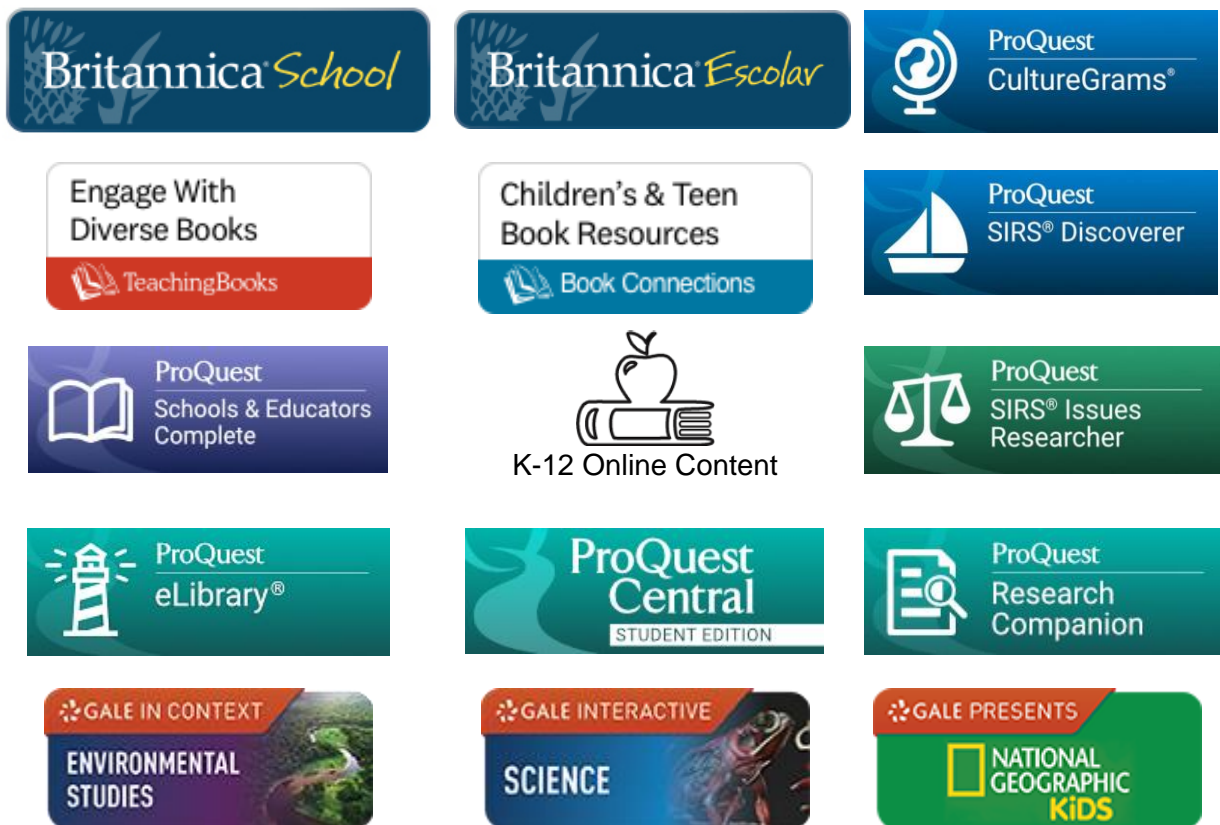


Figure 1: Icons for the 14 Online Educational Resources Platforms available to California Students as of December 2021

## Educational Resources Offered

Every public school and library in California can access – at no cost to them – all of the online educational resources in the grid above. The challenge is to ensure that they know they have that free access.

The California State Library is actively working to integrate these resources into existing local digital infrastructures to ensure maximum access and usage. The approach is to get these resources set up, available, and promoted at individual schools, school districts, county offices of education and local public libraries.

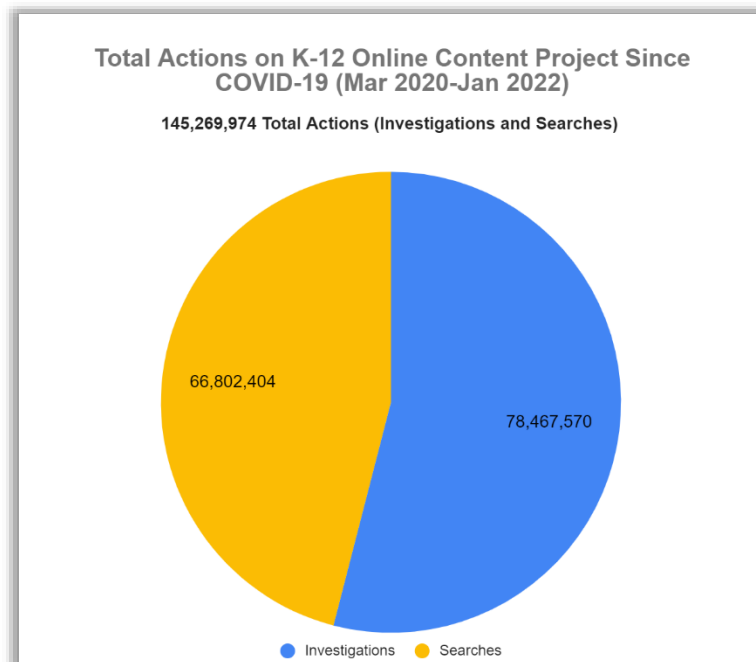
This report updates usage statistics and provides the latest efforts to:

1. Ensure that every school and library in California has seamless and equal access to these resources for all of their students, staff, and families.
2. Offer quality training to every California educator and library professional in using these state-funded resources to greatest advantage.

As of December 31, 2021, 853 school districts and county offices of education are connected to these resources representing 93 percent of California public school students. Additionally, 165 of the 185 California local library systems are connected and provide access to the educational platforms for their communities.

## Usage

Since July 2018 when this project began, there have been over **284 million actions** by California residents via schools and libraries. This includes over 145 million total actions from March 2020 when schools moved to virtual learning through January 2022.



*Figure 2: Total Actions from March 2020-January 2022.*

Note: Actions are separated into two categories of investigations and searches

Usage data shows that the online educational resources were not only utilized during the virtual learning periods of the pandemic but grew in popularity afterwards when most students were back in the classroom. For example, usage during October through December 2021 (Quarter Four) was higher compared to the same period in 2020, indicating a continued increase in usage by students and teachers after they returned to the classroom.

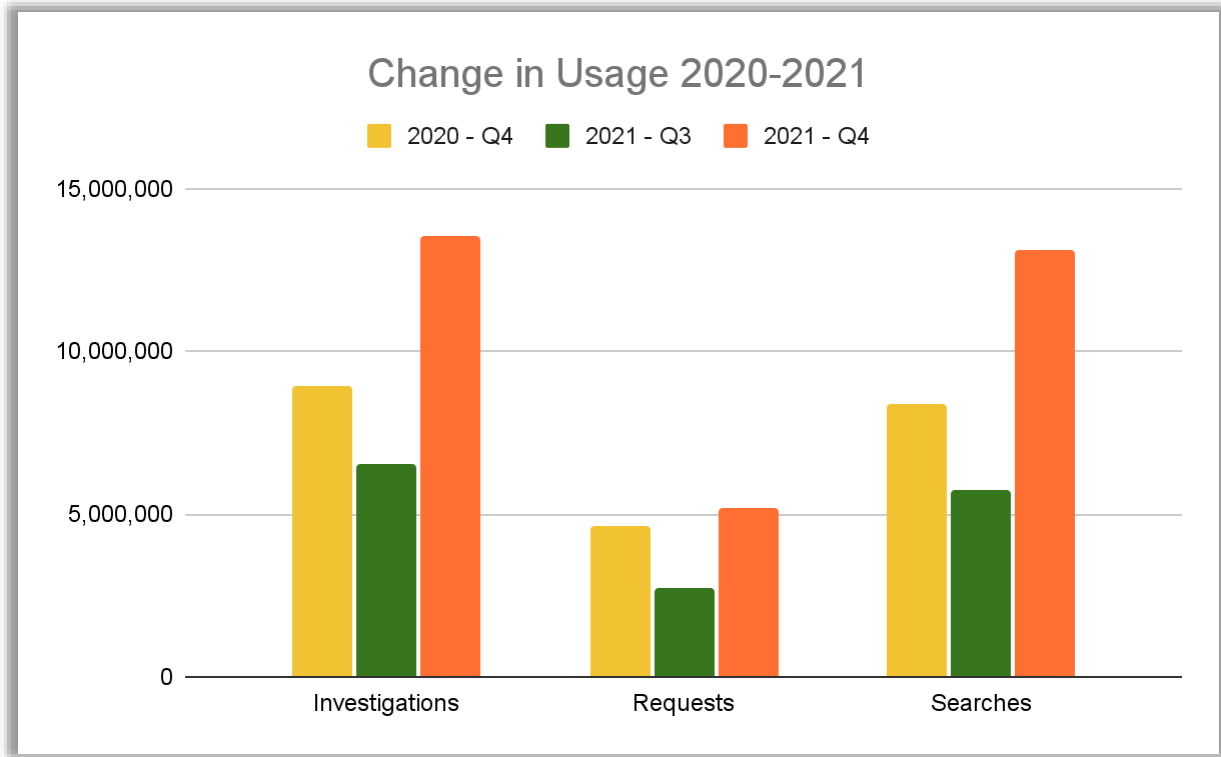
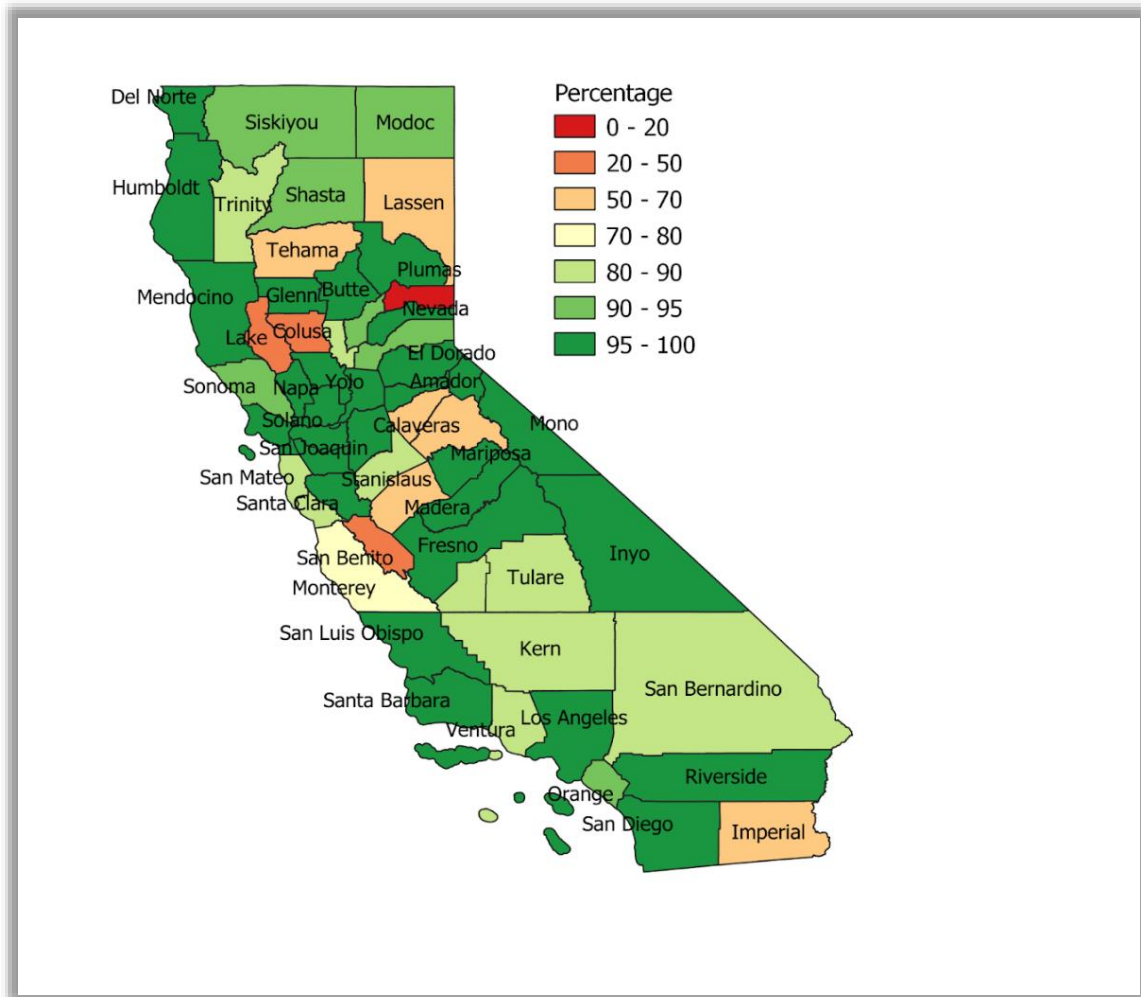


Figure 3: Changes in usage by select quarters 2020-2021

## **Connecting All Public Schools**

The map in Figure 4 shows the percentage of students in each county that are connected. These districts serve 93 percent of the student population in California.

Figure 4: Student Population Connected by County (as of December 2021)



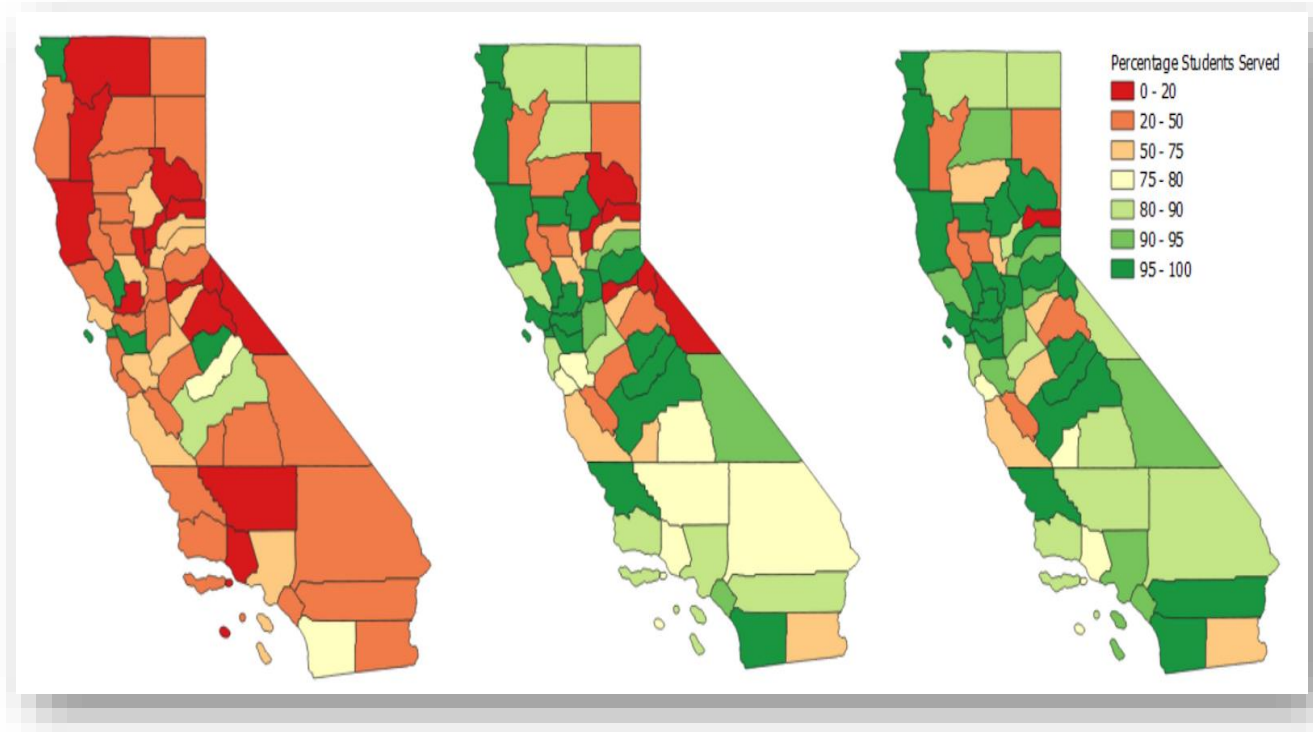
Before 2018 when the project began, no California public school students had access to these online resources unless their school paid for them. Today, almost all public-school students have access either through their schools or through local libraries at no cost to the student, school districts or local libraries.

Additionally, the Online Educational Resources Project can easily add more offerings and quickly connect students to them because of the infrastructure already in place at districts, schools, and library IT departments.

When the project added the three science and technology resources from Gale in December 2021, they were rapidly incorporated into the online learning environments for local education agencies and local libraries. Usage data for these three Gale platforms will be included in the report at the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Figure 5 shows the progression of school districts connected over time.

Figure 5: Progression of School Districts Connected, 2018 - 2020



July 1, 2018

July 1, 2019

July 1, 2020

Most counties have at least 80 percent of their school districts connected to the K-12 Online Education Resources Project.

Most large school districts have incorporated the resources into their learning management system, while smaller districts and rural areas remain the greatest connection challenges.

But even in areas where schools have connection challenges, students can still access online resources through their local libraries if desired (see next section). The State Library continues to work with school and district officials to inform them of this opportunity.

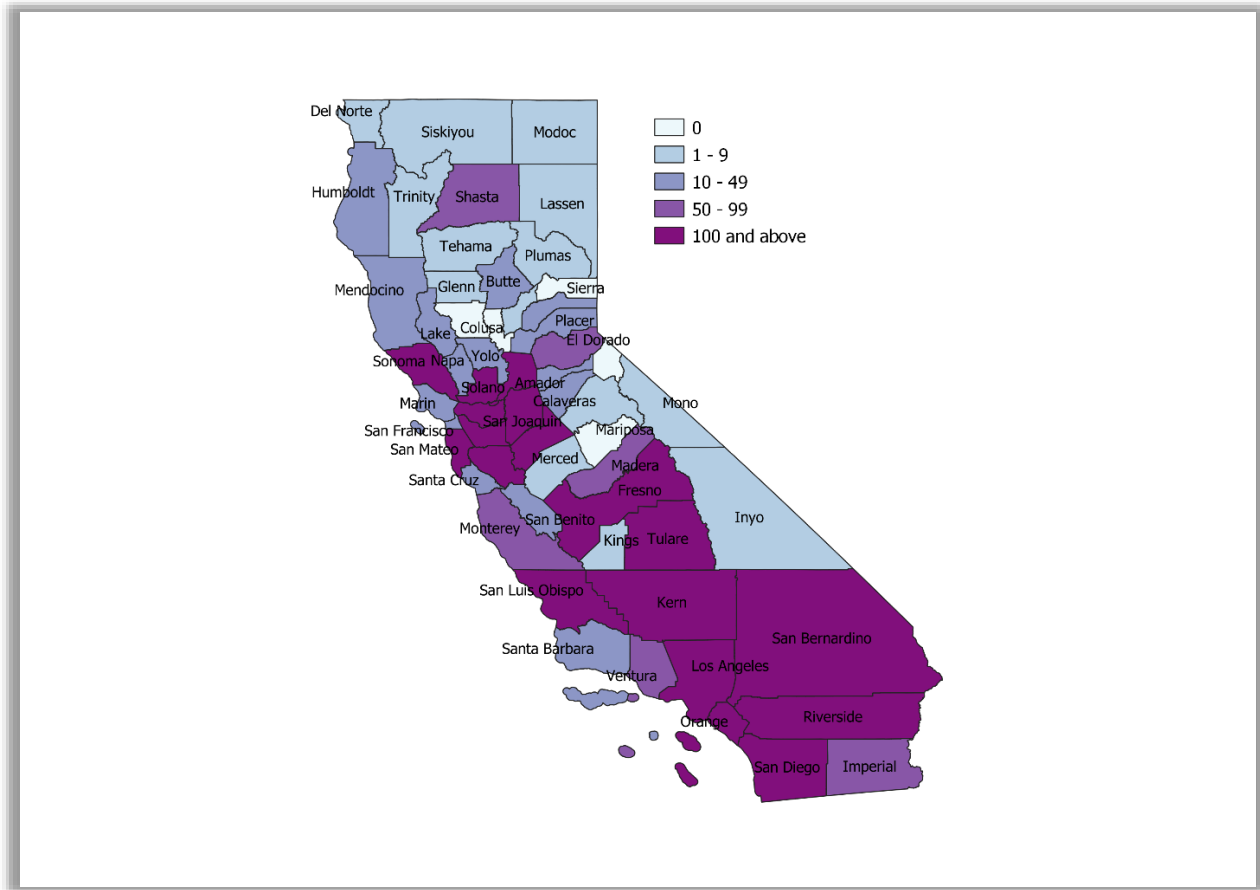
### **Connecting All Public Libraries:**

Of the 185 library jurisdictions in the state – consisting of 1,130 individual branches -- 89 percent can offer these online resources to students, educators, families and caregivers as of December 31, 2021.

This represents 93 percent of the state population, of which more than 23 million have library cards.



Figure 7: Map of the number of educators participating in training, by county July 1, 2020 to February 28, 2022



Since March 2020 all training opportunities have been conducted online. To ensure access to these trainings, recordings are made available. There have been 1,951 views of the recorded trainings since July 2021.

County offices of education throughout the state have participated in hosting webinars and disseminating information about trainings. So has the California School Library Association, which offered eight sessions at its annual conference to provide attendees learning opportunities about the resources in this project.

The school library association sessions were offered at no cost for all California educators, as well as recorded and made available to any educator who wished to view the sessions later.

Assistance from school librarians and county offices of education has proven particularly helpful, especially in reaching smaller, rural districts who often rely on county offices of education and professional associations for logistical and technical support.

Nonetheless, during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year, Alpine, Colusa, Mariposa, Sierra, and Sutter counties have not attended webinars. The State Library staff will be outreaching to the county offices of education in these areas to see how to assist the educators in these areas.

[See the catalog listing of all recent trainings.](#)



## **Looking Forward**

The State Library has a full schedule for the remainder of the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Staff and trainers from the online resource providers will conduct more trainings and schedule new ones for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The State Library continues to set up schools and local libraries to access existing resources and support summer-reading programs in public libraries.

The State Library will also be onboarding staff to coordinate and grow the training and outreach opportunities – ensuring that all California learning institutions know of and have seamless access to this growing collection of digital instructional materials.

## **Appendix**

The link above connects to spreadsheets, tables, and details on usage, training, and integration of these educational resources statewide filtered by county, school district, library jurisdiction and students served.

### **NOTES**

*All usage data calculations are based on the COUNTER 5 international database standards reporting usage statistics for electronic resources in a standardized way.*

*The version of this report released March 17, 2022, incorrectly noted the end date for the usage and training calculations as December 31, 2021. This information has been corrected in this version and reflect usage data through to January 31, 2022 (page 3), and training session data through to February 28, 2022 (page 7-8).*