

# Library for the Commonwealth (LFC) at the Boston Public Library (BPL)

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**LFC** expands access for all Massachusetts residents to collections, reference and research assistance, education and skill-building tools, and our shared cultural heritage.

**BPL** E-cards are available to anyone who lives or works in Massachusetts. E-cards allow residents to enjoy instant access to BPL's online services, including a broad selection of electronic resources, downloadable e-books, audiobooks, magazines, and music, as well as streaming services offering access to television shows and movies.

## LFC During the Pandemic

As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Boston Public Library had to close its buildings to the public, but services continued to be offered to residents of the Commonwealth online.

## Online Resources

There was a significant increase in use of online resources during the pandemic. eBook checkouts on OverDrive increased 36% from 1,593,349 in March to November 2019, to 2,168,670 in the same time in 2020. Hoopla, a service that provides eBooks, audiobooks, streaming music, and streaming video saw a 65% increase from 144,743 in March to November 2019, to 239,997 during the same time in 2020. In addition, there was an 80% increase in new BPL E-cards during that time, going from 33,131 in 2019, to 59,710 in 2020.

## Virtual Programs

Despite being closed to the public, the library continued to offer programs virtually which were well attended live and recorded. 769 programs took place from March to August 2020 with 27,056 live participants and 325,830 views of program recordings.

## Digital Commonwealth

A leader in digitization, the BPL is also able to offer free digitization services to cultural institutions across Massachusetts thanks to the funding of LFC. These treasures are then shared online in partnership with Digital Commonwealth to preserve our history and for all to enjoy. There are currently 853,509 items in the Digital Commonwealth from 391 institutions. 228 Massachusetts municipalities are represented on the site, and on average there are 2,800 sessions per day on the site.

