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The Library of Virginia was created by the General Assembly in 1823 and is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. The Library's extensive collections illustrate the rich and varied past of the commonwealth, documenting the lives of Virginians both famous and ordinary.

The Richmond Public Library was established by City ordinance in 1923. The public library's mission to "inform, enrich and empower" Richmond's residents is carried out through the materials, programs and services provided through its nine libraries.

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