

Quotable Facts About America's Libraries – January 2017

DID YOU KNOW?

Libraries are a smart investment. A recent study shows that for every dollar spent on Ohio public libraries, Ohioans received \$5.48 in economic value.

http://olc.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/post-id_2060/2016/04/Ohio-Public-Libraries-ROI-Report.pdf

Reference librarians in the nation's public and academic libraries answer nearly 6.6 million questions weekly. Standing single file, the line of questioners would span from Miami, Florida to Juneau, Alaska.

Academic: 28,856,409 [<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014038.pdf>, now an annual figure]

+ Public: 263,135,372 from <https://data.ims.gov/Public-Libraries-Survey/Library-Systems-FY-2014-Public-Libraries-Survey-Ad/wzfa-2gdc/data#column-menu>

Weekly: 6,030,526.

Weekly reference transactions times 3 for distance between users = 18,091,579 linear feet. In miles, 3,426.435. Distance from Miami, FL to Juneau, AK – 3,439.7 miles via <http://www.distancefromto.net/>

Americans go to school, public and academic libraries more than three times as frequently as they go to the movies.

2,664,612,367 Americans go to public and academic libraries vs 1,340,000,000 going to the movies.

2012 Academic Library gate count: 22,404,805/ week; 1,165,049,860/ year ALS
http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014038_supp.pdf*

1,499,5625,07 billion visits to Public Libraries [Public Libraries in the United States Survey: Fiscal Year 2012 (IMLS-2015–PLS-01).]

NCES SLMC <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2006/2006313.pdf> pending from B. Holton (10.18.06) using 1999-2000 figures, 1.5B visits (figure not reported in SLMC 2008 or later)

1.34B admissions in 2013 http://www.mpaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/MPAA-Theatrical-Market-Statistics-2013_032514-v2.pdf

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

There are more public libraries than Starbucks in the U.S. – a total of 17,566 including branches. Nearly 100% of public libraries provide Wi-Fi and have no-fee access to computers.

[2014 IMLS: 17,566 Public Libraries Retrieved from https://data.imls.gov/view/f6z9-77hs?_ga=1.121327880.1417360427.1478734226]

[2016 Starbucks: 11,910 corporate and licensed locations within the USA.
Source: Starbucks Corporate Customer Relations, 12/02/2016]

From Bertot, J.C., Jaeger, P.T., Lee, J., Dubbels, K., McDermott, A.J., Real, B. (2014). 2013 Digital Inclusion Survey: Survey Findings and Results. College Park, MD: Information Policy & Access Center, University of Maryland College Park. Available at <http://ipac.umd.edu/>

In 2013, there were 1.5 billion in-person visits to public libraries across the U.S., the equivalent of more than 4 million visits each day. That's 2,854 per minute.

Public Libraries in the United States Survey: Fiscal Year 2013. March, 2016.
<https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/publications/documents/plsfy2013.pdf>

Americans check out an average of eight books a year. They spend \$36.96 a year for the public library – about the average cost of one hardcover book.

Circulation 2014: 8 items (rounded up from 7.5) Retrieved from p. 27 of https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/fy2014_pls_tables.pdf

population 2014: 318,857,056

visits per capita: 5.0 (p. 16) (still 5 as rounded from 4.6.) Retrieved from p. 27 of https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/fy2014_pls_tables.pdf

Library expenditure: 10,700,000,000

Per capita expenditure: \$35.47

2014 Per capita expenditure: \$36.96 Retrieved from p. 25 of https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/fy2014_pls_tables.pdf

Library and Book Trade Almanac 2014 (Bowker Annual) - \$33.92 average hardcover (pg. 465)

There were 96.5 million attendees at public library programs in 2013, more than all Major League Baseball and NBA games combined.

Public Libraries in the United States Survey: Fiscal Year 2013. March, 2016.
<https://www.ims.gov/sites/default/files/publications/documents/plsfy2013.pdf>

2,132,0299 NBA Attendance

74,027,037 MLB Attendance

http://www.espn.com/nba/attendance/_/year/2013

http://www.espn.com/mlb/attendance/_/year/2013

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Academic libraries held approximately 252.6 million e-books and public libraries held more than 87.2 million in 2012.

The 2013 Digital Inclusion Study reported 89% of libraries provide access to e-books. From Bertot, J.C., Jaeger, P.T., Lee, J., Dubbels, K., McDermott, A.J., Real, B. (2014). 2013 Digital Inclusion Survey: Survey Findings and Results. College Park, MD: Information Policy & Access Center, University of Maryland College Park. Available at <http://ipac.umd.edu/>

Academic librarians provide information services for almost 38 million people each year – reaching almost six million more than attend men's college basketball games.

NCES ALS report 2012 Table 3: Reference transactions (services to individuals) – 28,856,409 per year; individuals served in groups = 10,109,738 -- total served 38,966,147 [<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014038.pdf>]

$28,856,409 + 10,109,738 = 38,966,147$

NCAA college basketball attendance 2014 = 32,510,167

http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/stats/m_basketball_RB/Reports/attend/2014.pdf

College libraries receive fewer than three cents of every dollar spent on higher education.

ALS 2012: \$7,008,113,939

FY 2011: Spending on higher education Digest of Education table 334.10: PUBLIC EXPENDITURES: \$305,534,191,000 + PRIVATE EXPENDITURES: \$23,036,898,000 = \$328,571,089,000

$\$7,008,113,939 / \$328,571,089,000 = \$.021$

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Cutbacks in school librarians may be yielding unintended consequences. According to a recent study by Stanford University, more than 80% of middle schoolers cannot tell the difference between sponsored content and a real news article.

Evaluation Information: The Cornerstone of Civic Online Reasoning (Exec. Summary)

<https://sheg.stanford.edu/upload/V3LessonPlans/Executive%20Summary%2011.21.16.pdf>

Research shows the highest achieving students attend schools with well-staffed and well-funded school libraries.

Increased library staff links to higher CSAP scores (2010) 2010

http://www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/287_CO3_Staffing_Test_Scores.pdf

Students make almost 1.3 billion visits to school library media centers during the school year, the same as attendance at movie theaters in 2014, or four times as many visitors to national parks

School libraries dept of ed figures from ALA factsheet: 98,460

<https://www.ala.org/ala/professionalresources/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet01.cfm>

ALA AASL School Libraries Count 2012: 313 visits (mean all responding libraries) times 42 weeks schools are in session = 13,146 visits times 98,460 (# of schools)= 1,294,355,160

Movie theater admissions US profile/media and Motion Picture Association 2014 Theatrical Market Statistics -- 1.27B admissions: <http://www.mpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/MPAA-Theatrical-Market-Statistics-2014.pdf>

2015-307,247,252 visitors to national parks

[https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/National%20Reports/Annual%20Visitati on%20Summary%20Report%20\(1979%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year\)](https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/National%20Reports/Annual%20Visitati on%20Summary%20Report%20(1979%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year))

Americans spend 22 times more on home video games (\$16.7 billion) than they do on library materials for their children in public schools (\$758,408,000).

Entertainment Software Association: U.S. Computer and Video Game Sales (content only; does not include hardware and accessories)*

2011: \$16.7 bil.

2012: \$15.2 bil.

2013: \$15.4 bil.

2014: \$15.4 bl. (*\$22.41 bil.)

<http://www.theesa.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/ESA-Essential-Facts-2015.pdf> (p 12, *13)

*NCES Characteristics of public elementary and secondary SLMC in the US
Avg. amt. of expenditures during 2010-11 SY/all public schools with media centers: \$9,340 (Table 4, p 9)*

Number of schools with a library media center: 81,200 (Table 1, p 6)

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013315.pdf>

‘School libraries spend an average of \$12.06 per student on library media – about two-thirds the cost of a single fiction title (\$17.63) or about one-third the cost of a single non-fiction title (\$27.04).

‘AASL School Libraries Count! (SLC) 2008, pg 20

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/SLCreport2008.doc>

LIBRARIES TRANSFORM

Libraries strengthen local economies.

- **73% of public libraries assist patrons with job applications and interviewing skills;**
- **68% help patrons use databases to find career openings;**
- **48% provide access to and assist entrepreneurs with online business information resources.**
- **More than 36% offer work space for mobile workers.**

Libraries create healthier communities.

- **77% of public libraries offer online health resources;**
- **59% provide programs on finding health insurance.**

Libraries are the place for lifelong learning.

- **Public libraries offer 4.3 million programs per year;**
- **95% provide online homework assistance;**
- **95% offer summer reading programs for children.**

Libraries access equals opportunity.

- **100% of public libraries offer access to the Internet;**
- **90% help patrons with basic Internet skills;**
- **97% help people complete online government forms.**

Learn more at www.librariestransform.org.

All statistics in Libraries Transform section from:

Bertot, J.C., Real, B., Lee, J., McDermott, A.J., & Jaeger, P.T. (201). 2014 Digital Inclusion Survey: Findings and Results. College Park, MD: Information Policy & Access Center, University of Maryland College Park. Available at <http://digitalinclusion.umd.edu/>.

<http://digitalinclusion.umd.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/2014DigitalInclusionSurveyFinalRelease.pdf>

Sources:

ALA Office for Library Advocacy

ALA Office for Research & Statistics.

All facts compiled in 2017.

For more information about America's Libraries visit www.ilovelibraries.org.

Made possible by the ALA Library Champions: www.ala.org/librarychampions

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