



SCHOOL

- ★ Research shows the highest achieving students attend schools with good library media centers.
- ★ Americans spend nearly ten times as much money on home video games (\$9.9 billion) as they do on school library materials for their children (\$1 billion).
- ★ Students make 1.5 billion visits to school library media centers during the school year—this is 100 million more than attendees at movie theaters in 2005.
- ★ School library media centers spend an average of \$10 per child for books—less than half the cost of one hardcover school library book. See breakdown by state, next page. ▶

State	Per Pupil	State	Per Pupil
AK	\$11	MT	\$13
AL	\$9	NC	\$11
AR	\$11	ND	\$15
AZ	\$8	NE	\$13
CA	\$11	NH	\$11
CO	\$10	NJ	\$9
CT	\$14	NM	\$11
DE	\$8	NV	\$9
FL	\$8	NY	\$8
GA	\$10	OH	\$7
HI	\$7	OK	\$12
IA	\$10	OR	\$7
ID	\$41	PA	\$9
IL	\$8	RI	\$7
IN	\$10	SC	\$10
KS	\$13	SD	\$14
KY	\$9	TN	\$10
LA	\$7	TX	\$12
MA	\$8	UT	\$6
MD	\$10	VA	\$10
ME	\$13	VT	\$17
MI	\$8	WA	\$11
MN	\$10	WI	\$15
MO	\$14	WV	\$6
MS	\$9	WY	\$13

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Quotable Facts About America's Libraries



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DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ 63% of adults in the U.S. have public library cards.
- ★ Americans go to school, public and academic libraries 50% more often than they go to the movies.
- ★ Reference librarians in the nation's public and academic libraries answer more than 7.2 million questions weekly. Standing single file, the line of questioners would stretch from New York City to Juneau, Alaska.
- ★ A 2006 poll conducted for the American Library Association found that 92% of respondents expect libraries to be needed in the future, despite the increased availability of information via the Internet.

STATE BY STATE

- ★ Seattle, WA—Visits to the new public library have increased King County tourism. Increased tourism of 1% yields \$1 billion in new economic activity statewide over 25 years.
- ★ Maryland—An overwhelming 90% of the state's citizens say public libraries are "a good investment." More than 40% of the state's citizens think of public libraries as an economic anchor, potentially attracting "good businesses" to their area.
- ★ Florida—For every dollar of public support spent on public libraries, income or wages increases by \$12.66.
- ★ South Carolina—The total direct and indirect return on investment for every \$1 expended on the state's public libraries by SC state and local governments is \$4.48—almost 350%!

PUBLIC

- ★ There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the U.S.—a total of 16,549, including branches.
- ★ Americans spend more than twice as much on salty snacks as they do on public libraries.
- ★ Americans check out an average of more than seven books a year. They spend \$30.49 a year for the public library—about the average cost of one hardcover book.
- ★ Public libraries are the number one point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school or work.
- ★ 98.9% of public libraries provide public access to the Internet.

ACADEMIC

- ★ Academic librarians answer 72.8 million reference questions each year—almost twice the attendance at college football games.
- ★ College libraries receive less than two cents of every dollar spent on higher education.
- ★ If the cost of *People* magazine had risen as fast as the cost of academic library periodicals since 1990, its subscription would cost about \$150 per year.
- ★ The number of librarians per 1,000 students enrolled in 2 and 4-year colleges and universities in the US dropped from 2.4 in 2000 to less than .5 in 2004.

Sources: ALA Office for Research & Statistics; ALA Public Information Office. All facts compiled in 2006.