

The search for knowledge is what brought men to the moon; but it took knowledge already acquired to make it possible to get there. How we use the knowledge we gain determines our progress on earth, in space, or on the moon. Your library is a storehouse for mind and spirit. Use it well.

—Neil Armstrong

My mother and my father were illiterate immigrants from Russia. When I was a child they were constantly amazed that I could go to a building and take a book on any subject. They couldn't believe this access to knowledge we have here in America.

—Kirk Douglas

For more information, contact



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Sources

America's Promise Alliance, Research and Statistics; www.americaspromise.org.

American Library Association, Add It Up!; www.ala.org/additup

American Library Association, Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study; www.ala.org/plinternetfunding

American Library Association, Office for Intellectual Freedom; www.ala.org/oif

American Library Association, Office for Research and Statistics; www.ala.org/ors

Joan Ganz Cooney Center; www.joanganzcooneycenter.org

National Center for Education Statistics; <http://nces.ed.gov>.

Neuman, Susan B.; www.sbneuman.com

Pew Research Center; www.pewresearch.org

U.S. Census; www.census.gov

YouthTruth Student Survey; www.youthtruthsurvey.org/

Resources

For the latest information on federal library legislation, visit <http://cqrcengage.com/ala/home>

For information on becoming a Friend or Trustee, visit www.ala.org/altaff

I Love Libraries; Learn more about advocating for libraries or make a donation; www.ilovelibraries.org.

Institute of Museum and Library Services; www.ims.gov



Libraries improve teen **learning and literacy.**

They prepare teens to be **productive citizens.**



They provide teens with a **sense of community.**

Teens Need Libraries!





Sobering Statistics



Teens Need Access to Library Services



Libraries Improve Learning & Literacy

55 percent

of all public high school graduates report feeling unprepared for college

66 percent

of U.S. eighth-graders read below the proficient level

51 percent

of youth today live in low-income families

25 percent

of public secondary schools do not have a paid, full-time, state-certified librarian

58 percent

of public librarians reported insufficient library staff for youth services

1.5 billion

number of visits to U.S. public libraries in 2013

The most dangerous hours of the day are 3–6 p.m. Three-quarters of Americans believe it is a **high priority for public libraries to offer a safe place where teenagers can study and congregate.**

1 in 4 U.S. households do not have Internet access and 27% of teens do not have smartphones. **Millions of teens, mostly from low socioeconomic households, rely on libraries for computers and Internet access.**

Cutbacks in school librarians are having unintended consequences. **More than 80% of middle schoolers cannot tell the difference between sponsored content and a real news article,** according to a Stanford University study.

Both affluent and disadvantaged students made similar achievement gains during the school year. But disadvantaged youth fall behind in reading over the summer. **Differences in out-of-school access to books, positive reading practices, and connections with institutions supportive of self-discovery and reading, account for much of the disparity in academic success.**

Attendance in programs for children increased 30% in the last 10 years; 67.4 million attendees in children's programs and 6.1 million in young adult programs.

90% of Americans aged 16 and up said losing their local library would have an impact on their community; **81%** say public libraries provide services that would otherwise be hard to find elsewhere.

Students in programs with more school librarians and extended library hours **had 10-20% higher test scores overall** compared to students in schools where libraries had fewer resources.

In Minnesota, **twice as many schools with above average scores had full-time school librarians.** Student reading achievement is related to increases in school library spending.

Students who participated in public library summer programs **scored higher on reading achievement tests at the start of the next school year than those who didn't participate.**

How you can help



- » Sponsor or support legislation that aids libraries
- » Volunteer at your library
- » Become a Friend of your Library or start a Friends group
- » Serve on your library's board of Trustees