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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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.imls.gov
55 percent of all public high school graduates report feeling unprepared for college.

66 percent of U.S. eighth-graders read proficient below the 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.

Sobering Statistics

Teens Need Access to Library Services

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.

Libraries Improve Learning & Literacy

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