

## ACADEMIC

---

- ★ Academic librarians answer 97 million reference questions each year – almost three times the attendance at college football games.
- ★ College libraries receive less than three cents of every dollar spent on higher education.
- ★ If the cost of gas had risen as fast as the cost of academic library periodicals since 1990, it would cost \$3.00 a gallon to put fuel in your car.

---

### Sources:

ALA Office for Research & Statistics  
ALA Washington Office  
Library Research Service, Colorado State Library  
*All facts compiled in 2002.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

American Library Association  
Public Information Office  
50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611  
Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5041/5044  
E-mail: [pio@ala.org](mailto:pio@ala.org)

---

This quote card made possible by the ALA Library Champions in support of America's Libraries:

3M Library Systems • Adobe Systems • Baker & Taylor • Barnes & Noble.com • Bound to Stay Bound Books • Brodart Co. • Checkpoint Systems • Chelsea House Publishers • CybraryN™ Software • Dean Foods • DEMCO • Dun & Bradstreet • Dynix • EBSCO Information Services • Elsevier • Gale • Gaylord Bros. • GIS Information Systems • H.W. Wilson Co. • Highsmith • Home Depot • HP Library Technology Access • Ingram Library Services • JanWay Co. USA • Lexis Nexis • The Library Corp. • Logitech • Lord & Taylor • Marshall Cavendish • OCLC Online Computer Library Center • ProQuest Co. • R.R. Bowker • Scholastic • Severn House Publishers • Sirsi • Standard & Poor's • Swets Information Services • Verizon Communications • Wells Fargo Home Mortgage • World Book

# Quotable Facts About America's Libraries

---



Library  
Advocacy  
**Now!**

@ your library®

## DID YOU KNOW?

---

- ★ 62% of adults in the U.S. have public library cards.
- ★ Americans go to school, public and academic libraries more than twice as often as they go to the movies.
- ★ Reference librarians in the nation's public and academic libraries answer more than seven million questions weekly. Standing single file, the line of questioners would stretch from Boston to San Francisco.
- ★ A 2002 poll conducted for the American Library Association found that 91% of respondents expect libraries to be needed in the future, despite the increased availability of information via the Internet.

## SCHOOL

---

- ★ Research shows the highest achieving students attend schools with good library media centers.
- ★ Americans spend seven times as much money on home video games (\$7 billion) as they do on school library materials for their children (\$1 billion).
- ★ School library media centers spend an average of \$7 per child for books – less than half the average cost of one hardcover school library book.
- ★ Students visit school library media centers almost 1.5 billion times during the school year – about one-and-a-half times the visits to state and national parks.

## PUBLIC

---

- ★ There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the U.S. – a total of 16,220, including branches.
- ★ Americans spend more than three times as much on salty snacks as they do on public libraries.
- ★ Americans check out an average of more than six books a year. They spend \$25.25 a year for the public library – much less than 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.
- ★ 95% of public libraries provide public access to the Internet.