BENCHMARK BRIEFINGS

SUMMARY

At the Public Library Association (PLA), we believe that library workers are experts at helping their community members access and make use of information. We also believe that library workers should be able to access and make use of data about their institutions. Data analysis is essential for library advocacy, but it can sometimes feel daunting, especially when it comes to peer comparison. With more than 9,000 public libraries in the U.S., it’s hard to know where to begin.

To support the public library field’s peer benchmarking needs, PLA has invested in research to identify ways to better communicate and display key metrics related to internal decision-making. These metrics, reported annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), are freely and publicly available but the data are not typically utilized to their full potential. The Benchmark Briefings are a first step in PLA’s work to support greater adoption and understanding of this annual data set.

Whether you are dipping your toes into peer comparison for the first time or can name each of your library’s IMLS-defined characteristics in your sleep, the Benchmark Briefings will give you a clear snapshot into how your library measures up against others. Use this resource to learn how your library’s expenditures compare to other libraries that share the same legal basis or learn how your collection size fares compared to other libraries in your region. We hope that this resource will bridge existing data knowledge gaps and pave the way for deeper data insight, exploration, and advocacy.

The Benchmark Briefings were developed using IMLS FY 2018 Public Libraries Survey data by the Public Library Association, members from PLA’s Measurement, Evaluation, and Assessment Committee, and the American Institutes for Research.
BENCHMARK BRIEFINGS

KEY MEASURES REPORTED
The key measures included in the Benchmark Briefings are commonly used by public libraries when making internal decisions about library investments. They represent one year of data from FY 2018 and are reported at the Administrative Entity level. A summary of each measure is outlined below, and a full glossary of terms can be found at https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/2018_pls_data_file_documentation.pdf.

- **Expenditures**: Operating expenditures are the current and recurrent costs necessary to support the provision of library services. These include staff salaries, wages, and benefits, collection expenditures (print and electronic), and other spending such as consultant fees, replacement IT hardware, or office supplies.
- **Staff**: The total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) library staff, including both librarians with master’s degrees from LIS programs and other paid FTE employees.
- **Collection**: The physical collection includes print materials (books and government documents), and physical units of audio and video content (CD-ROMs, DVDs, etc.). The electronic collection includes electronic books and downloadable units of audio and video content, such as items purchased or leased by the library or consortium.
- **Circulation**: Total annual circulation includes both the physical item circulation and the use of electronic materials.
- **Visits**: Total annual library visits. The per capita figure reflects the number of visits per person in the library’s service area population.
- **Programs**: The data includes both the number of programs annually and the total attendance at those programs. Per capita figures reflect the number of programs and attendance per 1,000 people in a library’s service area.

LIBRARY CHARACTERISTICS
Not sure where your library fits in?

- To find your library’s legal basis, region, and locale visit the IMLS Search and Compare tool. This tool allows you to use a variety of filtering options to view at the raw data. This is a great way for libraries to explore the data set in greater depth and identify more specific peer groups.
- Libraries are grouped based on demographic characteristics of the census tract in which the administrative entity is located. These estimates come from the Census Bureau’s 2019 American Community Survey. To find the racial demographics or educational attainment level for your community, use a tool like the Census Data Reporter or data.census.gov.
BENCHMARK BRIEFINGS

LIBRARY CHARACTERISTICS

Legal Basis: The legal basis is the type of local government structure within which the entity functions. It reflects the state or local law, which authorizes the library.

- **City/County or County/Parish:** City/county refers to a multi-jurisdictional entity that is operated jointly by a county and a city. County/parish refers to an organized local government authorized in a state’s constitution and statutes and established to provide general government.
- **Municipal Government (city, town, or village):** A municipal government is an organized local government authorized in a state’s constitution and statutes and established to provide general government for a specific concentration of population in a defined area.
- **Library District:** A library district is a local entity other than a county, municipality, township, or school district that is authorized by state law to establish and operate a public library as defined by FSCS. It has sufficient administrative and fiscal autonomy to qualify as a separate government. Fiscal autonomy requires support from local taxation dedicated to library purposes (e.g., a library tax).
- **Multi-jurisdictional, Native American Tribal Government, School District, or Other:** Multi-jurisdictional is an entity operated jointly by two or more units of local government under an intergovernmental agreement which creates a jointly appointed board or similar means of joint governance; to be distinguished from a library which contracts to serve other jurisdictions and from special library districts. A Native American Tribal Government is an organized local government authorized and established to provide general government to residents of a Native American reservation. A School District is an organized local entity providing public elementary, secondary, and/or higher education which, under state law, has sufficient administrative and fiscal autonomy to qualify as a separate government. Excludes "dependent public school systems" of county, municipal, township, or state governments.
- **Non-profit Association or Agency:** An entity privately controlled but meeting the statutory definition of a public library in a given state; includes association libraries and libraries with 501(c) designation.
LIBRARY CHARACTERISTICS

Region

- **Northeast**: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington DC
- **Great Lakes**: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin
- **Plains**: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
- **Southeast**: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia
- **Southwest, Rocky Mountains, or West**: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

Locale

- **City**: Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city.
- **Suburb**: Territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area with population.
- **Town or Rural**: Territory inside an urban cluster that is outside of an urbanized area or census-defined rural territory.

Community Members Identifying as Person of Color

- 25% or greater: Population with more than 25% persons of color
- 5% to less than 25%: Population with 5% to 25% persons of color
- Less than 5%: Population with less than 5% persons of color

Community Members Age 25 or Over with a College Degree or Higher

- 35% or greater: Population with more than 35% college graduates
- 15% to less than 35%: Population with 15% to 35% college graduates
- Less than 15%: Population with less than 15% college graduates
LEGAL BASIS:
CITY/COUNTY OR COUNTY/PARISH

There are 1,003 city/county or county/parish U.S. public libraries (10.9% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 19 to 3.4 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

Expenditures

- Median: $626,706
- Lower quartile: $210,008
- Upper quartile: $2,291,269

Staff (FTE)

- Median: 10
- Lower quartile: 3.5
- Upper quartile: 29.2

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

- Total Collection: 164,776 (median)
- Physical Collection: 76,881 (median)
- Electronic Collection: 44,623 (median)
- Physical Circulation: 84,695 (median)
- Electronic Circulation: 8,628 (median)
- Total Circulation: 100,521 (median)

VISITS & PROGRAMS

- Visits: 81,615 (median)
- Programs: 387 (median)
- Program Attendance: 7,421 (median)
  - Lower quartile: 26,347
  - Upper quartile: 274,770
  - Lower quartile: 125
  - Upper quartile: 1,133
  - Lower quartile: 2,009
  - Upper quartile: 24,702
There are 1,003 city/county or county/parish U.S. public libraries (10.9% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 19 to 3.4 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.
LEGAL BASIS:
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

There are 4,856 municipal government (city, town, or village) U.S. public libraries (52.7% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 33 to 4.1 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

- Expenditures:
  - Median: $162,918
  - Lower quartile: $52,917
  - Upper quartile: $623,318
- Staff (FTE):
  - Median: 2.8
  - Lower quartile: 1
  - Upper quartile: 8

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

- Total Collection:
  - Median: 83,161
- Physical Collection:
  - Median: 25,117
- Electronic Collection:
  - Median: 47,886
- Physical Circulation:
  - Median: 25,792
- Electronic Circulation:
  - Median: 2,194
- Total Circulation:
  - Median: 28,465

VISITS & PROGRAMS

- Visits:
  - Median: 22,052
  - Lower quartile: 6,403
  - Upper quartile: 82,691
- Programs:
  - Median: 162
  - Lower quartile: 52
  - Upper quartile: 420
- Program Attendance:
  - Median: 2,465
  - Lower quartile: 700
  - Upper quartile: 7,943
LEGAL BASIS: MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

There are 4,856 municipal government (city, town, or village) U.S. public libraries (52.7% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 33 to 4.1 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

Expenditures

- Median: $37.9
- Lower quartile: $24.6
- Upper quartile: $55.1

Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People

- Median: 15.2
- Lower quartile: 10.1
- Upper quartile: 22.6

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

- Total Collection: 13.3 (median)
- Physical Collection: 5.5 (median)
- Electronic Collection: 5.8 (median)
- Total Circulation: 6.2 (median)
- Physical Circulation: 5.6 (median)
- Electronic Circulation: 0.5 (median)

VISITS & PROGRAMS

- Visits: 4.7 (median)
- Programs per 1,000 People: 27.2 (median)
- Program Attendance per 1,000 People: 474.3 (median)

- Lower quartile: 2.9, 7.2, 12.8
- Upper quartile: 55.3, 233.9, 872.6
LEGAL BASIS: LIBRARY DISTRICT

There are 1,403 library district U.S. public libraries (15.2% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 82 to 4.3 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

Expenditures

- Median: $450,524
- Lower quartile: $165,871
- Upper quartile: $1,437,681

Staff (FTE)

- Median: 7.3
- Lower quartile: 3
- Upper quartile: 18.4

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

- Total Collection: 95,647 (median)
- Physical Collection: 44,049 (median)
- Electronic Collection: 43,941 (median)
- Physical Circulation: 54,692 (median)
- Electronic Circulation: 5,116 (median)
- Total Circulation: 59,830 (median)

VISITS & PROGRAMS

- Visits: 51,000 (median)
- Programs: 327 (median)
- Program Attendance: 5,575 (median)

- Lower quartile:
  - Visits: 17,243
  - Programs: 120
  - Program Attendance: 1,625

- Upper quartile:
  - Visits: 135,270
  - Programs: 725
  - Program Attendance: 14,891
There are 1,403 library district U.S. public libraries (15.2% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 82 to 4.3 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey FY2018 data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.
LEGAL BASIS:
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL, NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL
GOVERNMENT, SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR OTHER

There are 611 multi-jurisdictional, Native American tribal government, school district, or other U.S. public libraries (6.6% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 52 to 1.5 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

Expenditures

$442,492
(median)

$128,134
(lower quartile)

$1,364,410
(upper quartile)

Staff (FTE)

7.5
(median)

2.3
(lower quartile)

19
(upper quartile)

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

Total Collection
176,408
(median)

Physical Collection
55,009
(median)

Electronic Collection
39,929
(median)

Physical Circulation
66,348
(median)

Electronic Circulation
4,967
(median)

Total Circulation
72,778
(median)

VISITS & PROGRAMS

Visits
58,344
(median)

12,200
(lower quartile)

176,826
(upper quartile)

Programs
316
(median)

97
(lower quartile)

811
(upper quartile)

Program Attendance
5,684
(median)

1,378
(lower quartile)

17,394
(upper quartile)
LEGAL BASIS:
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL, NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT, SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR OTHER

There are 611 multi-jurisdictional, Native American tribal government, school district, or other U.S. public libraries (6.6% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 52 to 1.5 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

Expenditures

- Median: $29.8
- Lower quartile: $16
- Upper quartile: $54.5

Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People

- Median: 12.1
- Lower quartile: 7.1
- Upper quartile: 22.2

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

Total Collection

- Median: 9.1

Physical Collection

- Median: 3.8

Electronic Collection

- Median: 2.1

Total Circulation

- Median: 4.6

VISITS & PROGRAMS

Visits

- Median: 3.7
- Lower quartile: 2.1
- Upper quartile: 6.3

Programs per 1,000 People

- Median: 20.2
- Lower quartile: 8.7
- Upper quartile: 44.3

Program Attendance per 1,000 People

- Median: 378.3
- Lower quartile: 151
- Upper quartile: 793.2
LEGAL BASIS: 
NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION OR AGENCY

There are 1,337 non-profit association or agency U.S. public libraries (14.5% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 9 to 3.4 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

Expenditures

$137,234 (median)

$57,570 (lower quartile)

$392,707 (upper quartile)

Staff (FTE)

2.5 (median)

1 (lower quartile)

6.1 (upper quartile)

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

Total Collection

40,242 (median)

Physical Collection

22,803 (median)

Electronic Collection

16,867 (median)

Total Circulation

23,139 (median)

Physical Circulation

20,783 (median)

Electronic Circulation

1,690 (median)

VISITS & PROGRAMS

Visits

17,922 (median)

6,500 (lower quartile)

61,093 (upper quartile)

Programs

195 (median)

70 (lower quartile)

451 (upper quartile)

Program Attendance

2,505 (median)

821 (lower quartile)

6,865 (upper quartile)
There are 1,337 non-profit association or agency U.S. public libraries (14.5% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 9 to 3.4 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.
There are 2,822 public libraries located in the Northeast region of the U.S. (30.6% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 59 to 3.4 M. This region includes CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

**Expenditures & Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Lower Quartile</th>
<th>Upper Quartile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$263,966</td>
<td></td>
<td>$81,134</td>
<td>$794,056</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff (FTE)</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Lower Quartile</th>
<th>Upper Quartile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Collection & Circulation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Collection</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Physical Collection</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Electronic Collection</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66,114</td>
<td></td>
<td>31,897</td>
<td></td>
<td>21,324</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Circulation</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Electronic Circulation</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35,449</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Visits & Programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Lower Quartile</th>
<th>Upper Quartile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34,051</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,901</td>
<td>100,855</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Lower Quartile</th>
<th>Upper Quartile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>287</td>
<td></td>
<td>108</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Attendance</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Lower Quartile</th>
<th>Upper Quartile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,835</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,257</td>
<td>10,108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are 2,822 public libraries located in the Northeast region of the U.S. (30.6% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 59 to 3.4 M. This region includes CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

**Expenditures & Staff**

- **Expenditures**
  - Median: $38.1
  - Lower quartile: $21.9
  - Upper quartile: $62

- **Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People**
  - Median: 13.8
  - Lower quartile: 9
  - Upper quartile: 20.9

**Collection & Circulation**

- **Total Collection**
  - Median: 8.5

- **Physical Collection**
  - Median: 4.6

- **Electronic Collection**
  - Median: 3.2

- **Total Circulation**
  - Median: 5.6

- **Physical Circulation**
  - Median: 5

- **Electronic Circulation**
  - Median: 0.5

**Visits & Programs**

- **Visits**
  - Median: 4.4
  - Lower quartile: 2.5
  - Upper quartile: 7

- **Programs per 1,000 People**
  - Median: 33.7
  - Lower quartile: 17.5
  - Upper quartile: 61.5

- **Program Attendance per 1,000 People**
  - Median: 505.5
  - Lower quartile: 247.4
  - Upper quartile: 882.5
There are 1,889 public libraries located in the Great Lakes region of the U.S. (20.5% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 19 to 2.7 M. This region includes IL, IN, MI, OH, and WI. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

- **Expenditures**
  - Median: $328,770
  - Lower quartile: $119,586
  - Upper quartile: $1,048,701
- **Staff (FTE)**
  - Median: 5.3
  - Lower quartile: 2
  - Upper quartile: 14.4

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- **Total Collection**: Median 140,857
- **Physical Collection**: Median 39,745
- **Electronic Collection**: Median 63,384
- **Total Circulation**: Median 52,761
- **Physical Circulation**: Median 48,145
- **Electronic Circulation**: Median 4,338

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- **Visits**: Median 40,035
  - Lower quartile: 12,614
  - Upper quartile: 120,811
- **Programs**: Median 237
  - Lower quartile: 87
  - Upper quartile: 561
- **Program Attendance**: Median 4,209
  - Lower quartile: 1,227
  - Upper quartile: 12,059
There are 1,889 public libraries located in the Great Lakes region of the U.S. (20.5% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 19 to 2.7. This region includes IL, IN, MI, OH, and WI. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

- **Expenditures**
  - Median: $42.4
  - Lower quartile: $29.7
  - Upper quartile: $61.3

- **Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People**
  - Median: 16.8
  - Lower quartile: 12.2
  - Upper quartile: 23.4

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- **Total Collection**
  - Median: 13

- **Physical Collection**
  - Median: 5.1

- **Electronic Collection**
  - Median: 6.8

- **Total Circulation**
  - Median: 7.3

- **Physical Circulation**
  - Median: 6.6

- **Electronic Circulation**
  - Median: 0.6

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- **Visits**
  - Median: 4.8
  - Lower quartile: 3.2
  - Upper quartile: 6.8

- **Programs per 1,000 People**
  - Median: 24.6
  - Lower quartile: 14.1
  - Upper quartile: 44.5

- **Program Attendance per 1,000 People**
  - Median: 468.8
  - Lower quartile: 247.6
  - Upper quartile: 790
There are 1,590 public libraries located in the Plains region of the U.S. (17.3% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 62 to 1.2 M. This region includes IA, KS, MN, MO, ND, NE, and SD. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- **Total Collection**: 78,984 (median)
- **Physical Collection**: 16,762 (median)
- **Electronic Collection**: 65,570 (median)
- **Physical Circulation**: 11,535 (median)
- **Electronic Circulation**: 939 (median)

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- **Visits**: 9,171 (median)
  - (lower quartile): 3,233
  - (upper quartile): 30,100
- **Programs**: 80 (median)
  - (lower quartile): 28
  - (upper quartile): 221
- **Program Attendance**: 1,187 (median)
  - (lower quartile): 370
  - (upper quartile): 3,662
There are 1,590 public libraries located in the Plains region of the U.S. (17.3% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 62 to 1.2 M. This region includes IA, KS, MN, MO, ND, NE, and SD. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

**REGION: PLAINS**

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

- **Expenditures**
  - Median: $39.5
  - Lower quartile: $27.1
  - Upper quartile: $55.1

- **Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People**
  - Median: 18.8
  - Lower quartile: 12.2
  - Upper quartile: 27.5

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- **Total Collection**
  - Median: 30.3

- **Physical Collection**
  - Median: 8.8

- **Electronic Collection**
  - Median: 19.4

- **Total Circulation**
  - Median: 6.5

- **Physical Circulation**
  - Median: 5.9

- **Electronic Circulation**
  - Median: 0.5

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- **Visits**
  - Median: 5.1
  - Lower quartile: 3.2
  - Upper quartile: 7.6

- **Programs per 1,000 People**
  - Median: 35
  - Lower quartile: 15.9
  - Upper quartile: 75.4

- **Program Attendance per 1,000 People**
  - Median: 565.9
  - Lower quartile: 260.9
  - Upper quartile: 1,145.5
There are 1,167 public libraries located in the Southeast region of the U.S. (12.7% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 273 to 2.8 M. This region includes AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and WV. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.
There are 1,167 public libraries located in the Southeast region of the U.S. (12.7% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 273 to 2.8 M. This region includes AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and WV. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

*Expenditures*

- $19.8 (median)
- $12.1 (lower quartile)
- $33 (upper quartile)

*Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People*

- 8.5 (median)
- 5.7 (lower quartile)
- 13.4 (upper quartile)

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- **Total Collection**: 5.6 (median)
- **Physical Collection**: 2.4 (median)
- **Electronic Collection**: 2.1 (median)
- **Total Circulation**: 3.2 (median)
- **Physical Circulation**: 2.8 (median)
- **Electronic Circulation**: 0.3 (median)

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- **Visits**: 2.6 (median)
- **Programs per 1,000 People**: 11.7 (median)
- **Program Attendance per 1,000 People**: 234.3 (median)
There are 1,742 public libraries located in the Southwest, Rocky Mountains, or West regions of the U.S. (18.9% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 9 to 4.3 M. This region includes AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA, and WY. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.
There are 1,742 public libraries located in the Southwest, Rocky Mountains, or West regions of the U.S. (18.9% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 9 to 4.3 M. This region includes AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA, and WY. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.
LOCATE: CITY

There are 494 city U.S. public libraries (5.4% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 19 to 4.1 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

Expenditures

- Median: $4,028,020
- Lower quartile: $2,031,624
- Upper quartile: $8,775,466

Staff (FTE)

- Median: 45.2
- Lower quartile: 25.1
- Upper quartile: 90.7

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

- Total Collection: 360,360 (median)
- Physical Collection: 247,469 (median)
- Electronic Collection: 70,751 (median)
- Total Circulation: 700,258 (median)
- Physical Circulation: 610,247 (median)
- Electronic Circulation: 66,789 (median)

VISITS & PROGRAMS

- Visits: 412,161 (median)
- Lower quartile: 229,803
- Upper quartile: 833,667
- Programs: 1,303 (median)
- Lower quartile: 725
- Upper quartile: 3,003
- Program Attendance: 35,242 (median)
- Lower quartile: 18,080
- Upper quartile: 74,724
There are 494 city U.S. public libraries (5.4% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 19 to 4.1 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

- **Expenditures**
  - Median: $37.8
  - Lower quartile: $23.7
  - Upper quartile: $56.7

- **Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People**
  - Median: 10.9
  - Lower quartile: 7.4
  - Upper quartile: 15.5

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- **Total Collection** median: 3.1
- **Physical Collection** median: 2.2
- **Electronic Collection** median: 0.5
- **Total Circulation** median: 6.1
- **Physical Circulation** median: 5.3
- **Electronic Circulation** median: 0.7

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- **Visits** median: 3.9
  - Lower quartile: 2.7
  - Upper quartile: 5.7
- **Programs per 1,000 People** median: 13
  - Lower quartile: 7.8
  - Upper quartile: 20.5
- **Program Attendance per 1,000 People** median: 332.7
  - Lower quartile: 207.7
  - Upper quartile: 523.2
There are 2,353 suburban U.S. public libraries (25.5% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 228 to 4.3 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.
There are 2,353 suburban U.S. public libraries (25.5% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 228 to 4.3 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

**Expenditures & Staff**

- **Expenditures**: $42.7 (median), $25.3 (lower quartile), $68.8 (upper quartile)
- **Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People**: 13.6 (median), 8.9 (lower quartile), 20.8 (upper quartile)

**Collection & Circulation**

- **Total Collection**: 6.4 (median)
- **Physical Collection**: 3.5 (median)
- **Electronic Collection**: 2.2 (median)
- **Physical Circulation**: 5.9 (median)
- **Electronic Circulation**: 0.6 (median)
- **Total Circulation**: 6.6 (median)

**Visits & Programs**

- **Visits**: 4.9 (median), 3 (lower quartile), 7.3 (upper quartile)
- **Programs per 1,000 People**: 24.4 (median), 13 (lower quartile), 42.5 (upper quartile)
- **Program Attendance per 1,000 People**: 479.2 (median), 250.9 (lower quartile), 817.7 (upper quartile)
There are 6,363 town or rural U.S. public libraries (69.1% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 9 to 1.4 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

- **Expenditures**
  - Median: $126,948
  - Lower quartile: $49,572
  - Upper quartile: $330,020

- **Staff (FTE)**
  - Median: 2.2
  - Lower quartile: 1
  - Upper quartile: 5.4

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- **Total Collection**
  - Median: 67,467

- **Physical Collection**
  - Median: 21,863

- **Electronic Collection**
  - Median: 36,764

- **Physical Circulation**
  - Median: 18,661

- **Electronic Circulation**
  - Median: 1,463

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- **Visits**
  - Median: 15,639
  - Lower quartile: 5,634
  - Upper quartile: 46,651

- **Programs**
  - Median: 125
  - Lower quartile: 43
  - Upper quartile: 294

- **Program Attendance**
  - Median: 1,784
  - Lower quartile: 580
  - Upper quartile: 4,999
There are 6,363 town or rural U.S. public libraries (69.1% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 9 to 1.4 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.
There are 2,486 U.S. public libraries with 25% or greater community members within the Census tract identifying as person of color (27% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 9 to 4.3 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

- Expenditures
  - $195,316 (lower quartile)
  - $2,215,224 (upper quartile)
  - **$671,171** (median)

- Staff (FTE)
  - 3.4 (lower quartile)
  - 26.3 (upper quartile)
  - **9.2** (median)

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- Total Collection: **113,454** (median)
- Physical Collection: **64,210** (median)
- Electronic Collection: **31,459** (median)
- Total Circulation: **79,270** (median)
- Physical Circulation: **72,649** (median)
- Electronic Circulation: **5,724** (median)

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- Visits: **83,196** (median)
  - 23,444 (lower quartile)
  - 233,257 (upper quartile)
- Programs: **388** (median)
  - 125 (lower quartile)
  - 924 (upper quartile)
- Program Attendance: **6,695** (median)
  - 2,001 (lower quartile)
  - 20,920 (upper quartile)
There are 2,486 U.S. public libraries with 25% or greater community members within the Census tract identifying as person of color (27% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 9 to 4.3 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.
There are 4,485 U.S. public libraries with 5% to less than 25% community members within the Census tract identifying as person of color (48.7% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 38 to 1.2 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Staff (FTE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$257,030 (median)</td>
<td>4.1 (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$81,933 (lower quartile)</td>
<td>1.5 (lower quartile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$778,306 (upper quartile)</td>
<td>10.6 (upper quartile)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection &amp; Circulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Collection 91,328 (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Collection 33,299 (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Collection 45,093 (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Circulation 43,863 (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Circulation 39,376 (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Circulation 3,769 (median)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visits &amp; Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits 35,109 (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs 238 (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Attendance 3,724 (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,812 (lower quartile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102,700 (upper quartile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 (lower quartile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>527 (upper quartile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,075 (lower quartile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,572 (upper quartile)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are 4,485 U.S. public libraries with 5% to less than 25% community members within the Census tract identifying as person of color (48.7% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 38 to 1.2 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

**Expenditures & Staff**

- **Expenditures**
  - Median: $39.1
  - Lower quartile: $24.7
  - Upper quartile: $57.4

- **Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People**
  - Median: 15.4
  - Lower quartile: 10.1
  - Upper quartile: 22.8

**Collection & Circulation**

- **Total Collection**
  - Median: 10.9

- **Physical Collection**
  - Median: 4.9

- **Electronic Collection**
  - Median: 5

- **Total Circulation**
  - Median: 6.6

- **Physical Circulation**
  - Median: 5.9

- **Electronic Circulation**
  - Median: 0.6

**Visits & Programs**

- **Visits**
  - Median: 4.8
  - Lower quartile: 2.9
  - Upper quartile: 7.3

- **Programs per 1,000 People**
  - Median: 28.3
  - Lower quartile: 14.6
  - Upper quartile: 54.3

- **Program Attendance per 1,000 People**
  - Median: 506.8
  - Lower quartile: 252.6
  - Upper quartile: 894
There are 2,239 U.S. public libraries with less than 5% community members within the Census tract identifying as person of color (24.3% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 59 to 300 K. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

- **Expenditures**
  - Median: $84,102
  - Lower quartile: $37,685
  - Upper quartile: $200,663

- **Staff (FTE)**
  - Median: 1.6
  - Lower quartile: 0.8
  - Upper quartile: 3.4

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- **Total Collection**
  - Median: 62,108

- **Physical Collection**
  - Median: 17,928

- **Electronic Collection**
  - Median: 39,413

- **Total Circulation**
  - Median: 14,741

- **Physical Circulation**
  - Median: 13,322

- **Electronic Circulation**
  - Median: 1,083

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- **Visits**
  - Median: 10,400
  - Lower quartile: 4,160
  - Upper quartile: 26,142

- **Programs**
  - Median: 102
  - Lower quartile: 36
  - Upper quartile: 235

- **Program Attendance**
  - Median: 1,320
  - Lower quartile: 474
  - Upper quartile: 3,460
COMMUNITY MEMBERS IDENTIFYING AS PERSON OF COLOR

There are 2,239 U.S. public libraries with less than 5% community members within the Census tract identifying as person of color (24.3% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 59 to 300 K. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

- Expenditures
  - Median: $34
  - Lower quartile: $20.2
  - Upper quartile: $51.2

- Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People
  - Median: 15.2
  - Lower quartile: 9.8
  - Upper quartile: 23.4

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

- Total Collection
  - Median: 18.3

- Physical Collection
  - Median: 6.5

- Electronic Collection
  - Median: 9.9

- Physical Circulation
  - Median: 5.1

- Electronic Circulation
  - Median: 0.4

VISITS & PROGRAMS

- Visits
  - Median: 4.1
  - Lower quartile: 2.4
  - Upper quartile: 6.3

- Programs per 1,000 People
  - Median: 33.4
  - Lower quartile: 14.8
  - Upper quartile: 66

- Program Attendance per 1,000 People
  - Median: 469.5
  - Lower quartile: 209.6
  - Upper quartile: 917.5
There are 2,002 U.S. public libraries with 35% or greater of community members within the Census tract who are age 25 or over and hold a college degree or higher (21.7% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 71 to 4.3 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.
There are 2,002 U.S. public libraries with 35% or greater of community members within the Census tract who are age 25 or over and hold a college degree or higher (21.7% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 71 to 4.3 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

- **Expenditures**
  - Median: $52.4
  - Lower quartile: $35.2
  - Upper quartile: $83.5

- **Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People**
  - Median: 16.7
  - Lower quartile: 11.3
  - Upper quartile: 24.2

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- **Total Collection**
  - Median: 8.4

- **Physical Collection**
  - Median: 4.6

- **Electronic Collection**
  - Median: 3.1

- **Physical Circulation**
  - Median: 7.8

- **Electronic Circulation**
  - Median: 0.8

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- **Visits**
  - Median: 6
  - Lower quartile: 3.8
  - Upper quartile: 8.9

- **Programs per 1,000 People**
  - Median: 31.7
  - Lower quartile: 17.9
  - Upper quartile: 59.1

- **Program Attendance per 1,000 People**
  - Median: 635
  - Lower quartile: 366.7
  - Upper quartile: 1,029.4
There are 5,155 U.S. public libraries 15% to less than 35% of community members within the Census tract who are age 25 or over and have a college degree or higher (56% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 33 to 3.4 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.
COMMUNITY MEMBERS AGE 25 OR OVER WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE OR HIGHER

There are 5,155 U.S. public libraries with 15% to less than 35% of community members within the Census tract who are age 25 or over and hold a college degree or higher (56% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 33 to 3.4 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Lower Quartile</th>
<th>Upper Quartile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$34.2</td>
<td>$21.3</td>
<td>$50.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Lower Quartile</th>
<th>Upper Quartile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Collection</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Physical Collection</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electronic Collection</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Circulation</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Physical Circulation</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electronic Circulation</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VISITS & PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>Programs per 1,000 People</th>
<th>Program Attendance per 1,000 People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>419.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Median)</th>
<th>(Median)</th>
<th>(Median)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>814.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY MEMBERS AGE 25 OR OVER WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE OR HIGHER

There are 2,053 U.S. public libraries with less than 15% of community members within the Census tract who are age 25 or over and hold a college degree or higher (22.3% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 9 to 1.6 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the totals reported here.

**EXPENDITURES & STAFF**

- **Expenditures**
  - Median: $183,182
  - Lower quartile: $68,359
  - Upper quartile: $608,184

- **Staff (FTE)**
  - Median: 3.4
  - Lower quartile: 1.5
  - Upper quartile: 9.2

**COLLECTION & CIRCULATION**

- **Total Collection**
  - Median: 78,392

- **Physical Collection**
  - Median: 29,077

- **Electronic Collection**
  - Median: 33,654

- **Total Circulation**
  - Median: 27,731

- **Physical Circulation**
  - Median: 24,281

- **Electronic Circulation**
  - Median: 1,798

**VISITS & PROGRAMS**

- **Visits**
  - Median: 24,050
  - Lower quartile: 7,900
  - Upper quartile: 76,152

- **Programs**
  - Median: 150
  - Lower quartile: 47
  - Upper quartile: 382

- **Program Attendance**
  - Median: 2,188
  - Lower quartile: 674
  - Upper quartile: 7,043
COMMUNITY MEMBERS AGE 25 OR OVER WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE OR HIGHER

There are 2,053 U.S. public libraries with less than 15% of community members within the Census tract who are age 25 or over and hold a college degree or higher (22.3% of all U.S. public libraries), serving populations ranging from 9 to 1.6 M. The FY 2018 IMLS Public Libraries Survey data were used to calculate the per capita (per person) figures reported here.

EXPENDITURES & STAFF

Expenditures

- $27.3 (median)
- $16 (lower quartile)
- $43.6 (upper quartile)

Staff (FTE) per 25,000 People

- 11.7 (median)
- 7.2 (lower quartile)
- 19.1 (upper quartile)

COLLECTION & CIRCULATION

Total Collection

- 8.4 (median)

Physical Collection

- 3.9 (median)

Electronic Collection

- 2.5 (median)

Total Circulation

- 3.7 (median)

Physical Circulation

- 3.3 (median)

Electronic Circulation

- 0.3 (median)

VISITS & PROGRAMS

Visits

- 3.2 (median)
- 1.9 (lower quartile)
- 5.2 (upper quartile)

Programs per 1,000 People

- 16.6 (median)
- 7 (lower quartile)
- 35.4 (upper quartile)

Program Attendance per 1,000 People

- 287 (median)
- 127.7 (lower quartile)
- 581.2 (upper quartile)