



# **FLORIDA PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT KEY FINDINGS**

The following are statewide totals for public library resource and service measures during 2023-2024.

## **In Fiscal Year 2024:**

Florida had 79 regional library systems, 558 library locations, and 21 bookmobiles. Florida libraries collectively provided a total of nearly 1.3 million public service hours to their communities. Seventy percent of the library systems offered Sunday hours for their community.

There were just over 11.6 million registered public library borrowers. Nearly 11 million registered borrowers lived within the legal service areas of the libraries, and over 860,000 people took advantage of the non-resident library card opportunities at other libraries.

Public libraries employed 6,800 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members, including nearly 2,000 FTE in librarian roles and more than 4,800 FTE in other staff positions. Florida libraries contributed over \$330 million to employee salaries and almost \$136 million to employee benefits.

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## **Floridians Value Their Libraries**

Florida libraries were open an average of 50 hours each week, with some open as long as 103 out of 168 hours each week. In these hours, residents and non-residents visited Florida's libraries nearly 45 million times in 2024.

Library staff assisted patrons almost 12 million times, providing information, readers' advisory, technology help, and referrals in-person, by phone and online. Library staff provided more than 1.7 million training sessions on technology alone.

Library patrons went online during nearly 25 million computer and wireless sessions. Ninety-nine percent of public libraries offered internet services and in 2024, libraries

across the state offered access to nearly 18,000 desktop computers. Seventy-six percent of Florida libraries provided Wi-Fi access to users outside of the building, including the parking lot, and community hotspot locations via bookmobiles.

Libraries offered over 230,000 active programs and nearly 34,000 self-directed programs. These library programs included author visits, book clubs, storytimes, arts and culture events, training on digital literacy, entrepreneurship, job training and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) programs for kids.

- Nearly 110,000 children's programs were attended by an average of 31 children and caregivers.
- Just over 27,000 young adult programs were attended by an average of 16 people.
- Over 95,000 adult programs were attended by an average of 14 people.
- More than 31,000 programs for participants of all-ages were attended by an average of 38 people.
- Almost 12,600 off-site programs for more than 700,000 participants allowed them to experience library services outside of the library.

Library programs attracted over 6 million individuals of all ages.

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## **Floridians Brought Their Libraries Home**

Florida libraries owned more than 53 million lendable items (not including magazines and series of volumes to browse). More than:

- 22.1 million print materials, mostly books
- 2.7 million physical videos, mostly DVDs
- 1.4 million downloadable videos
- 1 million physical audio materials, mostly audiobooks and music CDs
- 8.1 million downloadable audiobooks
- 17 million e-books
- 272,000 other materials such as tools, cookware, sports equipment, and hobby items

In addition, libraries subscribed to an average of 60 licensed databases.

Patrons borrowed, downloaded, or retrieved public library materials over 130 million times in 2024. More than:

- 59.6 million physical materials, mostly books, magazines, DVDs and CDs
- 72 million electronic materials, mostly e-books, and downloadable audiobooks and videos

## Florida Libraries Help Florida's Economy

Public libraries received more than \$910 million in operating revenues, mostly from local government, including approximately:

- \$730 million from counties
- \$130 million from cities
- \$18 million from the state government
- \$1.7 million from the federal government
- \$33 million from other sources

Florida residents independently contributed just over \$3.9 million in 2024 through gifts and donations to their local libraries.

Public libraries spent more than \$763 million on operating expenditures, including nearly:

- \$467 million for staff salaries and benefits
- \$85 million for library collection materials
- \$212.5 million for other operating expenses

Public libraries invested nearly \$144 million back into Florida's economy by spending 15% of operating expenditures with in-state vendors, including over:

- \$1.6 million for in-state print materials expenditures
- \$1.1 million on in-state electronic materials expenditures
- \$92,000 on in-state other materials expenditures
- \$110 million on in-state other operating expenditures
- \$30 million on in-state capital expenditures

Public libraries received a little more than \$62 million in capital revenue, including more than:

- \$53 million from local government
- \$944,000 from the state government
- \$2.1 million from the federal government

Public libraries spent more than \$42 million on capital expenditures and used in-state vendors for 72% of this spending.

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During FY2025-26, the percentage of total costs for the Library Data and Statistics Program financed with federal money is 67%; the federal dollar amount to be spent on the program is \$120,685. This program does not receive any non-governmental funding.

The program is funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Florida's LSTA program is administered by the Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services.

The data presented in this paper is from the Annual Statistical Report for Florida's Public Libraries for fiscal year 2023-2024. Visit [bit.ly/FLLibraryData](https://bit.ly/FLLibraryData) to learn more about Florida's public library statistics and view the annual public library statistics and ranking tables broken down by reporting library.

