



Minnesota Public Library Report Key Statistics

The following are statewide totals for public library resource and service measures during 2018.

In 2018...

Minnesota had twelve regional library systems, 140 public libraries, 355 library locations, and nine bookmobiles.

Seven out of 10 Minnesotans had a library card. There were more than 3.8 million registered public library customers. 3,009,661 registered customers lived within the legal service areas of the libraries, and 810,707 lived outside the service areas.

Public libraries employed 2,221 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members. Library services were provided by 830 librarian FTE and 1,391 other staff FTE.

Public libraries were open 15,229 hours per week and welcomed customers during more than 22.5 million visits.

Minnesota libraries owned almost 16 million items for loan to customers (excluding magazines).

- 13,571,178 print materials, mostly books
- 1,066,321 videos, mostly DVDs
- 800,990 audio materials, mostly audiobooks and music CDs
- 35,931 multi-format materials, such as kits
- 107,969 other physical materials, such as tools, cookware, sports equipment, mobile devices and mobile hotspots
- 23,294 magazine subscriptions
- 751,202 ebooks
- 202,363 downloadable audiobooks
- 35,784 downloadable videos
- 8,314 downloadable magazines

Libraries subscribed to 454 licensed information databases.

Customers borrowed or downloaded almost 52 million public library materials.

- 44,984,244 physical materials, mostly books, magazines, DVDs and CDs
- 6,950,642 electronic materials, mostly ebooks and downloadable audiobooks and videos

Minnesota public libraries provided 1,266,890 interlibrary loans to other libraries and received 1,249,770 interlibrary loans from other libraries nationwide.

Librarians engaged with customers more than 3 million times to provide information, readers' advice, technology help and referrals in-person, by phone and online.

Libraries provided 6,702 internet computers—5,739 desktops and 963 mobile devices—for public use. Ninety-nine percent of public libraries offered wireless internet service. Customers went online during 11.3 million computer and wireless sessions.

Libraries sponsored 72,239 programs such as author visits, book clubs, storytimes, and arts and culture events as well as training on digital literacy, starting a business, basic job skills, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs for kids.

- 43,259 children's programs
- 22,053 adult programs
- 6,927 young adult programs

Library programs attracted more than 1.6 million diverse individuals of all ages.

- 1,184,449 children
- 324,649 adults
- 92,302 young adults

Libraries had 242 meeting rooms available for public use. There were 91,110 public meetings held in libraries.

Public libraries received \$250,459,176 in operating revenues mostly from local government.

- \$146,960,888 from counties
- \$62,255,672 from cities
- \$699,255 from other local government agencies
- \$17,214,484 from the state
- \$39,426 from the federal government
- \$23,289,451 from other sources

Public libraries spent \$245,725,156 in operating expenditures.

- \$153,957,519 for staff salaries and benefits
- \$26,993,837 for library collection materials
- \$64,776,804 for other operating expenses

Public libraries received \$33,786,879 in capital revenues.

- \$22,001,600 from counties
- \$9,421,048 from cities
- \$2,364,231 from other sources

Public libraries spent \$34,341,571 for capital expenditures.

Source: Minnesota Public Library Report, 2018

Minnesota public libraries are required by Minnesota Statutes, section 134.13, to submit annual reports to the Minnesota Department of Education. Data is also submitted to the Institute of Museums and Library Services for the Public Libraries in the United States Survey.

Statistics include input and output measures related to facilities, services, programs, collections, staffing, hours of operation, and income and expenditures. Statistical information is used by public libraries and policymakers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of their communities.

Data for 2018 was submitted February through April 2019 using an online survey. All regional library systems and 99 percent of public library administrative entities in Minnesota completed the survey. (St. Charles Public Library did not report.)

For information about the 2018 Minnesota Public Library Report or historical data, please contact:

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