mn DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Minnesota Public Libraries

In 2017, borrowing books, magazines, music, movies and other library materials remained the most popular public library service. Millions of Minnesotans visited their libraries to check out materials, use public computers and free Wi-Fi, ask librarians for assistance, and attend informational and recreational programs for all ages.

Collections and Loans

12 Regional systems
141 Libraries
355 Branches
8 Bookmobiles

Percent of library collections by format
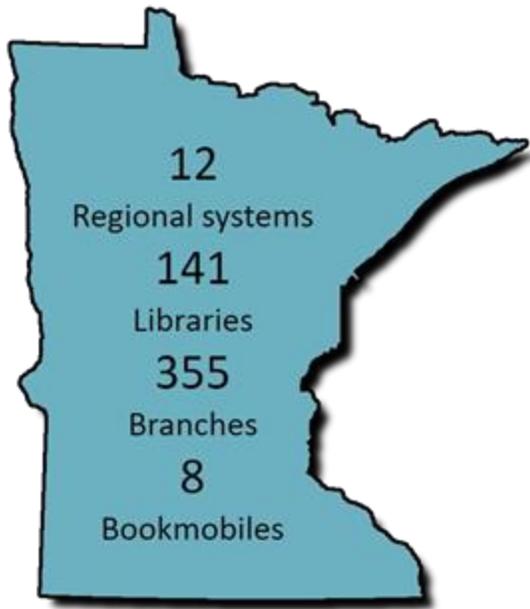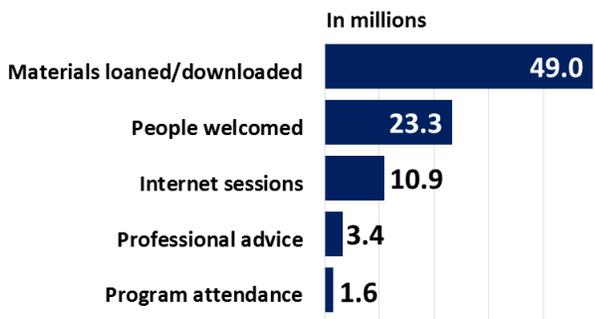
There's a public library in each of Minnesota's 87 counties. Public libraries serve as centers for learning, innovation and inspiration in communities across Minnesota.
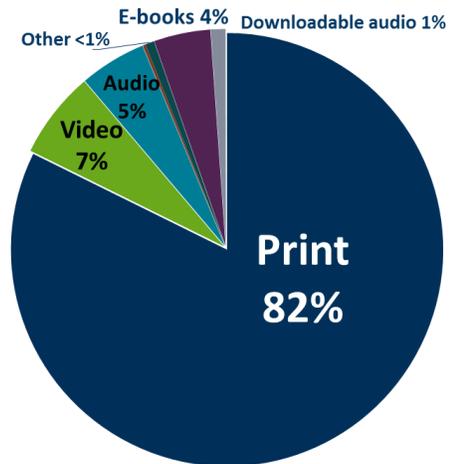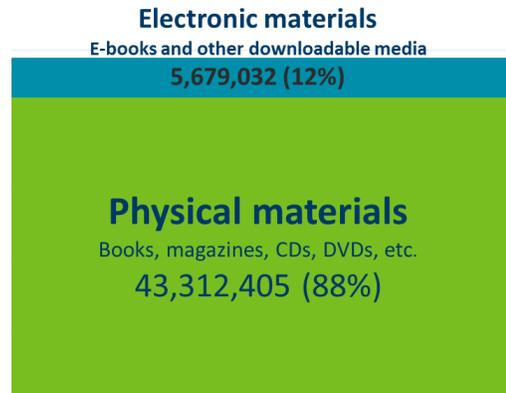
Minnesota public libraries own 16.7 million items for loan to customers. In addition, libraries have 24,779 magazine subscriptions and hundreds of information databases.

Public Library Services

In millions

Materials loaned/downloaded	49.0
People welcomed	23.3
Internet sessions	10.9
Professional advice	3.4
Program attendance	1.6

Use of public library services in millions

Electronic materials
E-books and other downloadable media
5,679,032 (12%)

Physical materials
Books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, etc.
43,312,405 (88%)

Number and percent of library items loaned by format

Customers borrowed or downloaded 49 million library items in 2017. Print and other physical materials remain the lion's share of library collections and by far the most popular. Electronic materials like e-books are growing but were only 5 percent of library collections. Use of electronic materials is growing as well and accounted for 12 percent of total use.

Resource Sharing

1,242,624
Interlibrary loans received

1,229,673
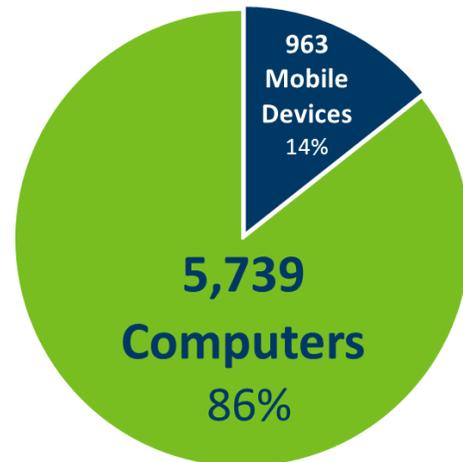**Interlibrary loans provided**

Number of interlibrary loans among libraries

Libraries shared more than 1.2 million unique and hard-to-find titles with other libraries for their customers. The number of interlibrary loans received were higher because they came from out-of-state libraries as well as in-state libraries of all types, not just other public libraries.
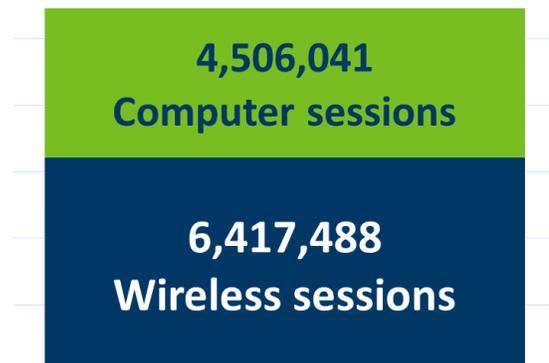
Internet Access

Public libraries serve as community centers for internet access and digital literacy. Librarians provide internet assistance and instruction to bridge the digital divide.

963
Mobile Devices
14%

5,739 Computers 86%

Number and percent of public access computers and mobile devices in public libraries

Public libraries provide 6,702 computers and mobile devices for public use. 98 percent of public library locations offer free wireless internet access.

4,506,041
Computer sessions
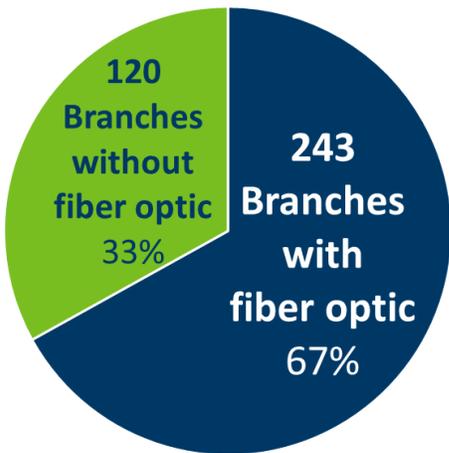
6,417,488
Wireless sessions

Number of public computer and wireless sessions

Individuals spent almost 11 million sessions on library computers and wireless networks in 2017. Almost 70 percent of public libraries tally other computer usage like word processing, spreadsheets and other applications in addition to internet sessions.
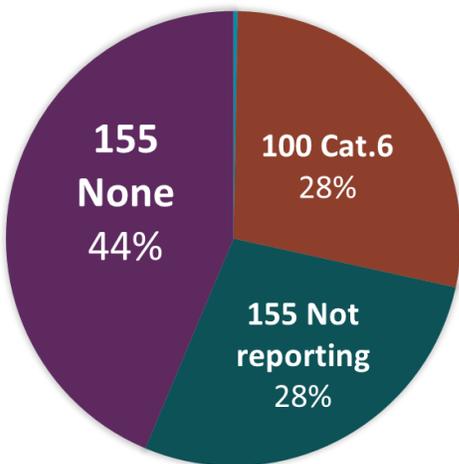
Telecommunication infrastructure

Fiber optic and Cat.6 wiring provide higher quality internet connectivity. Almost three quarters of public libraries have fiber optic telecommunication cabling connected to their building.
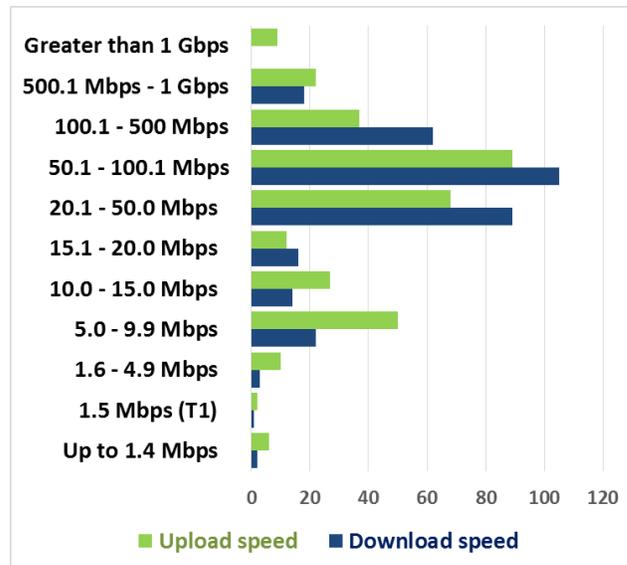

Number and percent of library locations with fiber optic cabling

More than a quarter of public libraries have Cat.6 wiring within their buildings.

Number and percent of library locations with Cat.6 wiring within the building

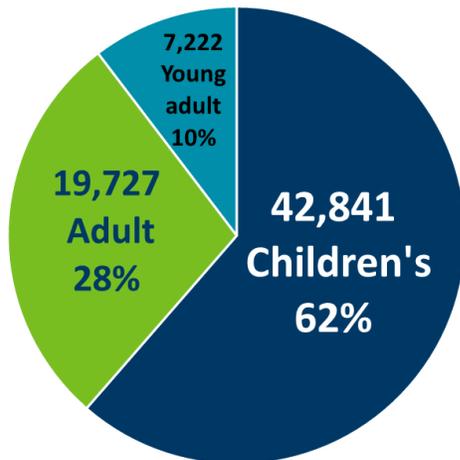Number of library locations by internet upload and download speeds

Most public library locations have Internet speeds over 20 megabits per second (Mbps) with the greatest number falling within 50 and 100 Mbps. The Federal Communications Commission service standard is 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds.

Reference

Librarians answered 3.4 million reference questions in 2017. The average per library location was 24,235 reference transactions during the year. On average each location answered about five reference questions per hour.
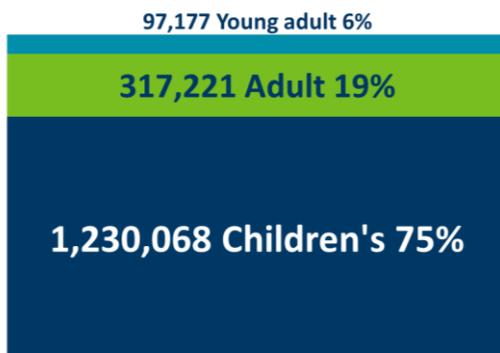
Questions included requests for information, advice on what to read for enjoyment, information technology assistance, internet navigation and instruction, and referrals to community resources. Librarians respond to customer queries in-person, by phone and online using live chat, email and text.

Programs

Number and percent of library programs by target audience

Public libraries presented 69,788 library programs for diverse audiences of all ages in 2017. Public libraries received Minnesota Legacy Amendment funding which expanded arts and cultural heritage programming throughout the state.
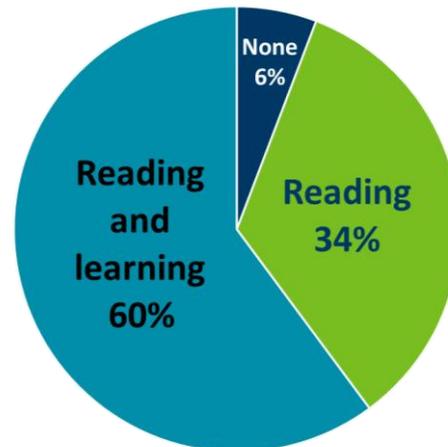

Number and percent of program attendees by target audience

Public library programs attracted 1.64 million people in 2017. They enjoyed meeting favorite authors and experiencing dance, music and art. They learned about new ideas and computer and language skills. They actively joined in during Makerspace, STEM (Science, Technology,

Engineering and Math), "Read to a Dog" and other interactive programs. Children's programs were by far the most popular.
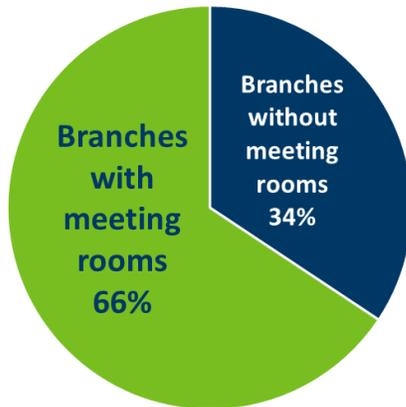
Summer learning programs

Percent of library summer learning programs for youth by type

Sixty percent of public libraries incorporate summer learning programs with their traditional summer reading programs. Libraries engage youth in activities that develop new skills in math, science, history, and art as well as reading. Summer learning programs help ensure that students retain critical academic skills they acquired during the school year through reading and learning activities over the school break.

Public Meeting Space

Two-thirds of public libraries offer space for community meetings and discussions. Libraries are considered welcoming and neutral settings for diverse groups and organizations to meet. Meetings are generally free and open to the public. Libraries hosted 74,209 public events in 2017.

Percent of library locations with public meeting rooms

Source: Minnesota Public Library Report, 2017

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 2017 was submitted February through April 2018 using an online survey. All regional library systems and 99 percent of public library administrative entities in Minnesota completed the survey. (Watonwan County Library did not report.)

For information about the 2017 Minnesota Public Library Report or historical data, please contact:

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