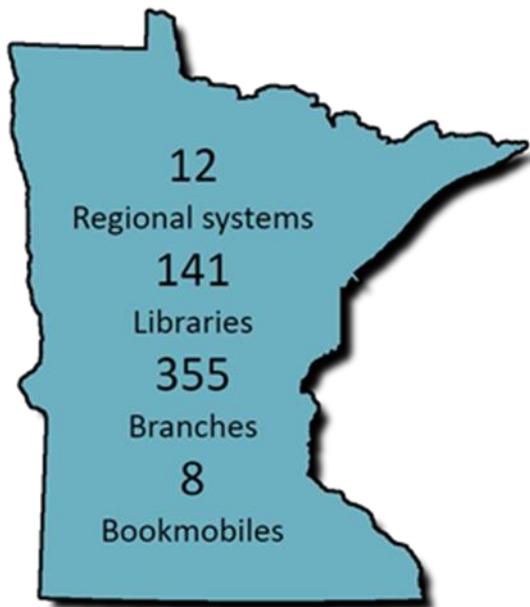


Minnesota Public Libraries

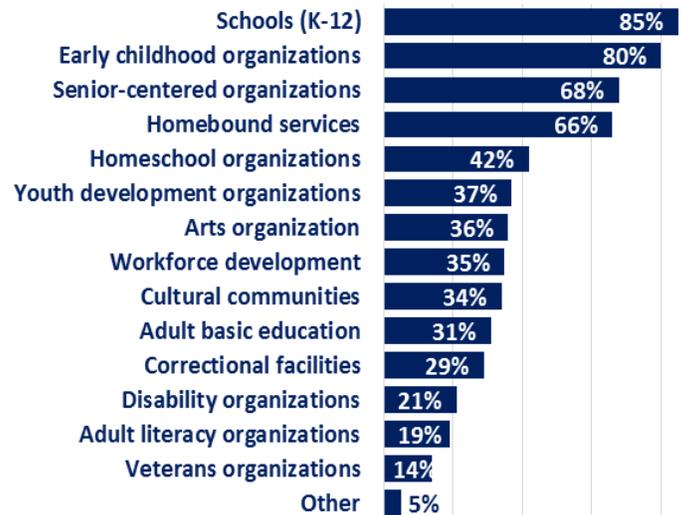


Libraries are embedded in local communities. There's a public library in each of Minnesota's 87 counties. Libraries have a public service orientation, and they are viewed as community assets.

Community Engagement

Public libraries engage with their communities in order to deliver library services where needed and to address social needs. In return, communities support their library through volunteering, advocacy and financial assistance.

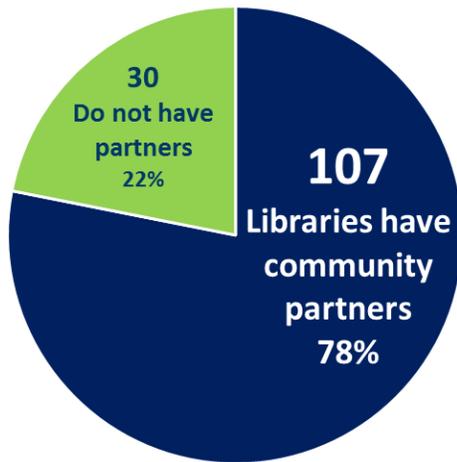
Outreach



Percent of public libraries that provide services to community organizations.

Outreach refers to library services provided to community groups and organizations or work with other government agencies to deliver library services. Most public libraries provide services to students at schools, early childhood organizations like Early Children and Family Education (ECFE) and child-care centers, seniors at residential facilities, and individuals with disabilities in their homes. More than a third provide services to other community organizations such as homeschool organizations, arts organizations, workforce development centers, groups who share a common culture, and adult continuing education.

Partnerships



Number and percent of public libraries that engage with community partners

Community engagement depends upon partnerships with diverse stakeholders from public and private spheres. The library establishes partnerships to enhance the library’s capacity, impact and ability to address community needs such as homelessness, immigration, poverty, racial equity, public safety, economic development, public health, and environmental sustainability. Seventy-eight percent of public libraries partner with one or more community groups to address community needs. As partners, library staff members join community organizations and serve on boards, committees and work groups and network in ways that emphasize the library’s desire to learn and understand community issues. They help design and implement programs in ways that engage community-members directly in the work of social change.

Level of engagement

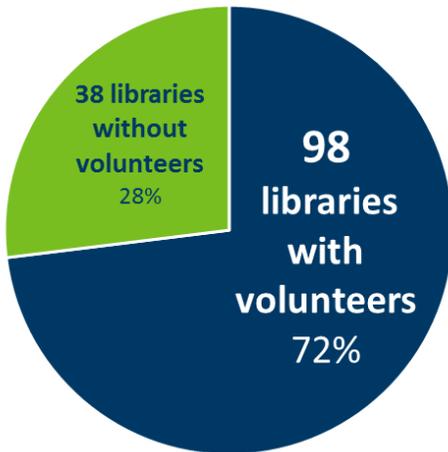


Number and percent of libraries that engage with partners at various levels

1. Raise awareness of community issues and needs
2. Mutual assistance in working toward a common goal
3. Jointly develop and deliver programs

When two or more organizations create a partnership they can engage with one another to varying degrees. Partners communicate information by attending meetings, distributing promotional materials, setting up displays, making presentations, etc. in order to raise awareness of community needs. At a cooperative level, partners provide mutual assistance in working toward a common goal by sponsoring activities or recruiting volunteers to address community needs. Fully committed partners work collaboratively to jointly develop and deliver a program or service by sharing staff, resources, and costs for the benefit of participants. All public libraries that partner with other community groups help raise awareness of community needs and issues. Most provide mutual assistance in working toward the partnership’s goals. A majority jointly develop and deliver programs that promote social change.

Volunteers



Number and percent of libraries with volunteer programs

Volunteers are individuals who perform a service willingly and without pay. Public libraries attract many civic-minded individuals who want to contribute to their community. Seventy-two percent of public libraries had volunteer programs in 2017.



8,977 volunteers completed tasks at public libraries in 2017.



Volunteers contributed 225,173 hours to public libraries in 2016—the equivalent of 5,630 full time FTE.

Friends of the Library



Number and percent of libraries with Friends of the Library groups

Friends of the Library are organized groups that support a public library through financial contributions for specific projects, volunteering and/or advocacy. Almost two-thirds of branch libraries in Minnesota have Friends groups.

Library Foundations



Number and percent of libraries with Foundations

A foundation is a non-profit organization with funds managed by its own trustees. Those funds provide a stable source of income for a library through investments of the principle. Twenty-nine percent of Minnesota’s public libraries have a foundation.

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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