

Minnesota Public Library Report Key Statistics

The following are statewide totals for public library resource and service measures during 2019.

In 2019...

Minnesota had twelve regional library systems, 140 public libraries, 356 library locations, and eight bookmobiles.

There were almost 3.8 million registered public library customers. 2,952,328 registered customers lived within the legal service areas of the libraries, and 829,363 people took advantage of reciprocal borrowing privileges at other libraries.

Public libraries employed 2,323 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members, including 890 FTE in librarian roles, and 1,433 FTE in other staff positions.

Minnesotans Came to the Library

In any given week in 2019, the average public library in Minnesota was open over 40 hours. During those hours, people visited libraries almost 22 million times in 2019.

Librarians engaged with customers 2.8 million times to provide information, readers' advice, technology help and referrals in-person, by phone and online.

Customers went online during 10.5 million computer and wireless sessions. Ninety-nine percent of public libraries offer wireless internet service, and in 2019, libraries across the state offered 6,732 internet devices—5,663 desktop computers and over 1,000 mobile devices—for public use.

Libraries offered 72,594 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.

- Nearly 42,000 children's programs, attended by an average of 24 children and caregivers
- 24,000 adult programs, attended by an average of 14 people
- 6,717 young adult programs, attended by an average of 12 teens

Library programs attracted almost 1.6 million diverse individuals of all ages.

Libraries had 240 meeting rooms available for public use, and the public used those rooms to hold 114,443 meetings in public libraries across Minnesota in 2019.

Minnesotans Brought the Library Home

Minnesota libraries owned 15.7 million items to lend (not including magazines to browse):

- 13.4 million print materials, mostly books
- Over 1 million videos, mostly DVDs
- 862,533 ebooks
- 785,983 physical audio materials, mostly audiobooks and music CDs
- 247,150 downloadable audiobooks
- 116,130 other materials like tools, cookware, sports equipment, mobile devices and mobile hotspots
- 21,919 magazine subscriptions
- 33,754 downloadable videos
- 33,627 multi-format materials, such as kits

In addition, libraries subscribed to 435 licensed information databases.

Customers borrowed or downloaded public library materials 51 million times in 2019.

- 43,470,319 physical materials, mostly books, magazines, DVDs and CDs
- 7,765,650 electronic materials, mostly ebooks and downloadable audiobooks and videos

Minnesota public libraries provided 1,280,186 interlibrary loans to other libraries and received 1,285,592 interlibrary loans from other libraries nationwide.

Public libraries received \$254,794,981 in operating revenues mostly from local government.

- \$150,776,462 from counties
- \$64,741,787 from cities
- \$757,631 from other local government agencies
- \$17,862,962 from the state
- \$253,779 from the federal government
- \$20,402,360 from other sources

Public libraries spent \$246,463,754 in operating expenditures.

- \$154,708,035 for staff salaries and benefits
- \$26,323,421 for library collection materials
- \$65,432,298 for other operating expenses

Public libraries received \$25,165,120 in capital revenues.

- \$22,296,716 from counties
- \$1,897,435 from cities
- \$150,509 from other sources

Public libraries spent \$33,434,416 for capital expenditures.

Source: Minnesota Public Library Report, 2019

Minnesota public libraries submit annual reports to the Minnesota Department of Education as required by [Minnesota Statutes, section 134.13](#). Data is also submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for its 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 2019 was submitted February through April 2020 using an online survey. All regional library systems and 99 percent of public library administrative entities in Minnesota completed the survey. (Blue Earth Community Library and Kinney Public Library did not report.)

For information about the 2019 Minnesota Public Library Report or historical data, please contact:

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